Inter testamental Backgrounds: Part B Lecture 2-3

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 Dynasty comes from his descendants)

Hasmonean Questions (135-63 BC; descendants of Simon Maccabee)

Who are the Hasmoneans?
Where did the Pharisees and Sadducees come from?
What was Herod the Great like? Why did everybody hate him?
How does Rome get into the picture?
Was Jesus an Essene from Qumran?

Hasmoneans (135-63 BC)

John Hyrcanus (135-104 BC) PECC

Religious Parties – Pharisees [Hasidim] /Sadducees [Hellenists]
Expansion of territory
Circumcision Idumeans (Edomites)
Children trained Greek

Alexander Jannaeus (102-76 BC) F CAPE

Feast of Tabernacles
Crucifies Pharisees
Assimilation of all groups
Pharisees ask for Syrian help
Expansion of territory

Salome Alexandra (75-67 BC) HA MEPS

Hyrkanus = high priesthood;
Aristobulus = army

Married: Aristobolus → Alexander Jannaeus
Education
Pharisee link
Sadducees abused

**Hyrcanus II (66-63 BC)**

Takes High priesthood
Aristobulus and Sadducees march on Jerusalem
Aristobulus (66-63 BC)
Hyrcanus goes to Aretas (Nabatean) for help
Enter Rome to break up the fight (63 BC)

**Rome takes over (63 BC)**

Pompey
Antipater’s boys (Idumean)
Roman Government structure
  - Senatorial provinces
  - Imperial provinces—legions, answerable to the emperor;
  - Client state under Rome

**Herod the Great (37-4 BC) JK MCBS**

Julius Caesar –First Triumvirate end 46 BC with Julius Caesar as supreme leader
  (assassinated 44 BC, Brutus).

Herod as “King of the Jews”

Mariamne (Hasmonean)

Cleopatra—Marc Antony, Second Triumvirate and Augustus (31 BC-14AD) as savior and
good news (Luke)—hated Herod

Herod the Builder: Caesarea, Masada, Temple

Sons & Wife

**Tetrarchs after Herod the Great**

Archelaus: gets Judea, Idumea & Samaria [huge], kills 3,000 pilgrims to Jerusalem—
exiled to Gaul (6 AD)

Herod Antipas: gets Galilee & Perea: Kills John Bapt. At trial of Jesus, exiled France

Herod Philip: Golan Heights, wife goes to Antipas

Supposed to be 4 but only 3 listed; Archelaus may have 2 sections
**Jewish Sects – Pharisees**

**Pharisees**

- **History**
- **Sources**—oral tradition big
  - Two types: Expository // Logical deductions

**Expository**

- Midrash (ca. 200 AD) expository on Scripture
  - Halakhah: legal—ca 200 AD
  - Haggadah: stories—Rabbis
- Targums: Hebrew → Aramaic translations

**Jewish Oral Traditions**

- Logical extractions/deductions
  - Mishna (200 AD)...oral tradition at Sinai; reflects beliefs around the time of Christ
  - Tosefta 250 AD—supplement comments on Mishnah
  - Talmud (elaboration on Mishnah): Babylonian (400 AD); Jerusalem (600 AD)

**Extra biblical sources**

- Apocrypha: 1 & 2 Mac., Ben Sirach, Wisdom of Solomon—not accepted by the Jews, 16th century AD first time in church council
- NT Pseudepigrapha:
  - Gospels of [Judas, Peter, Thomas. Phillip...];
  - Apocalypses of [Peter; Paul, Thomas]
  - Acts of [Peter, Paul, Andrew, John, Thomas]

**New Testament Rabbinic Examples**

- Matt 23:25-26: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and plate but inside they are full of extortion; cf. Mishnah; Shammai (outside clean important), Hillel (inside is what matters)

- Lord’s prayer; Lk. 11:1

- Mat 7:4: You hypocrite, first cast the beam out of your own eye; and then shall you see clearly to cast out the mote out of your brother’s eye—Rabbi Tarfon similar

- Parables not found in DSS or pseudepigrapha but prolific in the Midrashim
Saul/Paul; Gamaliel, Nicodemus—Pharisee Phil. 3:6f; respected by most!

**Sadducees—Hellenists**

History—upper class, high priests; unpopular with masses

Beliefs: no resurrection, angels, oral tradition

**Essenes – Qumran-DSS**

History—Hasmonean/Zadokite temple split

Beliefs—torah over temple scribes, monastic

**Zealots – Kingdom political/military**

**Samaritans—tale of two temples;**

Origins

John Hrycanus destroys Samaritan temple

**Diaspora:** Jews scattered around the world still, synagogues

**Institutions in Israel at the time of Christ**

**Sanhedrin:** High Priest run, Sadducees+ scribes+elders

Arrest and trial, no capital punishment; this court was disbanded after 70 AD

**Synagogue**—background, diaspora

Structure: 10 heads

4 Functions: school, worship, court, social (marrying/burying) among diaspora

Worship: Shema, prayer, Scripture, sermon, blessing

**NT – Jewish literary backgrounds**

**Josephus** (37-100) – Jewish historian using Greek historiographic methods

**Philo** (20 BC-50 AD)—Alexandrian Jew, merging of Greek philosophy and Judaism

Later Judaism would see the LXX/Septuagint as a second golden calf (product of Hellenism; used by Christians)