

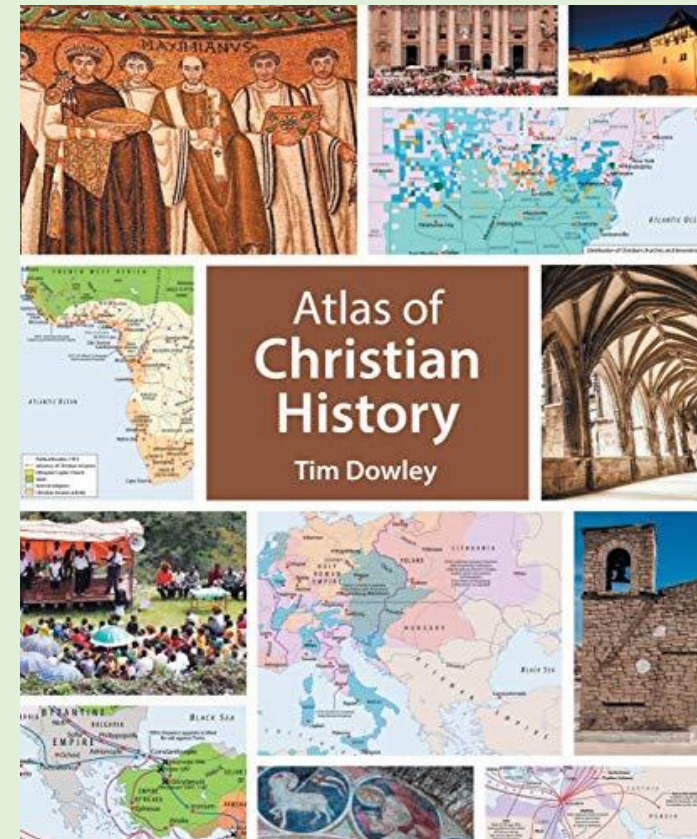
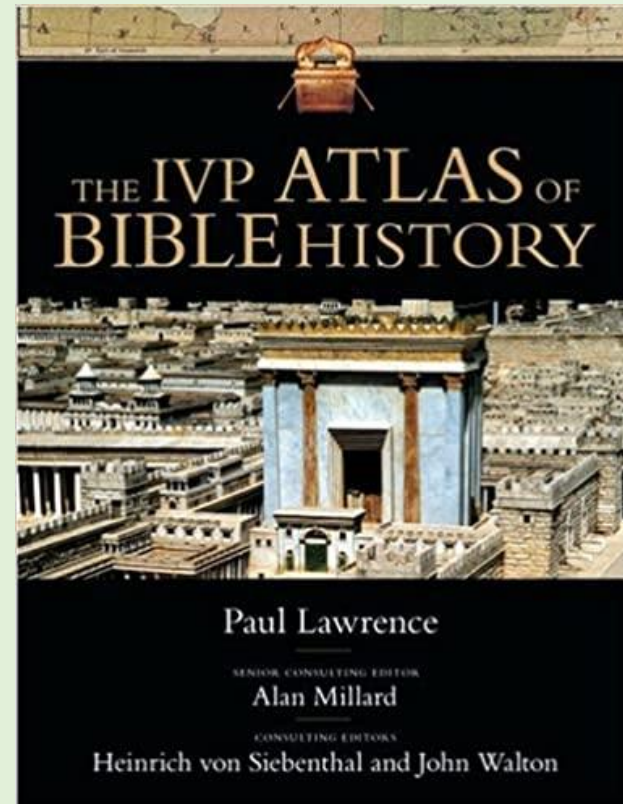
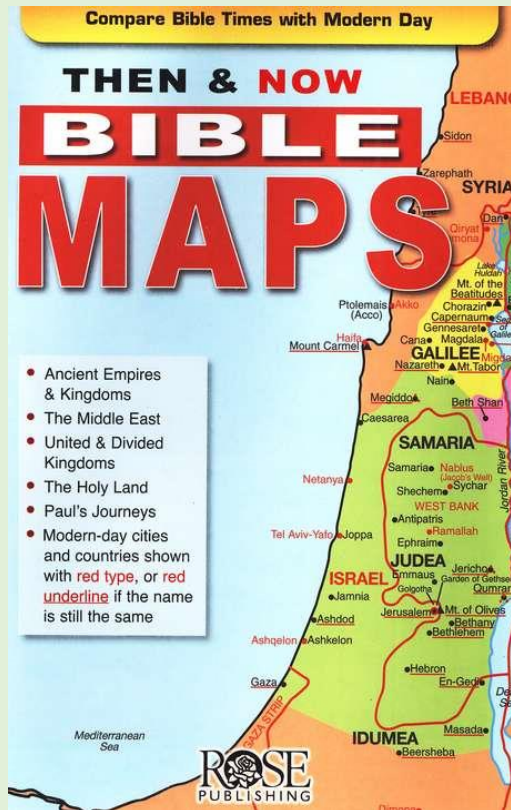
The History and Geography of the Bible and the Holy Land.

Session 2

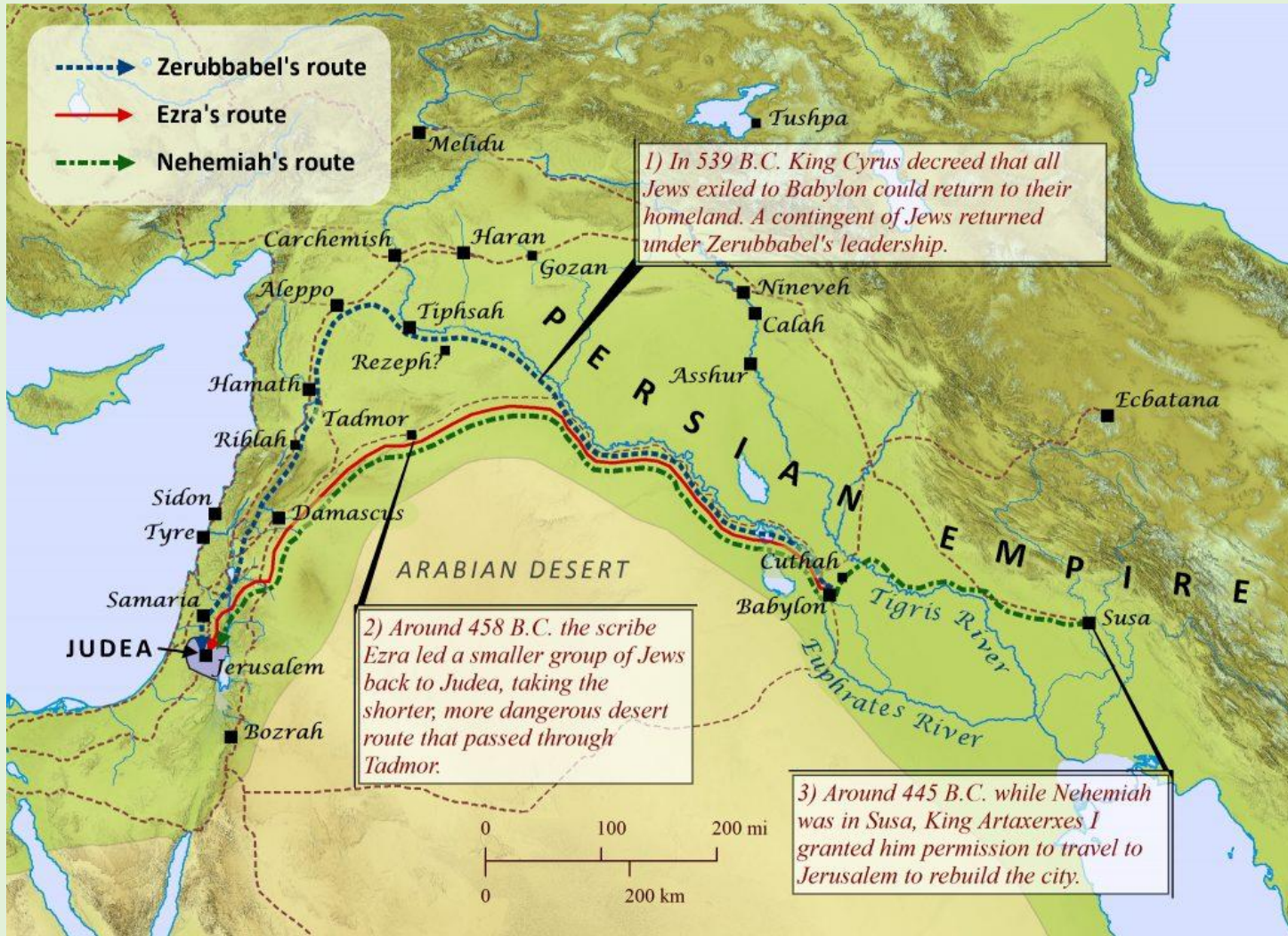
January 1

Faith Adult Christian Education (FACE) at
Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA), 667 E First Avenue, Chico, CA
Across the street from Bidwell Perk, in the Sanctuary, 11 a.m. Sundays
Joel Zimbelman, instructor

- January 1: New Faces on an old land. We'll start our study today with the return of the exiles, the building of a Second Temple, the coming of the Greeks and Romans in Palestine, the Roman Decapolis, the Herodians in power, Roman Occupation and subjugation, Messianic Judaism, Jesus' ministry and the early church, the end of Jerusalem, Jewish diaspora, Christianity across the Mediterranean and into Africa and Asia Minor.



