

North Portland Bible College--Portland, Oregon
NT 213 Intertestamental History “Between the Covenants”
Spring 2017

Instructor: Alan Cushway

Certificate in Jewish Learning (Florence Melton School 1999—Hebrew University),

Historical Geography of the Holy Land (Jerusalem University 2002),

B.S.—Central Michigan Univ.

Master of Divinity-1982. Master of Theology-1984 Western Seminary

Phone: Cell: 971-340-8871

Home--503-257-3061

E-Mail: Office--pastorcushway@yahoo.com

School—alanc@npbc.education

Course Description:

This course will explore the political, social and theological movements in the 400 years before the advent of Jesus that Messiah. Special attention will be given to the people and literature of the period including the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scripture and selected rabbinic literature, key figures such as Pharisees, Qumran Maccabees and others.

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Identify the key events and figures of the period
2. Understand the importance of the Jewish groups and literature which arose during this period, and how they impact the New Covenant Scriptures
3. Discuss the Messianic expectations and imposters which arose in Israel
4. Identify major traditions which shaped the structure of New Covenant thought

Course Requirements

Required Textbook: The World of Jesus by Dr. William H. Marty, Bethany House Pub.

Recommended Textbooks: 1. Between the Testaments by D.S Russell 2. Concise Bible Atlas by J. Carl Laney, Hendrickson Pub. 3. Peoples of the New Testament World by William Simmons, Hendrickson Pub. 2008 (all available through Christian Book Dist.)

Recommended website: www.bible-history.com/resource Good timeline for events.

Major Assignments

- 1) Complete a reading from any of the following primary sources:
 - a. Josephus Antiquities--choose one reading from Book 11-20
 - b. Wars--Book 1
 - c. I Maccabees 1-3
- 2) Complete a 2 page paper on a selected topic. Topics will be discussed in class

Course Expectations and Policies

Attendance Policy:

All students are expected to attend a minimum of 6 of the 10 scheduled hours (Catalog pg 13). Please inform the instructor of planned absences in a reasonable time frame. In crisis or emergent situations, call NPBC and/or instructor as soon as prudent. In the event of inclement weather, the learner is urged to first call the college and confirm if classes are still to be held.

Personal judgment regarding your own situation must be considered. No penalty in attendance will be incurred for such decisions by the student.

Evaluation and Grading Policy

Letter grades will follow the “Academic Policies” section of the Catalog (pg. 13)

Grades will be weighed based upon the following percentage criteria:

1. Attendance and class participation 50%
2. Reading Assignments and report 50%

Late assignment policy

A grace period of 2 (two) days will be given for incomplete assignments. That is each student has two days after normal class period of that week to complete the assignment.

Upon completion, students must e-mail or call the instructor by 3:00 PM of the 2nd day. A 5% grade reduction per day will be given for work turned in after the 3:00 pm cut off.

Expectations regarding writing/format style for papers

Any papers assigned should be typed unless approved by instructor or administrator.

Bibliography is to be placed on a separate sheet. At least three sources must be used for research, only one entry from the internet is allowed. Papers should reflect appropriate research including citation of sources and English grammar.

Academic Integrity in writing:

All written material submitted must be the original work of the student. Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity and constitutes a serious breach of scholarship standards at North Portland Bible College. When quoting the work of an author or an author’s ideas are used in your paper, document, document, and document.

NT 213 Intertestamental History Outline

I. Major Powers and Historical Events March 29-April 19 (weeks 1-4)

Introduction to class and expectations

- A. Persian Decline-Greek Rise under Alexander--424-331 BCE
- B. Greek Rule after Alexander--330-167 BCE
 1. Ptolemaic Rule--301-198 BCE
 2. Seleucid Rule--198-167 BCE
- C. Maccabean Revolt and Rule--167-143 BCE
- D. Hasmonean Rule--142-63 BCE
- E. Roman Rule--63-4 BC

II. Major Players of the Period April 26-May 17 (weeks 5-8)

- A. Pharisees
 1. Beit Hillel
 2. Beit Shammai
- B. Sadducees
- C. Herodians/Hellenists

- D. Zealots
- E. Qumran/Essenes
- F. Herodian Dynasty

III. Major Works and Concepts May 24-June 7 (weeks 9-11)

- A. LXX (completed between 285-247 BC)
- B. 1 & 2 Maccabees
- C. Oral tradition, midrash
- D. Dead Sea Scrolls
- E. Claims of False Messiah's
- F. Interpretative Principles within Judaism
- G. The Messianic Ideal

Reading and paper due by June 7, 2017

Six Major Time Periods of the Intertestamental Era

#1. The Decline of the Persian Empire--424-331 BCE

Persia experiences trouble within the empire and weak rulers. They begin to face the outward threat of Greek expansion in the Aegean Sea area. Last King of Persia, Darius III defeated by Alexander at the battle of Gaugamela, who begins to occupy Persian territory. Darius is later killed by his own men. Persia ceases to be an empire.

#2. The Rise of Alexander the Great—330-301 BCE

Alexander succeeds his father Phillip II as general and head of Macedon. Alexander studies under Aristotle and is convinced of the superiority of a Greek way of life. He spares Jerusalem and conquers areas as far as the borders of present day India and is turned back due to lack of supplies. He dies in Babylon in June of 323 BCE at age of 32. The Empire is divided among his four generals each vying for control.

