

New Testament Literature: Lecture #1 (1/19/17) Hildebrandt

Old Testament Foundations

“Look, the lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world” John 1:29

Climax of Institutions of Israel:

Prophet: Deut 18, Mal. 4:5f

King: greater son of David; temple builder

Priest: Aaronic → Melchizedek

Initial Questions

What happens between Malachi (435 BC) and Matthew (AD 50-70)?

What shifts in culture took place between the Semitic OT and the Greek/Roman NT?

What difference does it make?

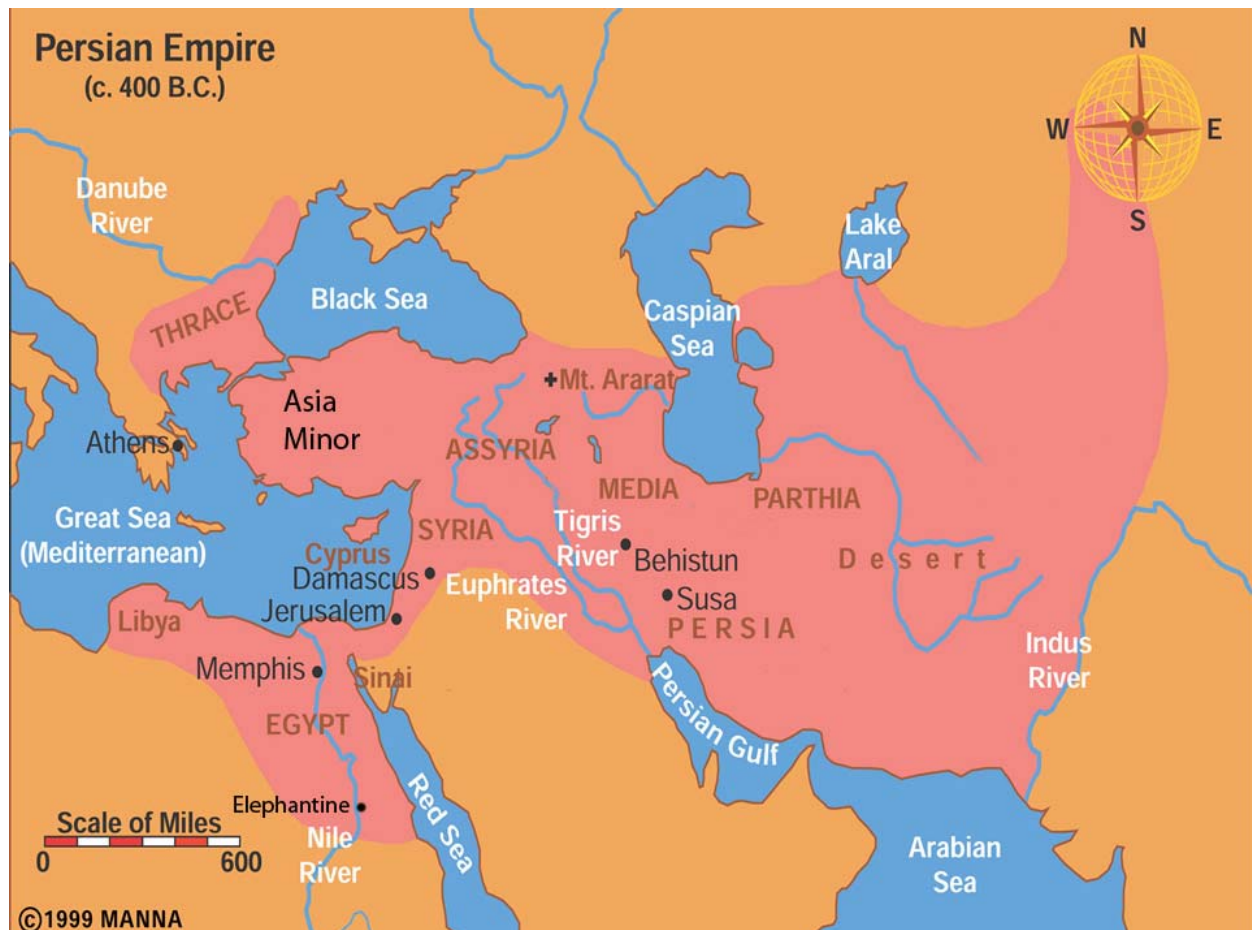
Where did the synagogue come from?