The return of the exiles (539 BC, and following)



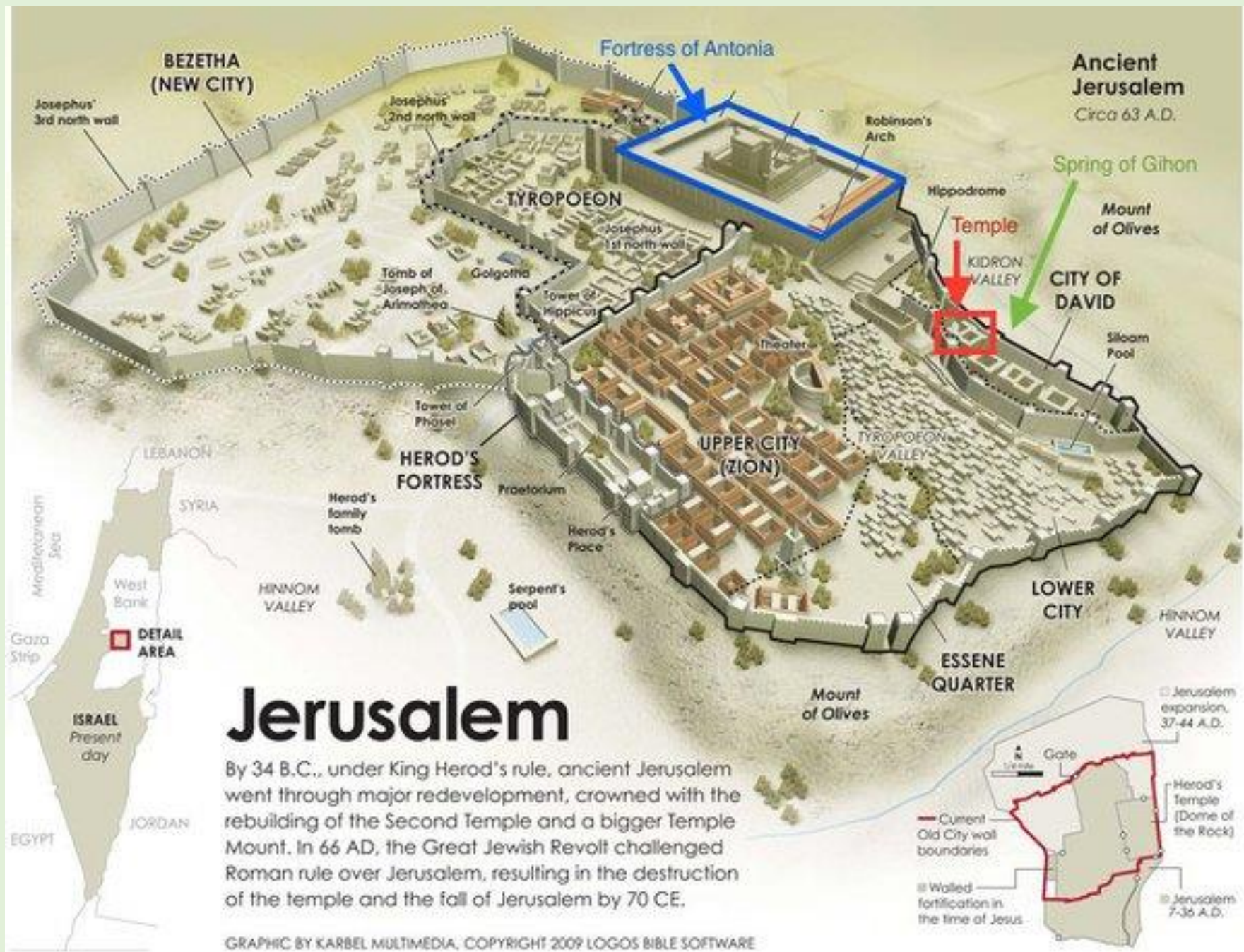
539 BC the Decree

First contingent returns through Syria And Jordan (north)

458 BC Contingent under the Scribe Ezra returns to Judea.

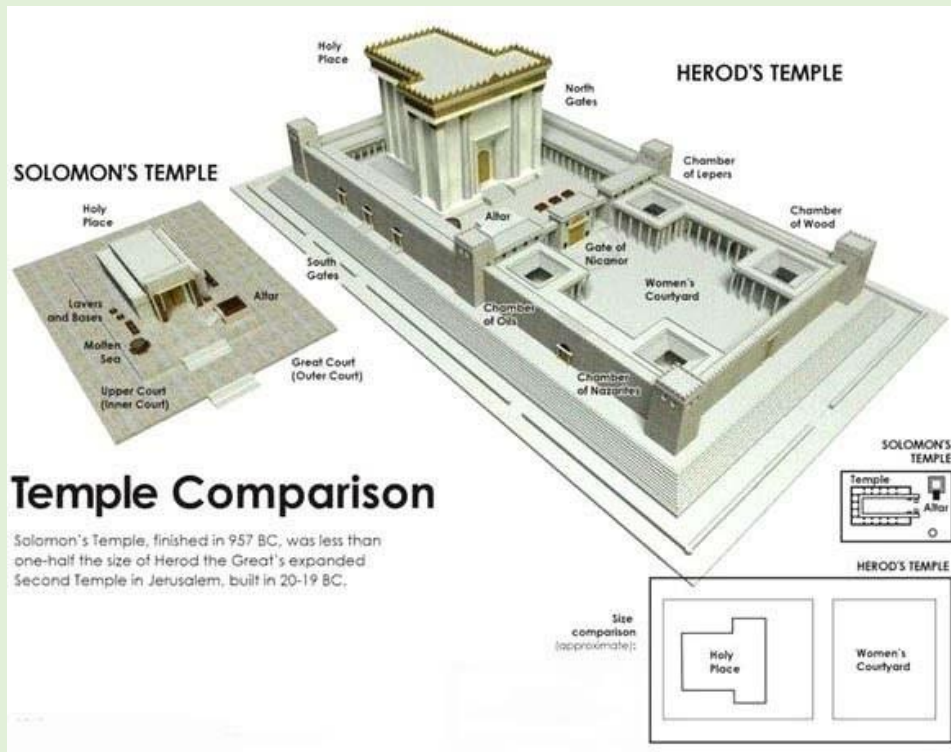
445 BC Nehemiah given permission To head back to and rebuild Jerusalem





Rebuilding of the old city of Jerusalem. And the construction of the Second Temple--later known as Herod's Temple.

Remember: Solomon builds first temple in 900s BC; destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC; new temple started after exile, and return to a Jerusalem controlled by the Persians (Persian Judah; Persian Second temple Period: 538 BC, through return of Exiles from Babylon in 500s and 400s BC, and into the Second Century AD



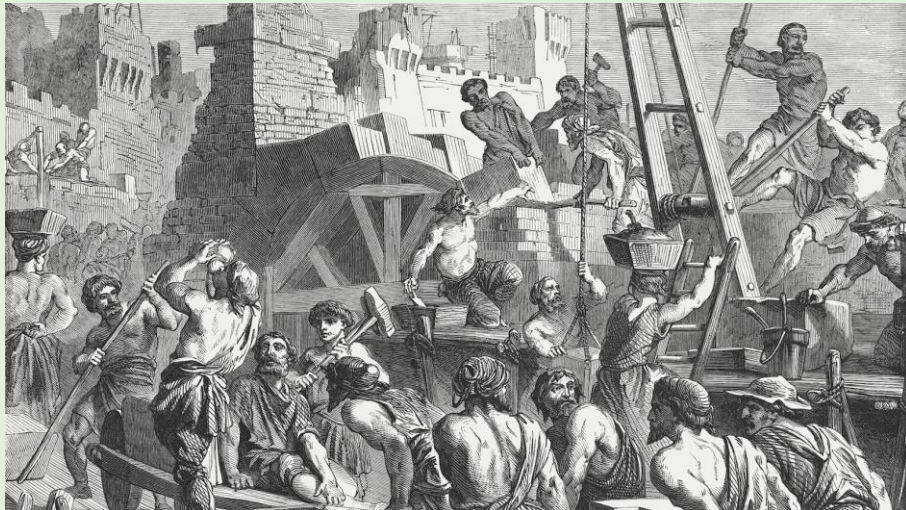
Why is a temple needed? Theology, culture, politics

Judaism thrives in Jerusalem as it is rebuilt and sporadically expands back into the surrounding areas. Persia holds the middle east together from 538-332—roughly 200 years. Long enough for Judaism to reestablish a Foothold and for the city to expand










Jerusalem becomes for the Jews and later Christians and Muslims the venue of the apocalypse—the end times. Daniel’s and Ezekiel’s visions are a product of the Babylonia exile but edited and become part of the Emerging Hebrew Bible (Remember, editing and redacting start in Babylon, but continue in the Second Temple period).

Talk of the “New Jerusalem” becomes widespread as a metaphor for hope, restoration, newfound faith, fidelity to God’s rule, flourishing, independence from the yolk of oppression, salvation.


The laws of Leviticus and of kosher behavior, circumcision are newly affirmed markers of a renewal of Fidelity to God. Jewish names and naming are reaffirmed.



What Is Considered Kosher?

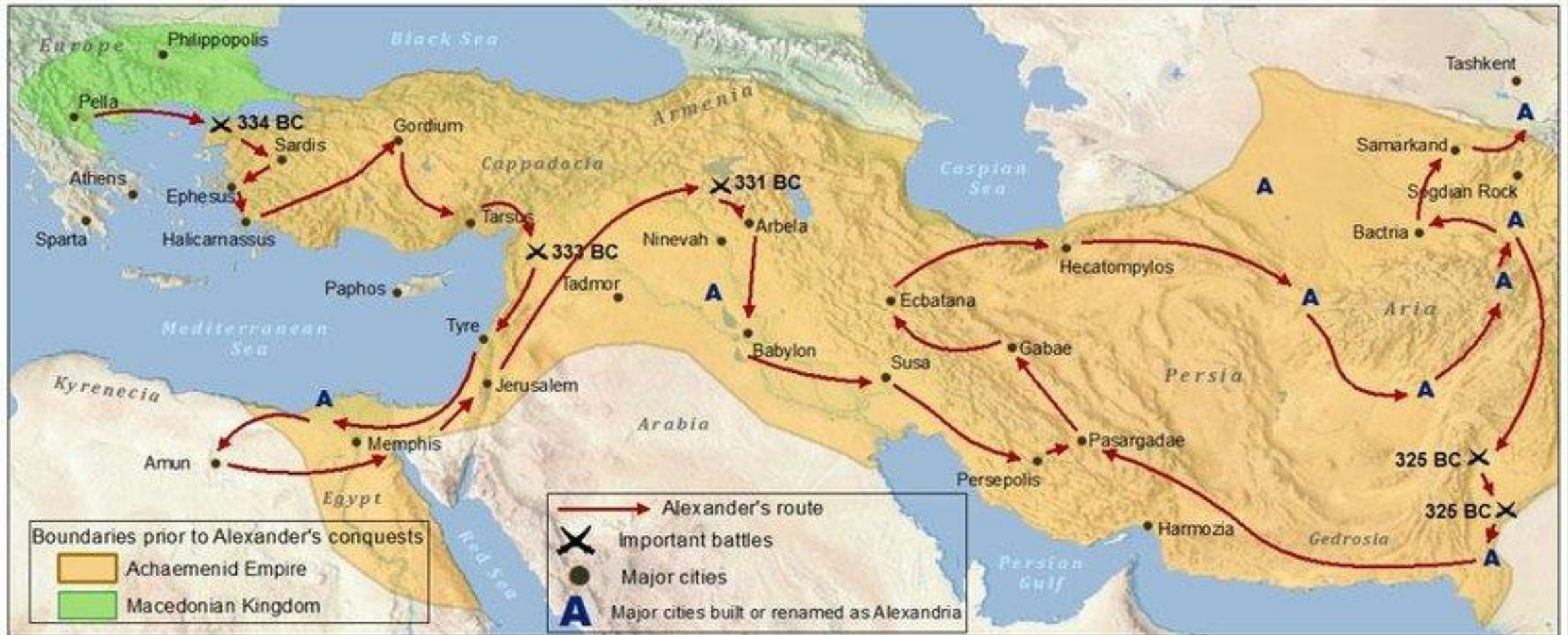
KOSHER	NOT KOSHER
 Chews its cud and has split hooves COWS, SHEEP, GOATS, DEER	 Doesn't chew cud and/or doesn't have split hooves PIGS, RABBITS, KANGAROO
 Domesticated species CHICKEN, DUCK, TURKEY	 All scavenger and predatory birds VULTURE, EAGLE, OWL
 Has both fins and scales TROUT, TUNA, SALMON	 Does not have both fins and scales CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSKS, WATER MAMMALS
KOSHER Chuck, rib, shoulder, plate 	 MEAT AND DAIRY TOGETHER
NOT KOSHER Loin, sirloin, rump, flank, heel 	

When prepared properly, some of these cuts may be kosher.

