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## JEWISH HISTORY

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For Ariel's Camp Shoshanah 2009: A complete overview, with emphasis on non-Biblical time periods.

### REASONS FOR STUDYING JEWISH HISTORY:

1. To see how history affirms the reliability of scripture
2. To augment and further explain the Biblical narrative
3. To correct misconceptions and prejudice regarding the Jewish people
4. To explain and understand Jewish opposition toward Christendom
5. To give life to Jewish heritage, culture and values
6. To better understand the God of History and His unique relationship to His covenant people
7. To understand the influence of Jewish history upon Western History

### THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF JEWISH HISTORY

God has entered into an eternal, unconditional covenant with the Jewish people. This Abrahamic Covenant forms the basis for Gods' dealing with His Jewish people (the Abrahamic Covenant continues in spite of the Mosaic Covenant "ending" at the death of Messiah Gal. 3:17) The following Scriptures highlight this:

Gen. 12:1-3	Gen 15:4-21	Isa. 49:14-16
Jer. 31:31-37	Rom. 11:1-36	Gal. 3:17

### APPROACHES TO STUDYING JEWISH HISTORY

1. The Martyr Approach- Jews as oppressed victims - (Cecil Roth)
2. The Hero Approach- Jews as victors, overcomers - (Max Dimont)
3. The Theological/Covenantal Approach- acknowledges the hand of God in Jewish History

## I THE PATRIARCHAL PERIOD

- A. Abraham and his call 2090 BCE
- B. Isaac b. 2065 BCE
- C. Jacob and his 12 sons b. 2005 BCE

## II. THE EGYPTIAN BONDAGE

- A. Joseph
- B. The bondage and Egyptian history 1847 BCE

## III. THE WILDERNESS WANDERINGS 1447 thru 1407 BCE

- A. Egyptian history
- B. The Covenants made during the Wanderings
  - 1. The Mosaic Covenant
  - 2. The Land(Palestinian) Covenant

## IV. THE CONQUEST - 1407 BCE thru 1350 BCE

## V. THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES 1350 BCE thru 1015 BCE

## VI. THE UNITED MONARCHY/KINGDOM 1015 BCE thru 933 BCE

- A. Saul
- B. David
- C. Solomon

## VII. THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

- A. Israel - 10 Northern tribes - 933 thru 722 BCE
- B. Judah - 2 Southern tribes - 933 thru 586 BCE

## VIII. THE PROPHETIC PERIOD

- A. The vocal prophets

B. The writing prophets

C. The content of their messages

1. A call to return to the law of God
2. Calls to morality
3. Preaching against social injustice
4. Preaching against political injustice and corruption
5. A call to heartfelt repentance
6. Predictions of immediate future judgments
7. Messianic Prophecy
8. Predictions of the Great Tribulation
9. Predictions of The Coming Messianic Kingdom
10. The New Covenant

## IX. THE EXILE IN BABYLON

A. The Captivity and its length

B. The prophets of the Exile

C. The results of the Exile

1. Beginnings of the synagogue
2. Beginnings of rabbinical authority
3. The rise of the Samaritans

## X. THE RETURN FROM EXILE

A. Governors and Priests

B. Ezra, the Synagogue and the origins of the Mishna

C. The post-Exilic prophets

D. The opposition of the Samaritans

E. “The Silent Century” 432 thru 332 BCE

1. The communities of Mesopotamia (Babylon/Persia)
2. Egypt-a Jewish population center

## XI. THE HELLENISTIC/GREEK PERIOD 332 thru 63 BCE

## A. Alexander The Great

1. Foretold in Daniel 8:5-8, 21-22
2. Conquers the world and spreads Hellenism
3. Alexander's relationship with the Jews
  - a. Uses Israel as a land bridge to Egypt
  - b. He Attacks The Samaritans, befriends the Jews and spares Jerusalem