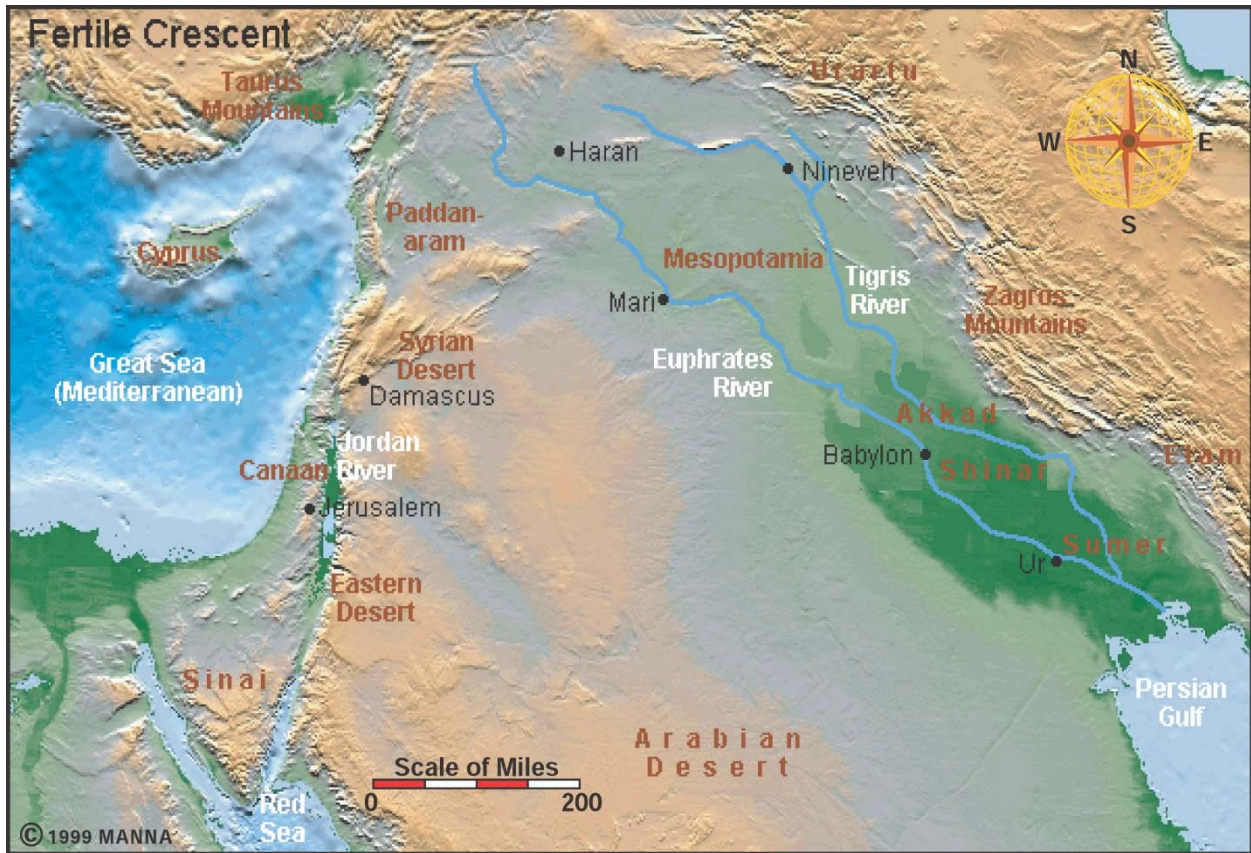
Who are the Samaritans? Why do they hate Jews and vice versa?

Who are the Pharisees and Sadducees?

Why is the NT in Greek instead of Hebrew?


Why was that time the “right time” for God’s son to come?