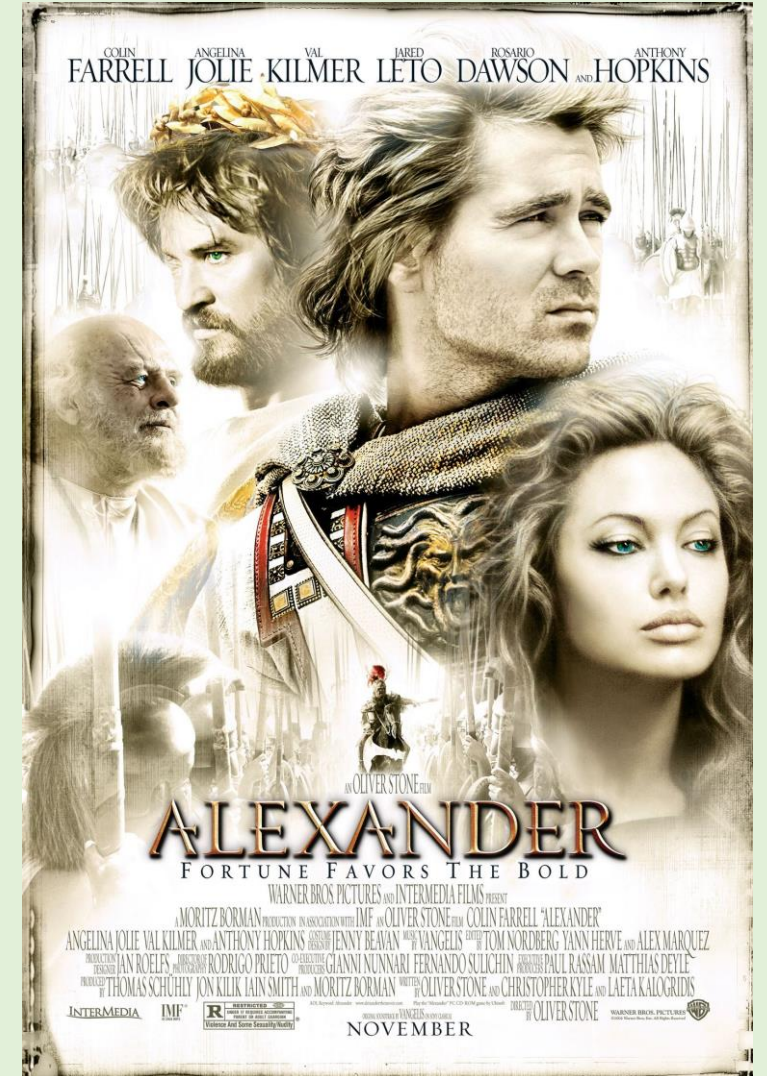
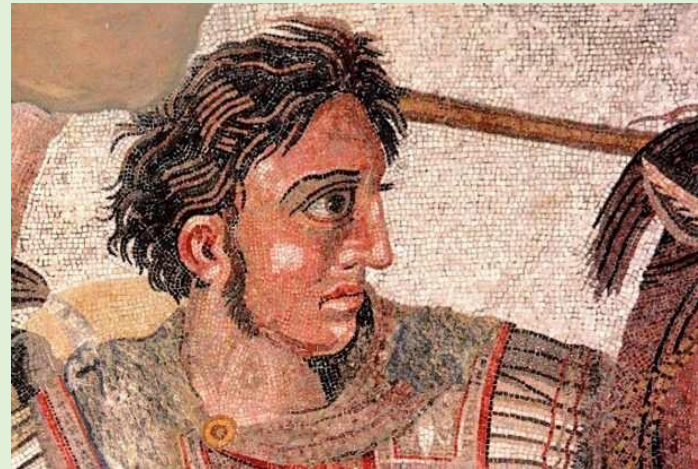
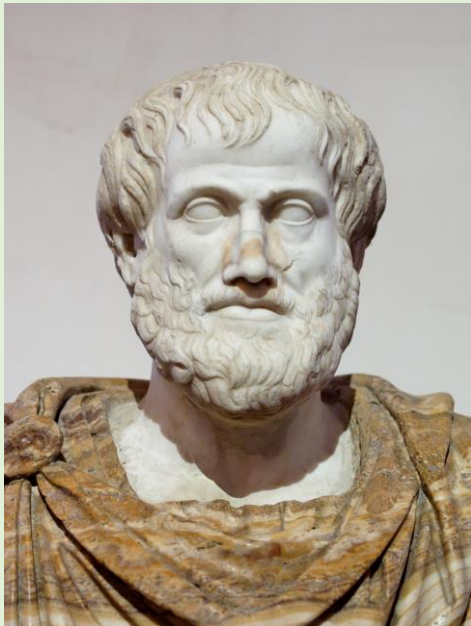
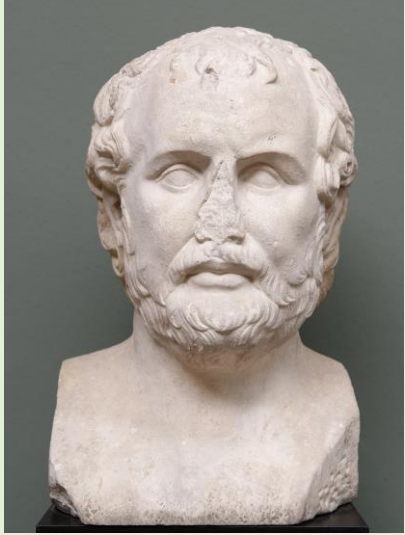


An old enemy defeats the Persians—Greece. Alexander the Great, Macedonian teenager, unites the Greeks against the Persians; destroys them and then unites the conquered territories under his control—but with a light hand.

Alexander dies a year after his victory, but his legacy lives on in what we call the Hellenistic Period—a cultural legacy: 333BC-64 BC



the Persians conquered a lot of territory, but never Macedonia and Greece. And finally, after a couple hundred Years of control, they met their match in the Greeks and Meceadonaians under Alexander.



Legacy of Greek rule in Asia minor and the Levant:

Language—Greek becomes the universal language; Hebrew texts translated into Greek in xxx in Egypt, and serve as the foundational texts for later readers (biblical writers, Christians, Muslims).

Culture—Hellenistic culture is what we call Greek-inspired culture that develops broadly after 332 BC, the Death of Alexander. Decapolis

Cosmopolitanism and political independence. Decapolis

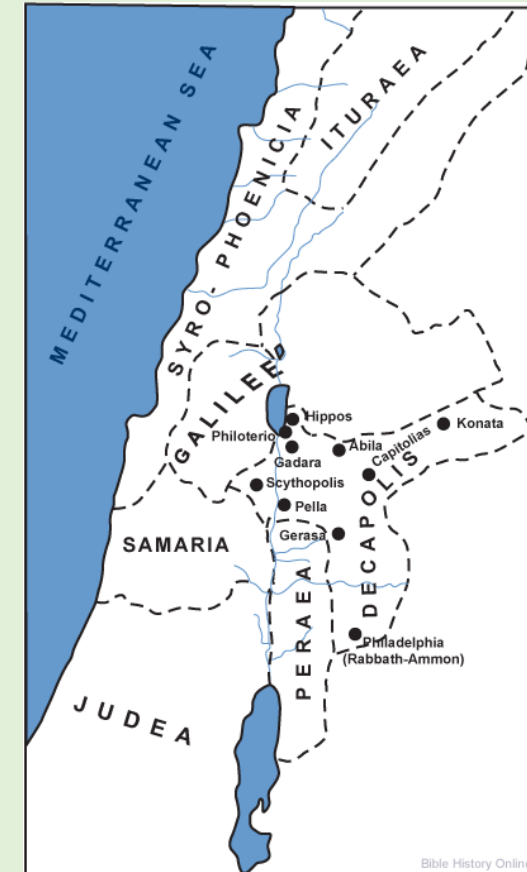
Construction—building follows wealth, peace, organization, Decapolis