#3. The Greek Rule after Alexander--301-167 BCE

A. Empire of the Ptolemy's--301-198 BCE

General Ptolemy and his descendants ruled Egypt and Israel from the city of Alexandria. Jews under the Ptolemy's were generally well treated and allowed to practice their religion. Under this rule the Greek version of the Hebrew Bible known as the Septuagint (the 70 in Greek) was

written. In 198 BCE, Seleucid forces capture Israel and Syria from the Ptolemy's

B. *Empire of the Seleucids--198-167 BCE*

General Seleucus occupied the most area, from Persia to Syria. While Seleucus himself never went to war with his old comrade Ptolemy, later rulers like Antiochus III sought expansion by defeating the Ptolemaic forces in 198, and attempting to move west into Greece. They were stopped by the growing menace of Rome who made them give up lands and armies. The sons of Antiochus III (Seleucus V and Antiochus IV) began to fortify their borders against Roman incursion. Antiochus IV begins an aggressive plan of "Hellenization" in Israel which would eventually lead to revolt.

#4. The Revolt of the Maccabees--167-143 BCE

Under Antiochus IV altars to Zeus were set up in Israeli towns and villages. Sacrifices to Zeus were mandated and the study of Torah was illegal. While many Jews decided to do this, others defied the ruling and rebelled. One such family was Mattathias Hasmon and his five sons, the most famous of which was his third son Judah, nicknamed "Maccabee" (Hebrew for "Hammer"). It was Judas who defeated the Syrian Greeks and cleansed the Temple in Jerusalem in 164 BCE thus instituting the celebration of Hanukkah.

#5. The Rule of the Hasmoneans--142-63 BCE

After about 25 years of fighting to maintain control, the Seleucid rulers granted Judea a degree of independence, exempted them from taxes as well as granting religious and political power to the nation. One of the key concessions made was the confirmation of Simon Maccabaeus as "ethnarch" (national ruler) and High Priest. So the power of government and religion were wed in one person. As time progressed, internal strife became more pronounced and various splinter groups began to arise in the nation. This provided the opening for Roman forces to take advantage of the confusion.

#6. The Iron Hand of Roman Rule--63-4 BCE

As Rome rose in power, Mark Antony appointed a young and talented Edomite named "Herod, who was appointed "King of the Jews. In 37 BCE Herod marched into Jerusalem as "king". Herod was generally despised by the Jewish people, mostly because he was not Jewish, he was an Edomite, whose family was forced to convert to Judaism under the Maccabees. It was Herod the Great who refurbished the Temple with heavily levied tax money. This Temple was the Temple that Jesus knew in the days of His ministry. Herod died between 4-6 BCE shortly after the birth of Jesus.

List of Additional Resources

1. History of the Jewish People--The Second Temple Era by Rabbi Hersh Goldwurm
Mesorah Publications Ltd. 1982 ISBN 0-89906-455-8
2. Jerusalem in the Times of Jesus by Jochim Jeremias Fortress Press, Philadelphia, Pa.
1978 ISBN 0-8006-1136-5

3. New Testament History by F.F. Bruce Anchor Books 1972 ISBN 0-385-02533-5
4. A Survey of Israel's History by Leon Wood Zondervan Press 1986 ISBN 978-0-310-34770-5
5. Concise Bible Atlas by J. Carl Laney Hendrickson Publishers 1998 ISBN 1-56563-366-0
6. Bagster's Helps to Bible Study by Samuel Bagster Attic Press Inc 1974 ISBN 85150-162-1
7. Holman Bible Atlas by Paul H. Wright Holman Bible Publishers 2000. ISBN 978-0-8054-9445-7
8. Exploring Jewish Literature of the Second Temple Period by Larry Helyer Inter Varsity Press 2002 ISBN 0-8308-2678-5
9. Bandits, Prophets, and Messiah's by Richard Horsley Trinity Press International 1999. ISBN 1-56338-273-3
10. In the Shadow of the Temple by Oskar Skarsaune Inter Varsity Press 2002 ISBN 0-8308-2670
11. Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament by J. Julius Scott Jr. Baker Books 2000 ISBN 0-8010-2240-1
12. The Works of Josephus translated by William Whiston Hendrickson Press 1998 ISBN 0-913573-86-8
13. The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah by Alfred Edersheim Hendrickson Publishers 1997 ISBN 0-943575-83-4
14. A History of the Jewish People in the Time of Jesus Christ by Emil Schurer Hendrickson Publishers 1995 ISBN 1-56563-049-1
15. Judaism by George Foot Moore Hendrickson Publishers 1997 ISBN 1-56563-286-9
16. Before the Times by Priscilla and Rebecca Patten Strawberry Hill Press 1980 ISBN 0-89407-047-9
17. Jerusalem by Lee Levine Jewish Publication Society 2002 ISBN 0-8276-0750-4
18. Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament by H. Wayne House Zondervan Publishing 1981 ISBN 0-310-41641-8

19. First Century Judaism in Crisis by Jacob Neusner Abingdon Press 1975 ISBN 0-687-13120-0
20. The Seventy Faces of Torah by Stephen Weylen Paulist Press 2005 ISBN 0-8091-4179-5
21. From the Maccabees to the Mishnah by Shaye J.D. Cohen Westminster Press 1987 ISBN 0-664-21911-X
22. The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha by James Charlesworth Hendrickson Publishers 2009 ISBN 978-1-59856-489-1
23. Hellenistic Civilization and the Jews by Victor Tcherikover Jewish Publication Society 1959 ISBN 0-689-70248-5
24. A History of the Jewish Experience by Leo Trepp Behrman House Publishing 1975 ISBN 0-87441-072-x
25. The Dead Sea Scrolls--A new Translation by Michael Wise, Martin Abegg and Edward Cook Harper Collins Publishers 1999 ISBN 0-06-069201-4