

LECTURE I

SOURCES AND TERMS

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SOURCES

- Hebrew Bible / Old Testament / Tanakh
- 1 and 2 Maccabees
- Septuagint – Greek version of the Hebrew Bible
- Apocrypha – Greek “hidden/secret”
- New Testament
- Josephus – first century CE Roman Jewish historian / The Jewish War

TERMS THAT YOU MIGHT COME ACROSS

- First Temple Judaism (also known as Solomon's Temple)
- Babylonian Exile (586 – 538 BCE)
- Second Temple Judaism (515 BCE – 70 CE)
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes – a Hellenistic king of the Seleucid Empire
- Diaspora – the dispersion of the Jews beyond Israel
- Judea – the ancient Hebrew and Israelite biblical region of Palestine
- Gentile – a person who is not Jewish
- Martyrdom

THE SELEUCID RULERS OF JUDEA

Antiochus III 'The Great' (223-187BCE)

Seleucus IV (187-175)

Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164)

“They all put on crowns after his [Alexander’s] death, and so did their descendants after them for many years; and they caused many evils on the earth (1 Macc. 1:9).”



HELLENISATION VIDEO CLIP

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUh--czlego>

Main Points

- 1) The clip outlines the 3 main Jewish revolt (remember that we are only focusing on the 2 revolts not Bar Kochba Revolt)
- 2) Tensions between and amongst the ruling empires
- 3) Destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE

ASSIMILATION

Abandonment of Key Jewish Social distinctives



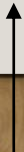
Gymnasium education



Attendance at Greek athletics/games



Commercial employment with non-Jews



Social life confined to Jewish community

JUDAISM AND HELLENISM

- Cosmopolitan
- Inclusivity, integration
- Extent of Hellenisation
- Elias Bickerman and Martin Hengel (Judaism was influenced by Hellenism to a great extent)
- Others argue that there is too sharp a dichotomy between Hellenism and Judaism and that all Jews were Hellenised to some extent
- You may come across a mix of views in your research for assignments

Rachael Turkienicz, Why the Maccabees Aren't in the Bible'

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/omitting-the-maccabees/>

Main Points

- 1) Political rivalry between Sadducees and Pharisees?
- 2) Political reasons – Second Temple had recently been destroyed by the Romans
- 3) Septuagint

I MACCABEES

- Discuss the period of history which describes the only sovereign Jewish state since the time of the first Temple period and there isn't one again until 1948 (!)
- Probably written around 100 BCE
- Composed in Hebrew and has a distinct biblical style
- Romans seen in favourable light
- Main heroes Judas Maccabeus and family
- Rededication of the Temple in 1 Maccabees 4 and 2 Maccabees 10 (Hannukah)
- Theme of religious freedom

2 MACCABEES

- Expanded version of 1 Maccabees 1–7
- Focuses on martyrs and martyrdom
- Many miracles and supernatural events evident
- Belief in bodily resurrection begins to develop

DANIEL

- Set in sixth century exile
- Evil king trying to wipe out Judaism
- Stories of resistance
- Written around 165BCE – period of time we are studying
- Apocalyptic: conditions so severe they are the climax of history
- Developing belief in the afterlife

We will be looking in to the Books of Maccabees in more detail in Thursday and Friday's class.

PREPARATORY WEEK READING EXERCISE

Please complete the Worksheet I Exercise related to the Preparatory Week Reading (Chapter I of Shaye Cohen's book) and upload it to the Assignment Section. This is a great way for me to see how you are getting on and an opportunity for you to raise any queries or questions that you might have,



TOMORROW'S THEME IS ROME AND ROMAN RELIGION

I would like you to watch the Guest Panopto Lecture Recording from Dr Matthew Cobb, Roman Historian UWTSD colleague, speaking on Roman Ritual, Society and Religion available on Moodle.

I would also like you to watch the first episode of Professor Mary Beard's new BBC2 series Meet The Romans and I have put the link on Moodle.

For those extra keen on this subject area, there are also 2 articles on Judaism in Rome in the first century CE which you could look through and perhaps use one of them for your first assignment.