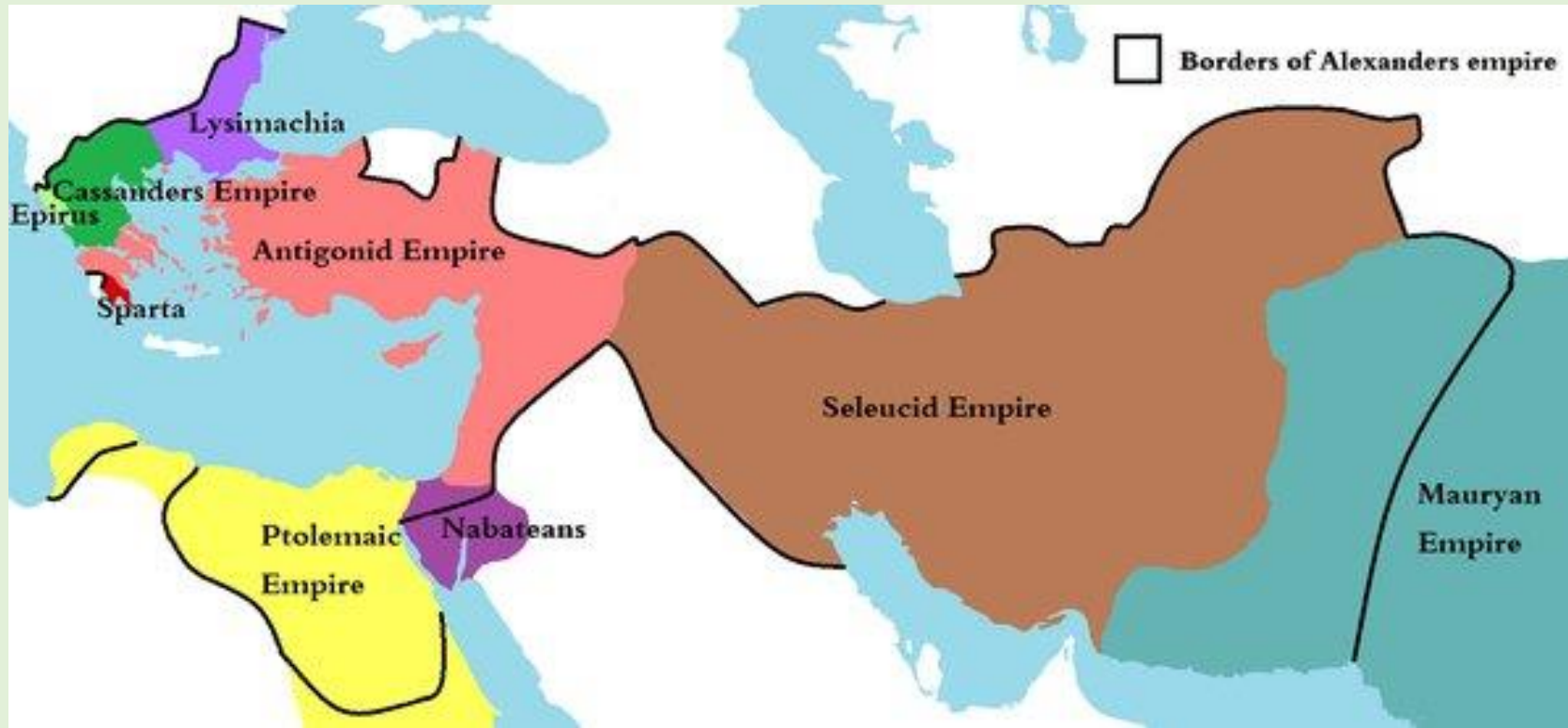
Religion—pluralism flourishes, but many Greek ideas of the Gods and their relationship with human beings take hold. Greeks, Romans, Jews/Arameans, Nabateans, Eastern Religions (Eleusinian Mysteries, Mithraism), perhaps Zoroastrianism

Human centered concerns

Literature—Bible translated into Greek

Greek becomes the language of educated elites





Founders of empires often lose their dream on their death: holding things together is harder than it looks

Alexander's death was sudden and his empire disintegrated into a 40-year period of war and chaos in 321 BCE. The Hellenistic world eventually settled into four stable power blocks: **the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt, the Seleucid Empire in the east, the Kingdom of Pergamon in Asia Minor, and Macedon.**

Biblical Translation—the Septuagint 285-247 BC, Authorized by Ptolemy II Philadelphius



MS 2649
Bible: Leviticus. Egypt, late 2nd c.
The oldest MS of this part of the Bible



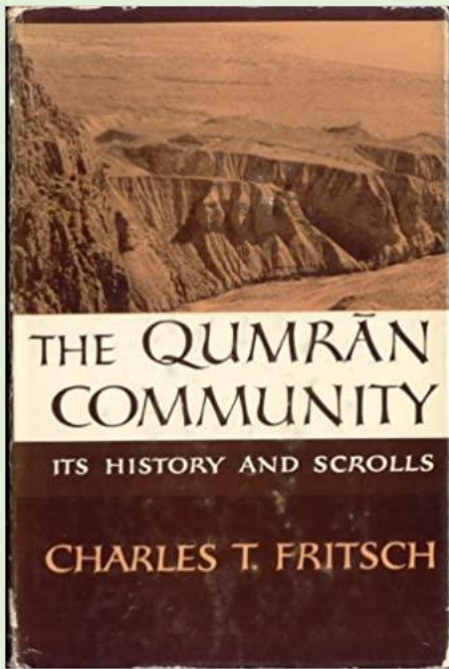
Holding the territory of Judea was tough; kingdoms after Alexander were spread thin. So various kingdoms and vassal states (agents of the big guys) controlled the territory on and off from 310 BC to 64 BC (about 250 years).

Outsiders sought to keep the local population down. The local vassal states tried to appease the larger empire over them and the local people. Local Rebels and Jewish religious types fought for control of territory, religious sites and culture.

Rebel rousing groups: One important group, and key to appreciating Jewish Hannukah: The Maccabean revolt led by Judas Maccabee and his brothers

The **Maccabees**--Jewish rebel warriors who took control of [Judea](#), which at the time was part of the [Seleucid Empire](#). They founded the [Hasmonean dynasty](#), which ruled from 167 BCE to 37 BCE,^[3] being a fully independent kingdom from about 110 to 63 BCE. They reasserted the Jewish religion, expanded the boundaries of Judea by conquest, and reduced the influence of [Hellenism](#) and [Hellenistic Judaism](#).

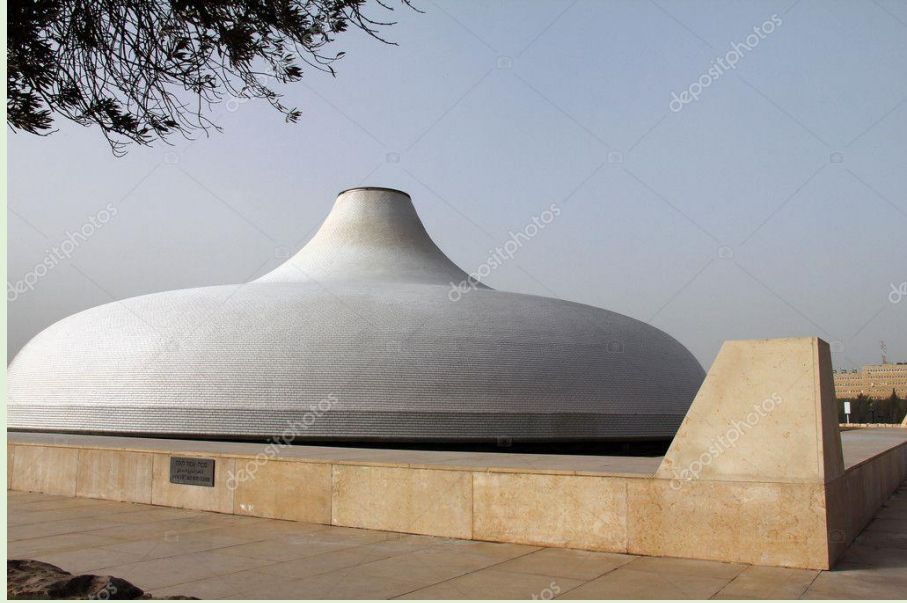
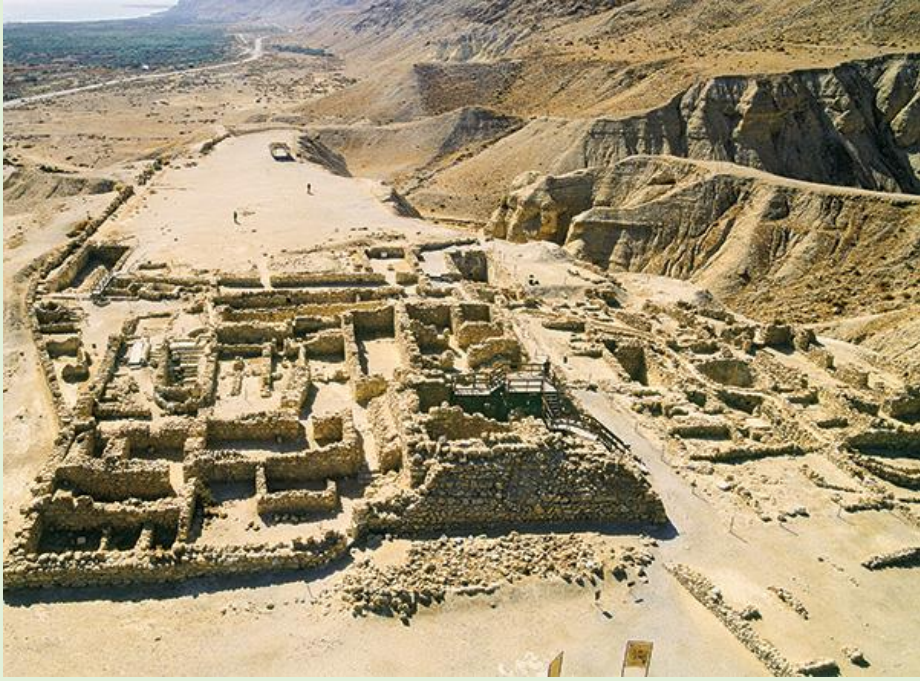




Qumran: Visit on Day 6 of Itinerary!!