## B. The Ptolemies of Egypt 323 thru 198 BCE

1. Palestinian Jewry
2. Alexandrian Jewry
  - a. Hellenism gains ground
  - b. The Septuagint Translation

## C. The crisis of Selucid rule 198 thru 168 BCE

1. Enforced Hellenization
2. Antiochus IV becomes king - 175 BCE

## D. The Maccabean Revolt 168 thru 135 BCE

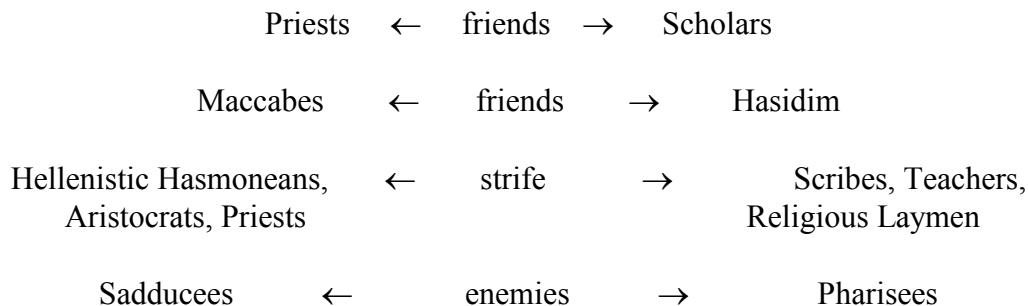
1. Mattithius the Priest
2. Judah and his brothers
  - a. He expands the revolt
  - b. The liberation of Jerusalem and Chanukah
3. The Revolt Continues thru 135 BCE

## E. The Hasmonean Period 135 thru 63 BCE

1. John Hyrcanos
  - a. Son of Simon Maccabbe, expands Jewish territory
  - b. Assumes Titles of Prince and High Priest

## 2. The Rise of Distinct Political Parties

### The Oniads - Faithful Priests



### 3. Intra-Jewish strife

- a. Alexander Jannai named King and High Priest 103 BCE
- b. Jannai crucifies 800 Pharisees, consolidating his power

### 4. Jewish Civil War

- a. Salome Alexandra restores balance of power between Sadducees and Pharisees
- b. At her death in 67 BCE civil war breaks out
- c. Rome Invited in to settle the dispute 63 BCE

## XII. UNDER THE THUMB OF ROME

### A. Rome appoints the Antipater Family to govern as kings 63 BCE

#### 1. Gentile Idumean converts to Judaism

- a. They're loyal to Rome and are able to collect taxes
- b. They have no feeling for Judaism and are distrusted by Jews

#### 2. Hasmoneans make final attempt to overthrow the Antipaters 40 BCE

### B. Herod (Antipater) The Great, reigns from 37 BCE thru 4 BCE

1. He holds onto power in ruthless ways, marries into the Hasmonean family
2. Murders his wife and sons

3. Tries to gain Jewish favor through magnificent building projects

- a. Roads, Bridges and Fortresses
- b. Rebuilding of Second Temple

C. The Procurators

- 1. Temporary Roman military governors, their powers varied
- 2. Ruled Judea and Samaria from 6 BCE thru 66 CE
- 3. They often ignored Jewish concerns, were brutal
- 4. Most famous was Pontius Pilate 26 thru 36 CE

D. Jewish literature of the first century CE

- 1. The Holy Scriptures - "Tanach"
  - a. The final books of the Hebrew Bible penned c. 400 BCE
  - b. The Canon had been recognized c.200 BCE
  - c. The Septuagint Greek translation
- 2. The Apocrypha c 100 BCE
  - a. 14 Books, mostly unknown authorship, varying quality
  - b. Not accepted as inspired scripture by Jewish community
  - c. I and II Maccabees have good historical value
- 3. The beginnings of the "Oral Law" (Talmud)

E. The Jewish community of the first century CE

- 1. Political and religious groups
  - a. Sadducees
  - b. Pharisees
  - c. Zealots
  - d. Essenes

e. Messianic Jews (Nazarenes)

2. Institutions

a. The Temple at Jerusalem (Beit Ha Mikdash)

b. The Sanhedrin

XIII. THE REVOLT AGAINST ROME & DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM 66 - 73 CE

A. The causes which led to the rebellion

1. Increased harshness of Roman rule
2. Religious persecution
3. Dreams of independence
4. The final straw - Florus, the last procurator 64 - 66 CE
  - a. Plundered the Temple of its gold
  - b. Massacred thousands of Jews when they protested
  - c. Roman garrison at Caesarea slaughters Jews

B. The war breaks out - 66 CE

1. Zealots attack and defeat Roman garrison at Jerusalem
2. Cestius Gallus surrounds Jerusalem with Roman army, then withdraws for re-supply
  - a. Messianic Jews leave Jerusalem, take refuge in Pella
  - b. Obedience to Messiahs' command (Luke 21:20)
  - c. Called "meshumadim" (destroyers/traitors)
- 3.. General Vespasian takes command of Roman forces
  - a. Captures Galilee with little resistance
  - b. Defection of Josephus (Joseph Ben Mattithias) to Rome
  - c. Vespasian called back to Rome to become emperor

d. His son Titus resumes the siege

e. Some Diaspora communities pledge loyalty to Rome

4. Constant conflict among Jewish factions weaken Jerusalem

#### C. Jerusalem falls - 70 CE

1. City is packed with people (war, Passover)

2. City besieged, starvation, cannibalism

3. Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zachai escapes, establishes rabbinical school