Conquering Empires

Assyria	Babylon	Persia	Greeks	Romans
612 BC	539 BC	333 BC	63 BC	[time Empire defeated]



586 BC 1st Temple -- Jerusalem falls – people deported to Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar)
70 AD 2nd Temple destroyed by Rome

Persians (539-333 BC) BB(i)BLED

559 Cyrus become king
Cyrus in Bible Isa 45:1; 44:28; Ezra 1:2-4 (Edict); Ezra 6:3-8 esp. 6:11
Benevolent policies—respect local customs, reverses exiles
3 Empires to conquer: Babylon, Lydia, Egypt
 Babylon – Nabonidas
 Lydia – Croesus-Delphi Oracle
 Egypt—left to son Cambyses—disaster
Death / body 1000 miles / respect

Darius (522-486 BC) Empire organizer BBSSS GT

Behistun Inscription-Elamite, Old Persian, Akkadian—usurper?
Benevolent (Apis bull) + Firm (Ezra 6:11)
Satrapy—governor organization
Street system-Postal system-Herodotus
Suez Canal?
Greece – Lost at Marathon
2nd Temple completed (515 BC)

Xerxes I (486-465 BC) BEG-300

Bel-Marduk statue melted down in Babylon
Esther's husband (Ezr 4:6)
Greece – torches Athens, Loss at Salamis
300 Spartans stand up against Persia

Artaxerxes: (464-424 BC) NEE

Nehemiah was his cupbearer—wall builder
Egypt revolts
Ezra returns—scribe/priest

Later Persians: Disintegration

Darius II – Peloponnesian wars (Athens/Sparta (431-404 BC))
Darius III – lost battle of Issus 333 BC to Alexander—End of Persian Empire

Hellenism / Alexander III 333 BC Questions

- How did Alexander conquer the world in 10 years?
- What happened to Alexander's empire?
- Why is the NT written in Greek instead of Hebrew?
- How did the Jews get from Alexander to Roman rule?
- Who were the Maccabees?

Alexander III (333 BC)

- Philip II of Macedon – army fighting machine, son's teacher Aristotle, 336 assassinated
- Alexander's background-Aristotle
- Granicus River victory over Persians-334 BC
- Issus victory over Persians (333 BC)
- Tyre (Ezek 26:1-6) -7 months
- Siwa in Egypt
- Babylon – Roxanne, Opis banquet, intermarriage, drunk a lot...
- Hindu Kush mountains

Hellenistic Cultural issues:

- Cultural amalgamations –transcending the polis (city) → globalization; Polis to oikoumene (whole civilized world)
- Importance for NT: language, worldview: east [Semitic] → west [Hellenistic]

Diadochi [successors]– 4 Generals CLAPS

- Cassander – Macedonia/Greece
- Lysimachus – Thrace
- Antigonus - Turkey/Syria
- Ptolemy son of Lagi – Egypt
- Seleucus– Iraq/Babylon to India



Tolerant Ptolemies (323-198 BC)

Over Egypt, rule Palestine
 Ptolemy takes title of King (304 BC)
 Alexandria built by 200 BC--Library

Ptolemaic Hellenism

Alexandrian allegorism—hermeneutics, anthropomorphisms offensive
 Unified language—Koine Greek
 Septuagint (Hebrew→LXX – 250-150 BC) Greek translation of OT
 Hellenism—Factions in Israel

Areas of cultural interface: REAP

Religion: Jewish // Greek // priests
 Economic: taxes, merchants
 Army: generals & army
 Political: king, governors & courts

Responses to Hellenism: TAWA; diaspora:

Tradition (Pharisees, separation ideology),
 Assimilate (Sadducees),
 Withdraw (Essenes, apocalyptic),
 Attack (zealots)

Seleucids (198-167 BC)

Antiochus III (the Great) – victory Panion 198 BC gets Palestine away from Ptolemy
 Romans begin taxing

Antiochus IV (175-163 BC) Epiphanes

Hellenize the Jews: Grk. Deities, circumcision, pigs, Scriptures
 Three high priests: OJM
 Onias—money
 Jason — gym, Hellenism
 Menelaus—Benjamin, temple treasure

Abomination of Desolation

The Big Maccabees

Mattathias (167 BC)—Father
 Judas Maccabee (166-160 BC)—hammerer, Hanukkah
 Poor Eleazar—Elephant man
 Jonathan the diplomat, High priest
 Simon the dynasty builder (Hasmoneans)