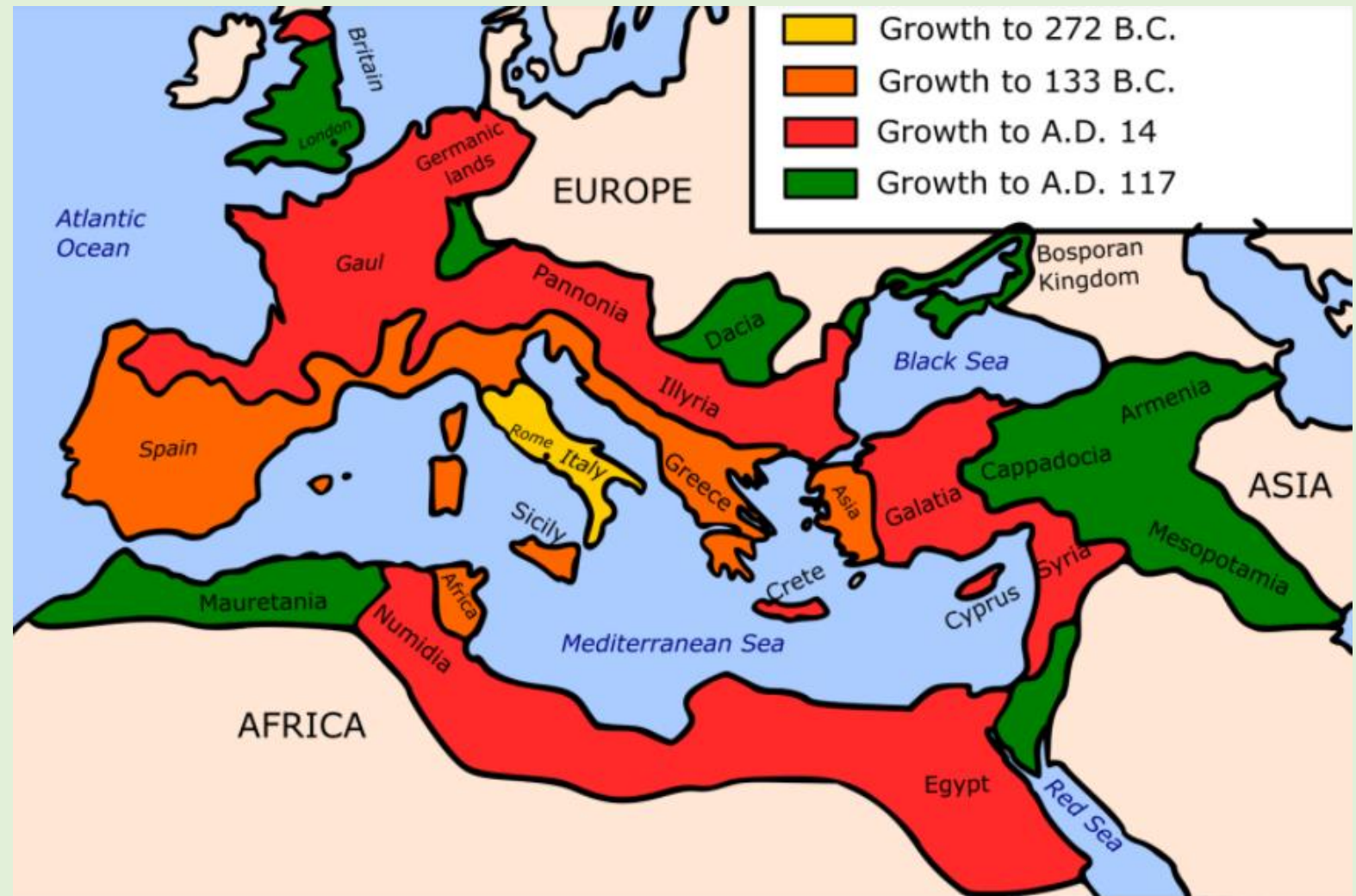
The [Hellenistic period](#) settlement was constructed during the reign of [Hasmonean](#) leader [John Hyrcanus](#) (134–104 [BCE](#)) or somewhat later. Qumran was inhabited by a [Jewish community](#) of the late [Second Temple period](#), which most scholars identify with the [mystic](#) sect of the [Essenes](#); however, other groups were also suggested. It was occupied most of the time until 68 [CE](#) and was destroyed by the [Romans](#) during the [First Jewish-Roman War](#), possibly as late as 73 CE.





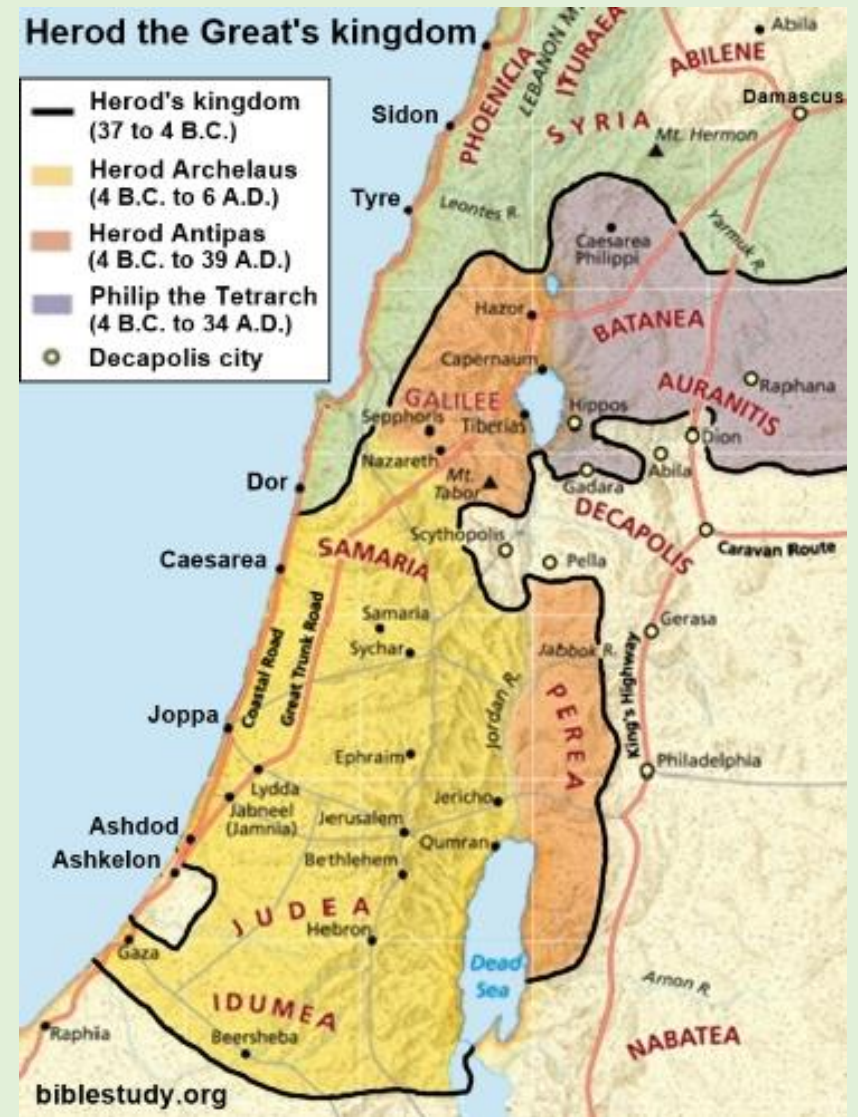
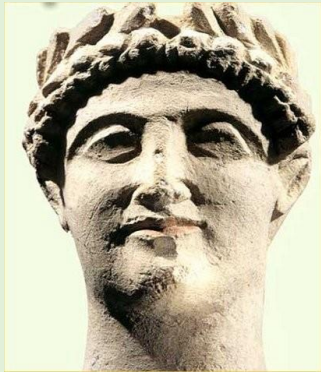
Under Pompey the Great and Julius Caesar, Rome's influence was extended over Syria, Jerusalem, Cyprus, and Gaul.

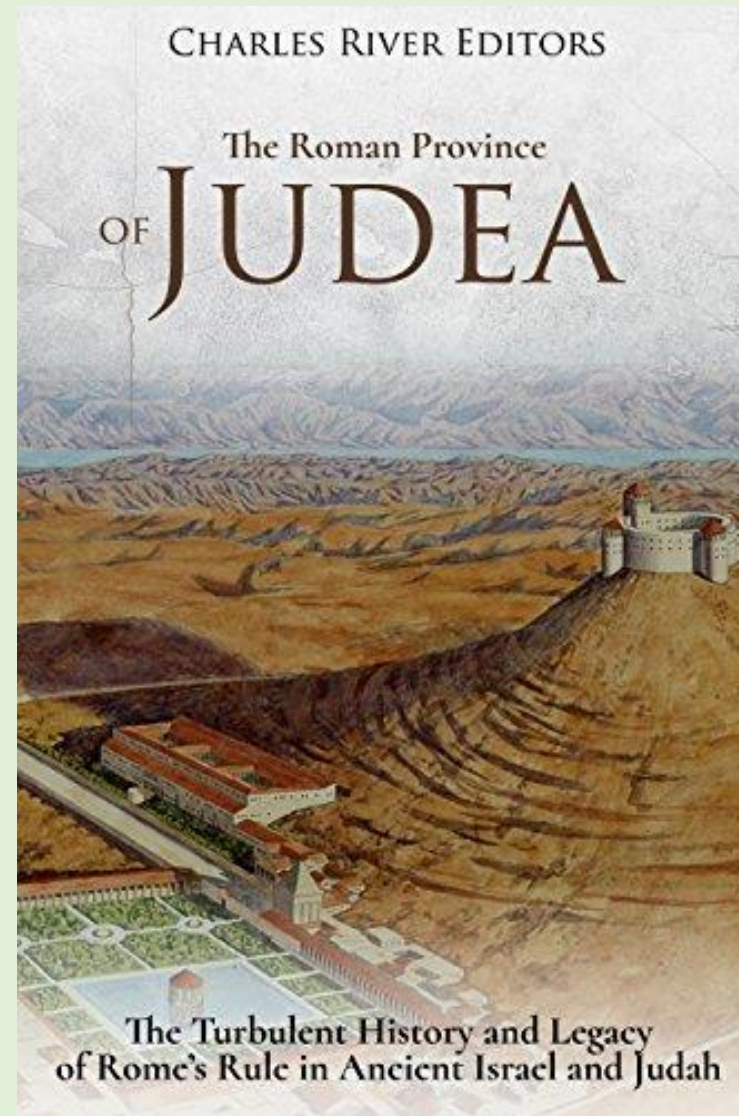
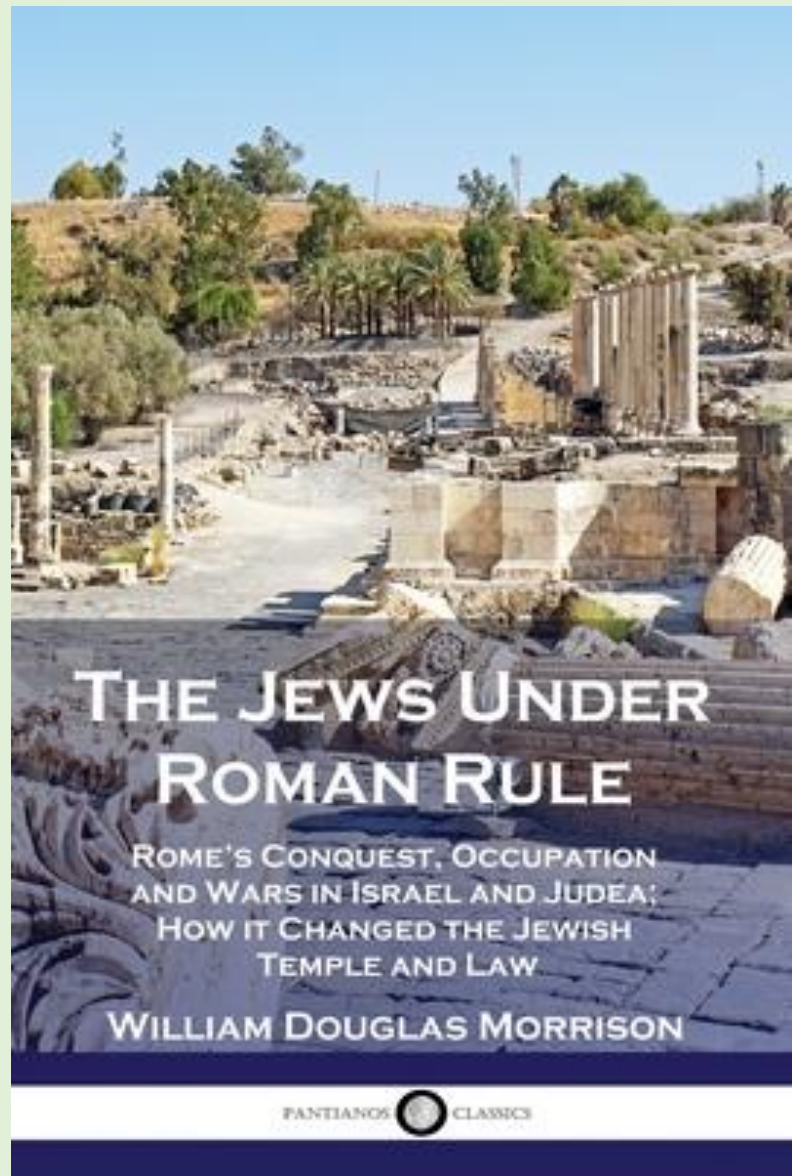
Roman general Pompey conquered Jerusalem and its surroundings by 63 BCE. The Romans deposed the ruling Hasmonean dynasty of Judaea (in power from c. 140 BCE) and the Roman Senate declared Herod the Great "King of the Jews" in c. 40 BCE.