4. Temple destroyed on the Ninth day Of Av

a. Other Jewish tragedies occur on the Ninth Of Av

b. Tisha B'Av becomes a day of mourning

5. One million slaughtered, 100,000 enslaved

6. 40,000 Jews allowed to remain

#### D. Massada, the last resistance 73 CE

1. Mountain fortress built by Herod near the Dead Sea

2. 960 Jews commit suicide rather than surrender

#### E. The Diaspora Revolt 115 -117 CE

1. A Roman defeat in Parthia is aided by Jewish forces

2. Jews in Cyrene, Egypt and Cypress rebel

a. Initially, Jewish forces are victorious

b. Roman reinforcements arrive, rebellion is crushed,  
all Jews on Cyprus are killed, decline of Alexandrian Jewry

#### F. The Bar Kochba Revolt 132 - 135 CE

1. Jerusalem renamed Aelia Capitolina

2. Shimon Bar Kosiba/Simon Bar Kochba Num. 24:17



- a. Named Messiah by Rabbi Akiba
- b. Messianic Jews pull out of the revolt
- 3. The war is very severe
- 4. Rebel stronghold Betar falls on the 9th of Av 135 CE
- 5. Romans start to use "Palestine" to designate Israel
- 6. Jews barred from Jerusalem, Sanhedrin moves to Tiberias

#### XIV. THE BYZANTINE AND BABYLONIAN PERIODS

##### A. The Decline of Rome and birth of the Catholic church

- 1. Church persecution of Jews increase
- 2. In 329 CE Laws against Judaism enacted

##### B. The Babylonian Center and birth of the Talmud

- 1. Origin- Jews who remained after the Exile
- 2. Judea decreases, Babylon becomes the Jewish Center

##### C. The Talmud

- 1. The Sopherim - 450 BCE thru 30 BCE
  - a. Begins with Ezra the Scribe
  - b. Began as a system of explaining the Mosaic Law
  - c. The "Oral Law" tradition develops
- 2. Tanaim - 30 BCE thru 217 CE
  - a. Rabbi Yohanan Ben Zakkai
  - b. The Rabbinical Academy at Yavne
  - c. Judah Ha Nasi and the Mishna
- 3. The Amoraim - 217 thru 427 CE
  - a. The Gemara codified by Rav Ashi

- b. Halacha and Pilpul Logic
- c. Aggadah, Haggadah and Midrash

#### 4. The Seboraim c.500 CE thru 700 CE

### XV. THE MOHAMMEDAN PERIOD

A. The Jews of Europe face increased persecution by the church

B. The Jews under Muslim domination

1. Judaism makes converts among local populace
2. Jews resist Islam and become second class citizens
3. Most Muslim rulers are tolerant of Judaism
  - a. Some Jewish institutions flourish during this time
  - b. The Golden Age of Spanish Jewry.
4. Movements and personalities within Judaism
  - a. The Karaite Movement
  - b. The Masorites and The Masoretic text of Scripture
  - c. Moses Maimonides and his 13 Articles of Faith

### XVI. THE JEWS OF EUROPE TO 1492

A. Jewish population, distribution and commerce

1. Periodic outbreaks of persecution
2. Relationship and disputations with the Catholic church
  - a. Enactment of laws against Judaism
  - b. Forced debates and "Christianized" Jewish converts
  - c. False accusations to justify persecution
3. Jewish ethnic divisions

- a. Sephardic
- b. Yemenite
- c. Ashkanazic

#### B. The Crusades

#### C. The Inquisition

- 1. Forced mass conversions
- 2. The Marranos

#### D. The New World

- 1. The year 1492 and its significance
- 2. Christopher Columbus

### XVII. THE LEVANT

- A. The Ottoman Turkish Empire
- B. Palestine

### XVIII. EASTERN EUROPE TO 1648

- A. Russia, Poland and Lithuania
- B. The development of the Ghetto

### XIX. THE RENAISSANCE AND THE REFORMATION

- A. The Renaissance in Italy and Germany
- B. The Reformation

### XX. MYSTICISM AND MESSIANISM

- A. Cabalah
  - 1. The Zohar
  - 2. Safed/Tzfat
- B. False messiahs

1. David Reubeni
2. Solomon Molocho
3. Shabbetai Tzvi 1526 thru 1576 CE
  - a. Had large number of followers
  - b. Arrested by Muslims, he converts to Islam
  - c. a remnant of his followers continued on
4. Jacob Frank

#### C. The Hassidic Movement

1. Its origins and the Baal Shem Tov
2. The Hassidic sects and the power of the Rebbe

### XXI. THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE EMANCIPATION

- A. Jewish population increases in Western Europe
- B. Moses Mendelsohn and the Haskalah
- C. The emancipation of French Jewry
- D. The emancipation of German Jewry
- E. Holland and Baruch Spinoza
- F. England
- G. The New World
- H. The United States
- I. Russia
- J. The birth of Reformed Judaism

### XXII. THE LATE 19TH CENTURY AND THE BEGINNINGS OF ZIONISM 1870 -1914

- A. The rise of European Nationalism and the new Anti Semitism

1. Germany
2. France
3. Russia
4. The Protocols of the Elders of Zion
5. The Dreyfus affair

B. The Jewish migrations

C. Zionism

1. The early seeds
2. Theodore Herzl and the Zionist Movement
3. The early pioneers of Israel

XXIII. WORLD WAR I AND ITS AFTERMATH

A. Minority rights

B. The British Mandate of Palestine

1. The Balfour Declaration
2. The myth of British neutrality between Jews and Arabs

C. The European scene

1. Russia
2. Poland
3. The Baltic states
4. Germany

D. America

E. Palestine

1. The Yishuv
  - a. The development of a Jewish national infrastructure

b. The growth of Tel-Aviv

2. The start of Arab nationalism

## XXIV. THE HOLOCAUST

A. The beginnings

B. The first period: anti Jewish laws

1. "The Aryan race" and the Nuremberg laws

2. Kristalnaacht - November 9-10, 1938

3. Western nations refuse Jewish immigrants

C. The second period: Nazi conquests and deportations

D. The third stage: "The Final Solution"

E. Jewish resistance

1. Treblinka revolt

2. The Warsaw Ghetto revolt April - May 1943

F. Jews in allied armies

G. British - Jewish relations

H. The aftermath of World War II

## XXV. MEDINAT YISRAEL - THE STATE OF ISRAEL

A. British attempts at a compromise

1. British blockade Palestine, demand Jewish disarmament

2. British continue supplying arms to Arabs

3. Jewish guerrilla resistance

4. United Nations intervention

5. The Arab league nations prepare to destroy the Jews

6. The Yishuv prepares for war

B. The Birth of Israel - May 14, 1948

1. The British Mandate ends

2. David Ben Gurion proclaims the establishment of Medinat Yisrael

3. Five Arab armies invade Israel

C. The War of Independence

1. Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem captured by Jordanian army - May 18, 1948

2. Final cease fire- January 7, 1949

D. The In Gathering of the Exiles, Aliyah - 1949-1956

E. The Sinai War - October 1956

F. The Fruitful Decade 1956 - 1967

G. The Six Day War - June 5 thru 10, 1967

1. Quarreling Arab nations unite to destroy Israel

2. Surprise attack by Israel destroys 85% of Egyptian Air Force in 4 hours

3. The Sinai, The West Bank and the Golan Heights taken by Israel

4. Jerusalem officially re-united June 29, 1967

H. The Yom Kippur War - October 1973

I. The War in Lebanon - 1982

J. Islamic Terrorism and the Intifada

K. The Government and Politics of Israel

XXVI A snapshot of the Worldwide Jewish Community today

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR JEWISH HISTORY

While this bibliography is short, all these books are in print and readily available.

- Collins, Larry and Lapierre, Dominique. O JERUSALEM. A very well written and engrossing overview of the establishment of the State of Israel. Excellent photos.
- Dimont, Max. JEWS, GOD AND HISTORY. A very readable complete overview
- Fruchtenbaum, Arnold, G. HEBREW CHRISTIANITY: ITS THEOLOGY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY. Short but authoritative.
- Gilbert, Martin. ATLAS OF JEWISH HISTORY. Excellent maps, a must for your library.
- Kollatch, Alfred. THE JEWISH BOOK OF WHY. An introduction to Rabbinical Judaism and it's practice.
- Schurer, Emil. A HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE TIME OF JESUS. This is the abridged version, (at 428pages!) of Schurer's epic works
- Telushkin, Rabbi Joseph. JEWISH LITERACY. Highly acclaimed book of 346 short chapters, each one a “to the point” explanation of some crucial portion of Jewish history and practice.

### INTERNET WEB SITES WITH SUBTANTIAL JEWISH HISTORY CONTENT

[www.dinur.org/1.html](http://www.dinur.org/1.html) - The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Dinur Center for Jewish History

[www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org](http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org) The Jewish Virtual Library, well done & comprehensive. Among the many resources here is the online version of “Myths & Facts”, a guide to the Arab-Israel Conflict

[www.JewishHistory.org.il/](http://www.JewishHistory.org.il/) Encyclopedia style. One ‘quirk’ is that some Biographies are placed into alphabetical order by the subjects first name.

[www.CJH.org](http://www.CJH.org) Center for Jewish History – ‘Features’ style, with archive access

[www.MessianicAssociation.org](http://www.MessianicAssociation.org) - Features a historical timeline page of prominent Messianic Jewish believers