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THE ROMAN EMPIRE, 44 BCE – 117 CE



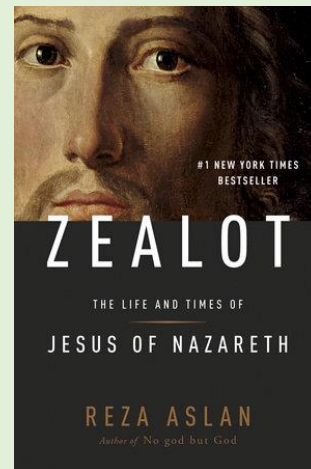
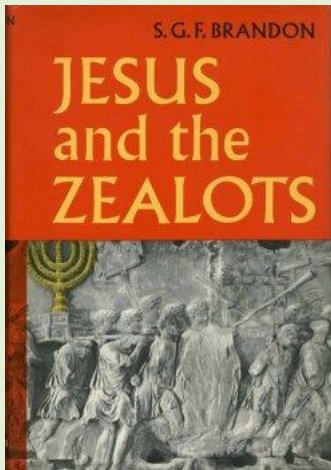
Roman control tightens control and kicks the previous dynasty out.

Emperor: Augustus Caesar, Tiberius (later)

Governor of Syria and province of Judea: Quirinius

Local control: Herod-King of Judea (vassal)
Pontius Pilate, 5th Prefect/Governor
Religious Leaders-Sanhedrin

Others: Pharisees
Zealots—1st century Second Temple
movement against Romans



Luke 2: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.

[2] This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria.

[3] And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city.

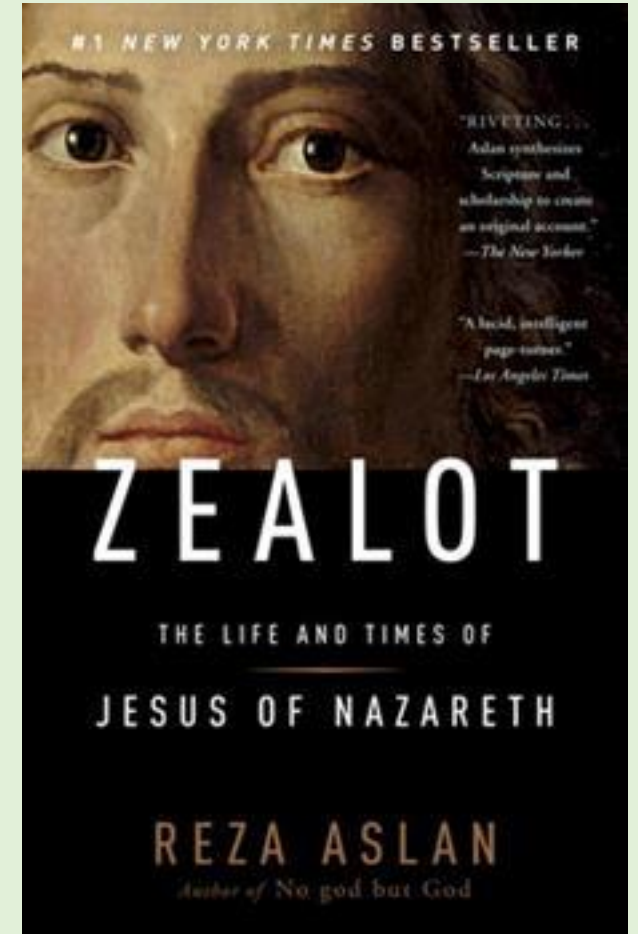
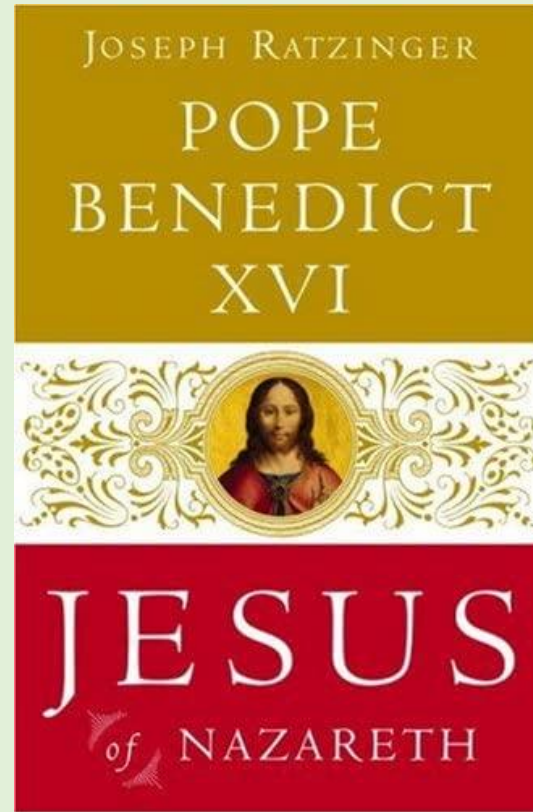
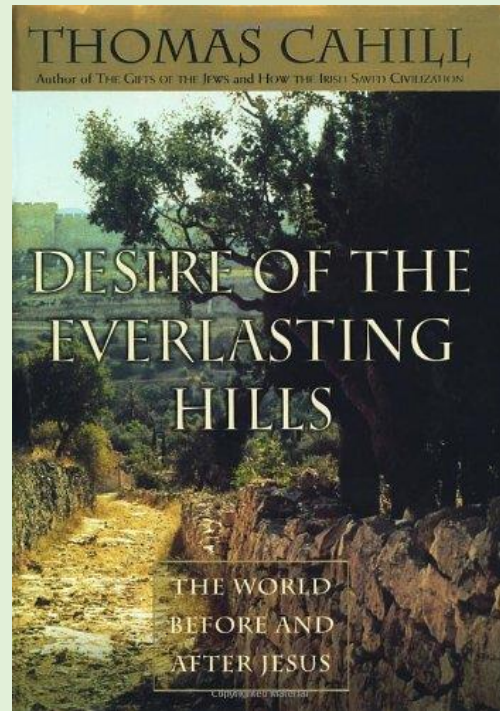
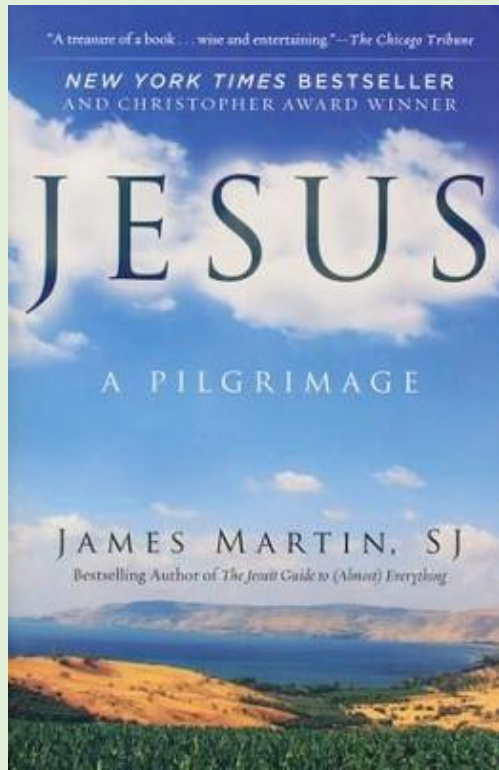
[4] And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

[5] to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

[6] And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered.

[7] And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

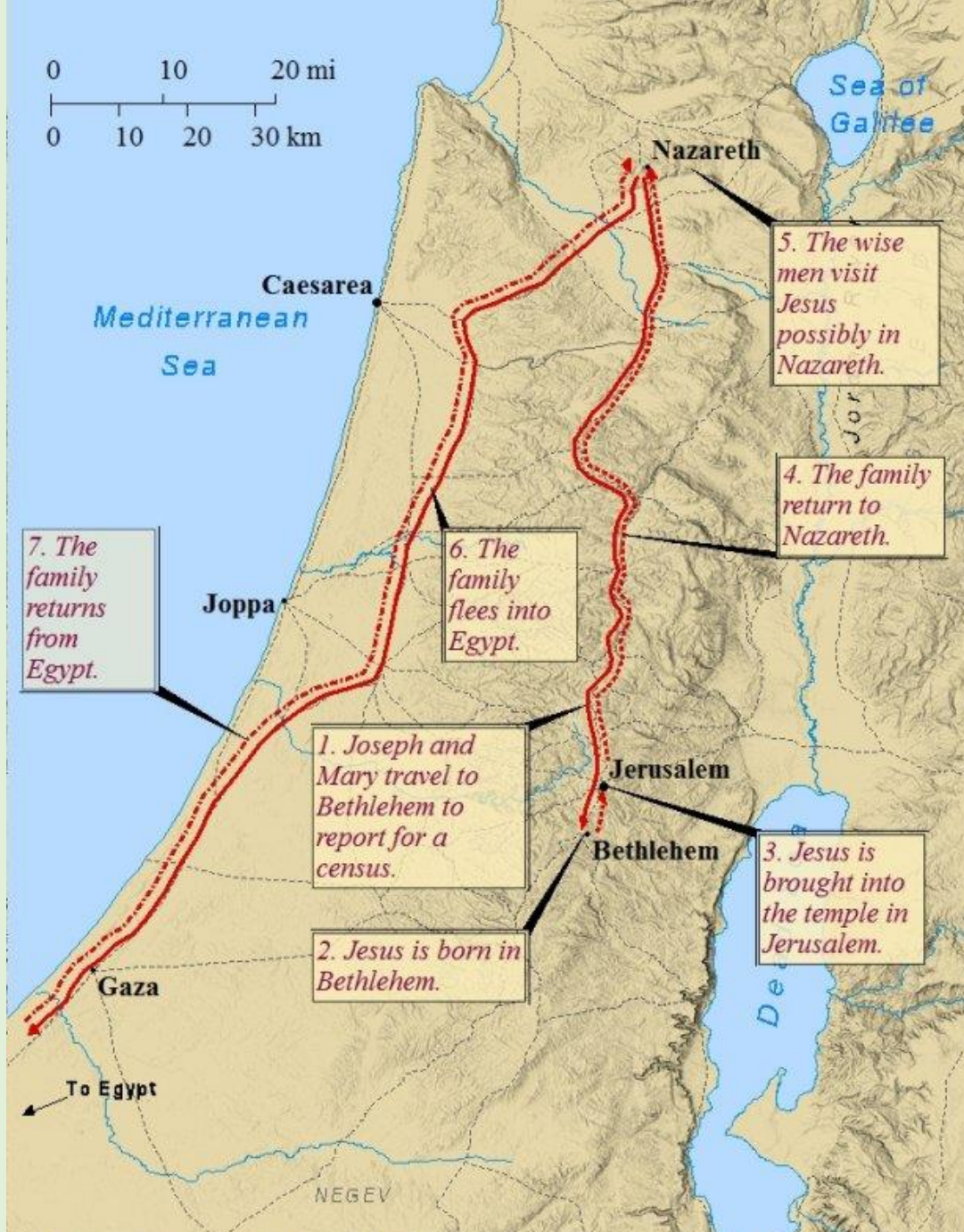
[8]



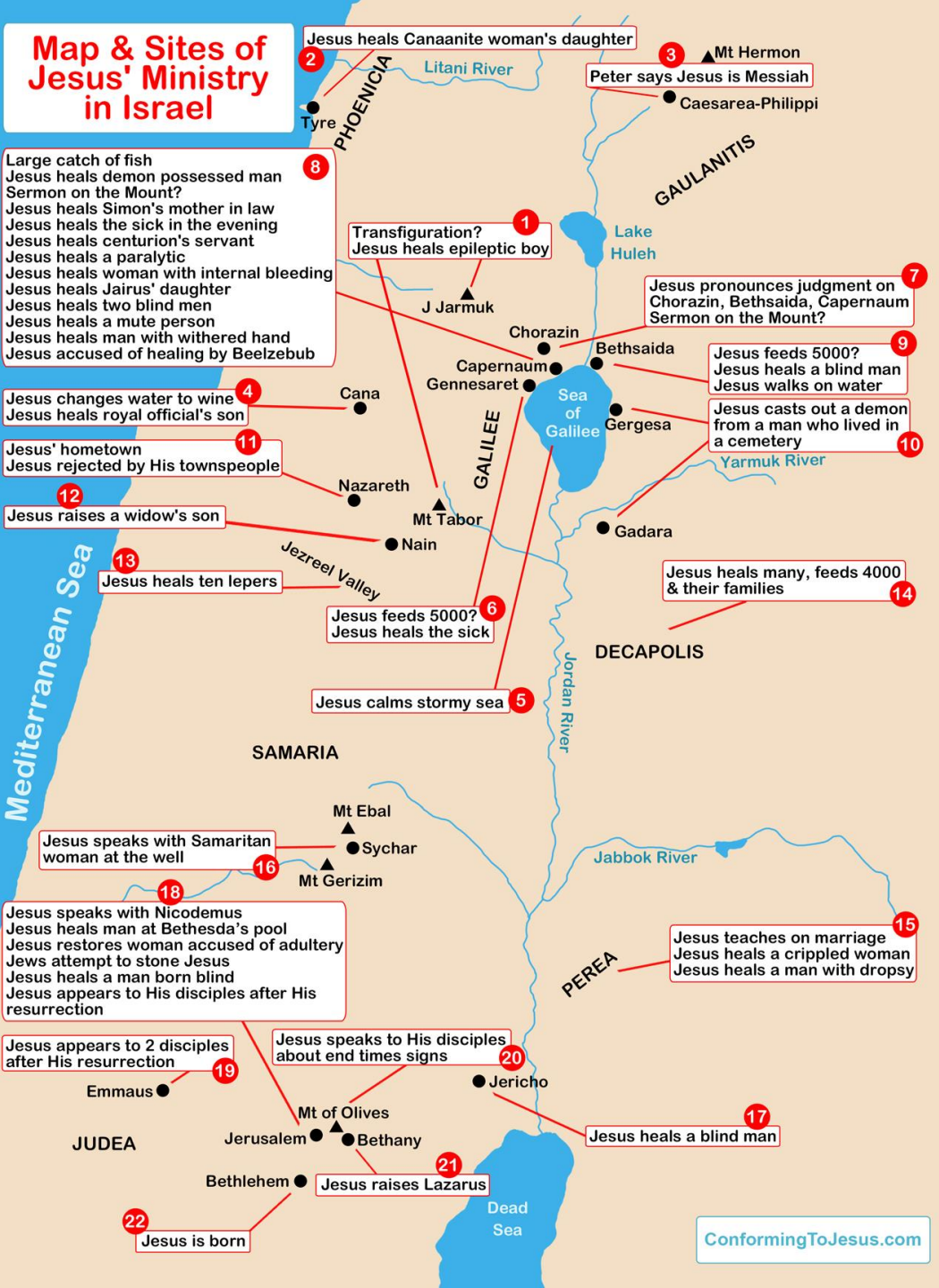


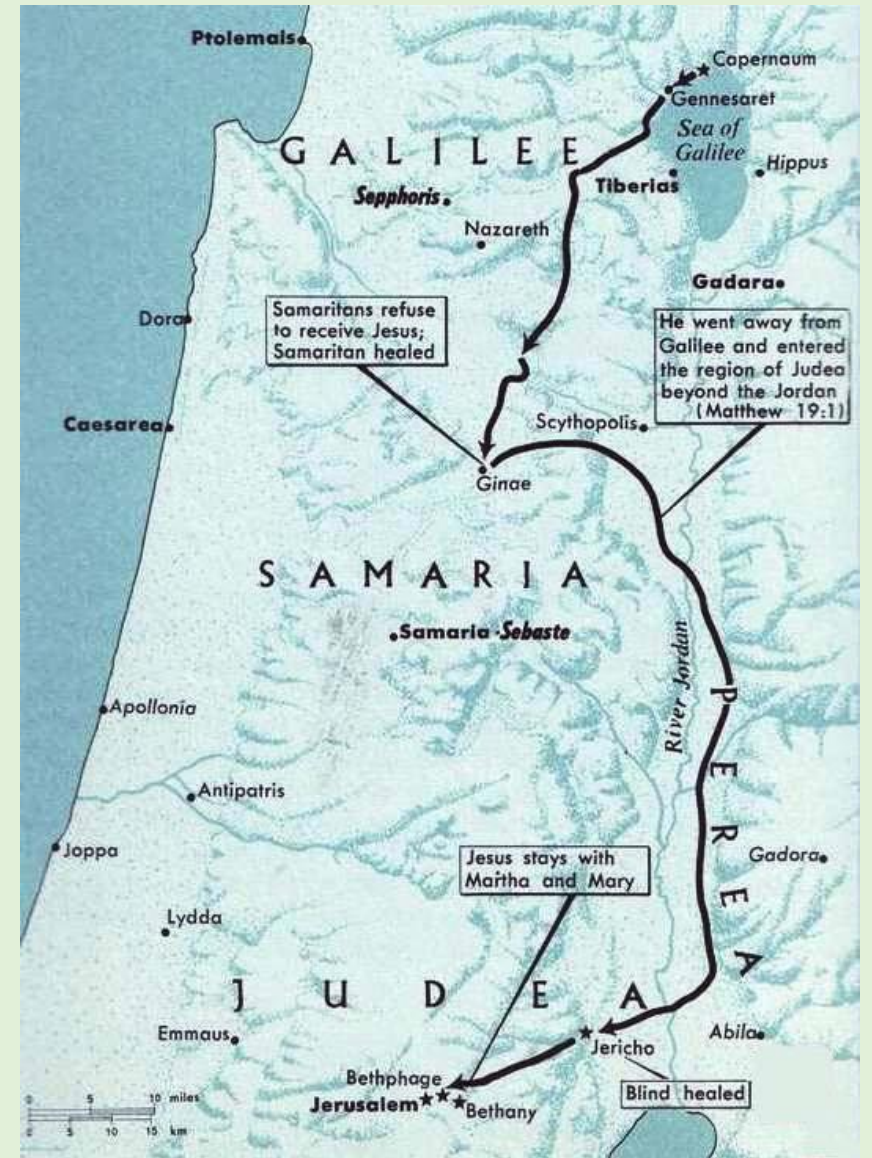
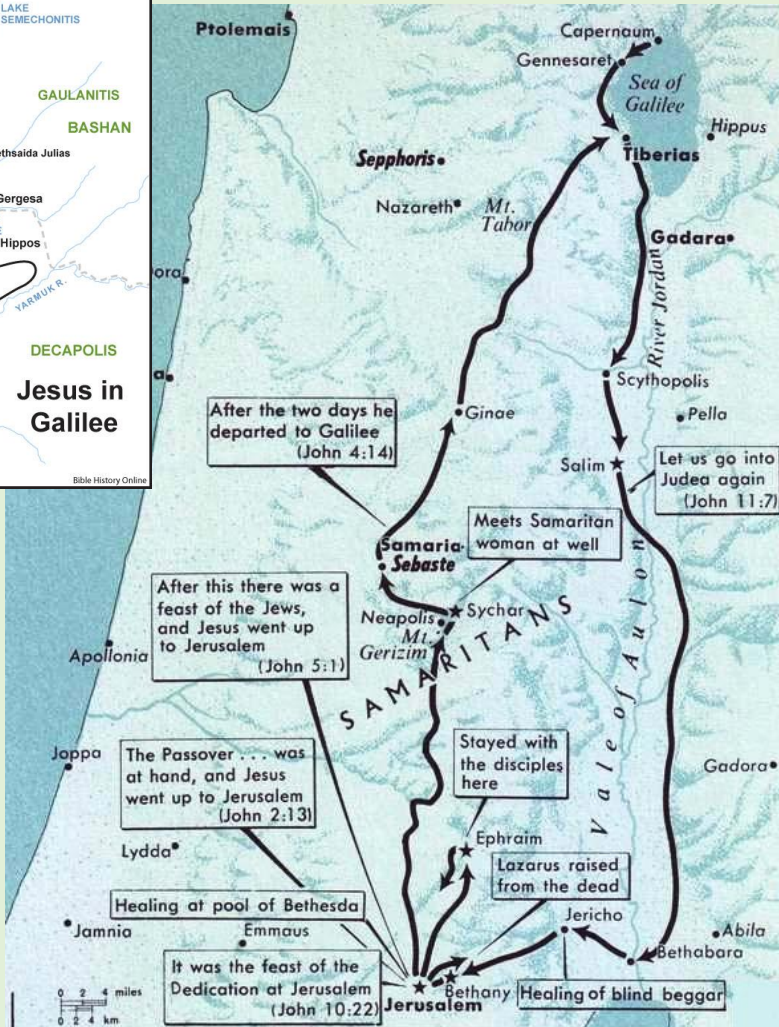
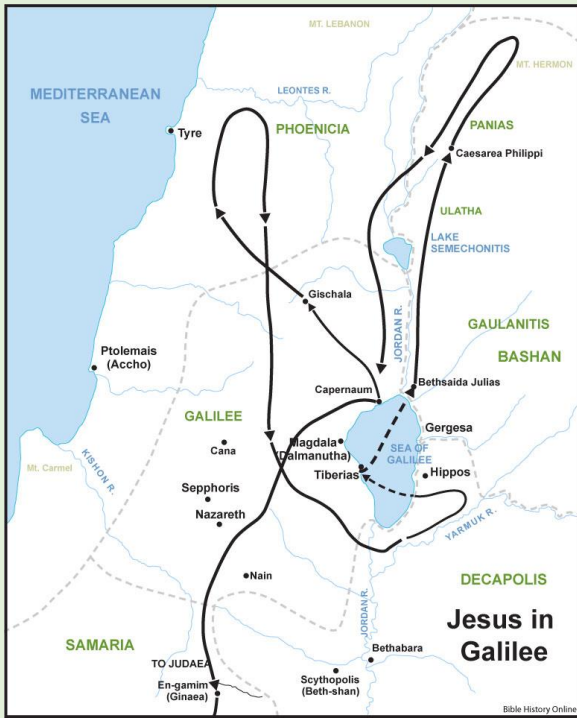
Four gospels that often cover different Parts of Jesus' life and ministry and occasionally disagree on order. The out-lines are clear, and a nice compendium is available at

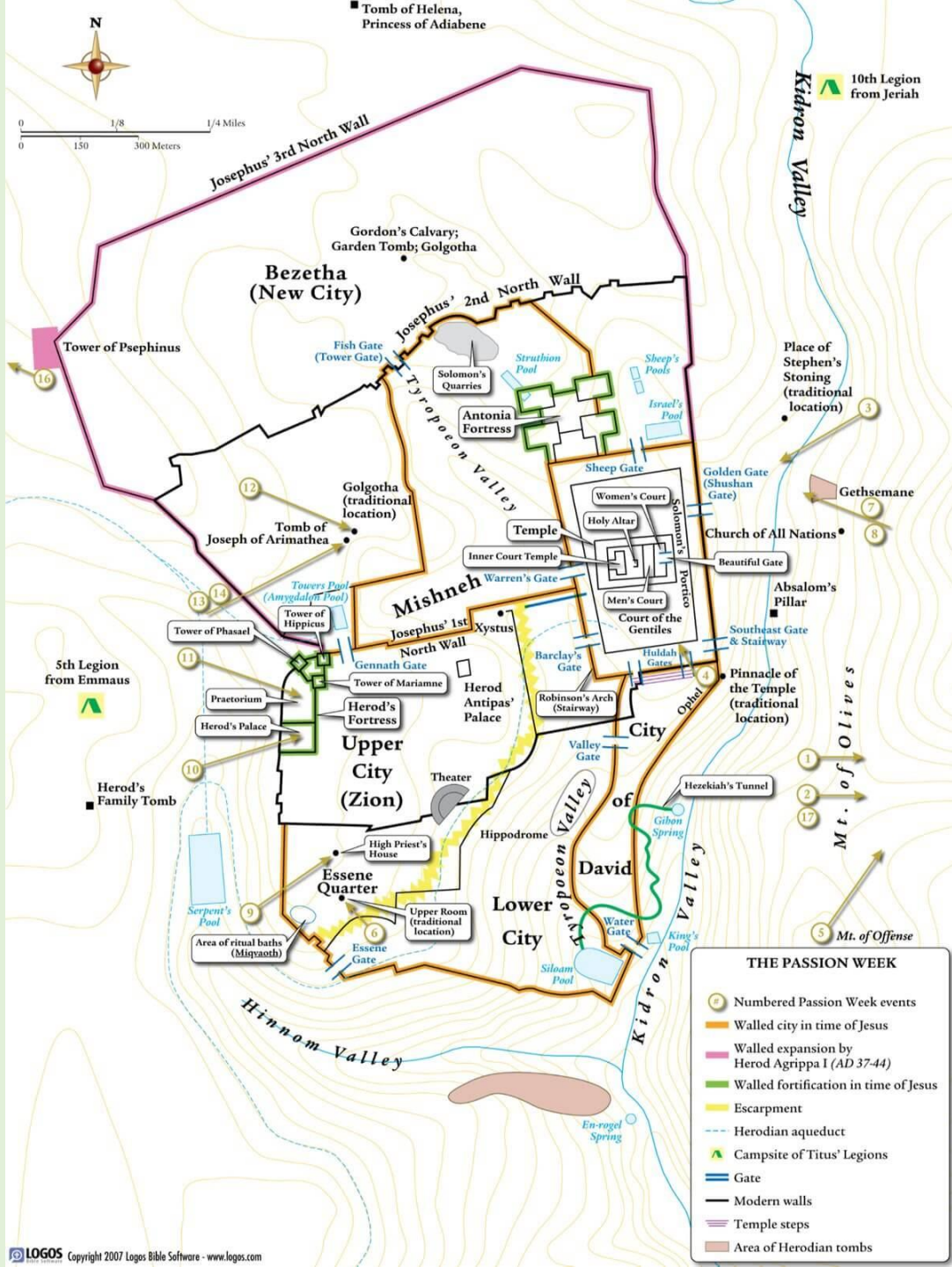
<https://www.understandchristianity.com/timelines/chronology-jesus-life-ministry/>



Map created with Bible Mapper (biblemapper.com)

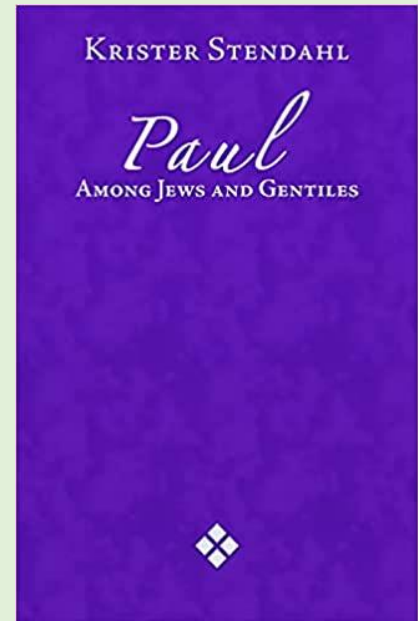
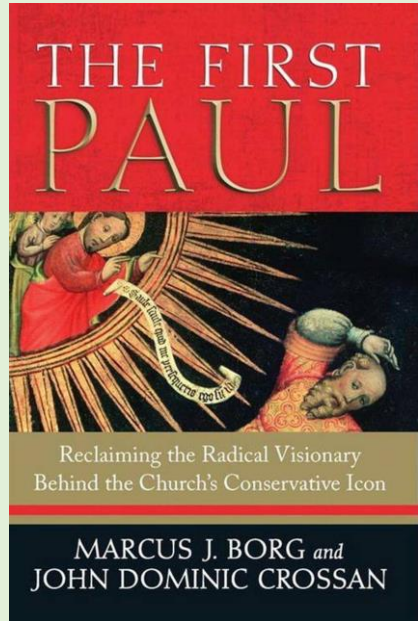






Last week—

1. Seeking a donkey
 2. Anointed by Mary/Martha
 3. Triumphal Entry
 4. Curses Fig Tree/Cleanses temple court
 5. Spends night in Bethany
 6. Teaches in Temple court
 7. Passover dinner
 8. Gethsemene
 9. Before Sanhedrin
 10. Interrogations by Herod and Pilate
 11. Beaten in the Praetorium
 12. Crucified on Golgotha
 13. Burial/Resurrection
- Emmaus Disciples/Upper Room



THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

MAP 13



Next week: the fall of Jerusalem, and its continuing Biography (years 1000-3000!)



For those travelling to Israel and Jordan this month: Remember that the Levant has been under the control of lots of cultures: Your job will be to keep the differences in your head and appreciate the rough periods when those cultures had their greatest influence

Old Timers:

Mesopotamians—3500 BC-1500 BC (pre-biblical times)

Egyptians—2500 BC-

Phoenicians—3500 BC-

Old Testament Period:

Confederacy and Monarchy of Israel—1200-900 BC

Assyrians—921-586 BC

Babylonians—586-520s BC

Persians—586-340s BC

Intertestamental Period

Greeks—340s-60s BC

New Testament and Christian Period

Romans—60s BC-300s AD

The Byzantine Empire—300s-600s AD