

## 538 BCE TimeLine

The Persian conquest of Babylon ends the exile. The Edict of Cyrus allows the exiles to return to Palestine. (Ezra 1) Others, including the Adiabeniens (mentioned by Josephus as the oldest communities of the Diaspora), do not return to Palestine. Still others disperse throughout the Eastern Mediterranean, and beyond, over the course of the following centuries.

### 530 BCE

Cambyses (530 - 522 BCE) of Persia. **525 - 401 BCE** Egypt under Persian rule.

### c. 525 BCE

#### 27th Dynasty (525 - 404) The Persians

Cambyses II	Cambyses 525-522
Darius I	Darius I 521-486
Xerxes	Xerxes I 486-466
Artaxerxes I	Artaxerxes I 465-424
Darius II	Darius II 424-404
Artaxerxes II	

### 522 BCE

Darius I (522-486 BCE) of Persia and Egypt.

### c. 520 - 515 BCE

Jerusalem Temple rebuilt (Ezra 6). Beginning of the Second Temple Period. Judah becomes a province of the Persian Empire (Hag 2).

### 509 BCE

Roman Republic established.

## 500 BCE

World Population estimates = 100 - 150 million.

### 499 BCE

Rome's Persian Wars (499-479 BCE).

### 486 BCE

Xerxes I (486-465 BCE) of Persia and Egypt.

### 465 BCE

Artaxerxes I (465-424 BCE) of Persia and Egypt.

### 461 BCE

Pericles (461-429 BCE) of Athens.

### c. 458 BCE

Ezra's mission??

### c. 445 BCE

Nehemiah comes to Judah. Torah promulgated, Ezra and Nehemiah's reforms (Neh 8). Herodotus visits Egypt. This is a century before Mantho assembled his list of Pharaohs.

### 433 BCE

Darius II (424-404 BCE) of Persia and Egypt.

### c. 404 BCE

#### 28th Dynasty (404 - 399)

Amyrtaeus Amyrtaios (404-399)

## 400 BCE

World Population estimates = 162 - 245 million.  
after **400 BCE**

Socrates's death.

### c. 399 BCE

#### 29th Dynasty (399 - 380)

Nepherites I (399-393)
Psammuthis (393)
Hakor Hakoris (393-380)
Nepherites II (380)

### c. 398 BCE

Ezra's mission??

### c. 380 BCE

#### 30th Dynasty (380 - 343)

The 30th Dynasty contains the last of the native-born Egyptian Pharaohs.

**Nakhtnebef**



*(Head of Nectanebo I - Louvre Collection)*

**Nectanebo I** 380-362

**Djedhor**

**Teos** 365-360

**Naktenabo**

**Nectanebo II** 360-343

With the end of **Nectanebo's** reign 2757 (= 3100 - 343) years of continuous, more-or-less, native rulers comes to an end.

### 358 BCE

Artaxerxes III (358-338 BCE) of Persia and Egypt (in 343).

### c.356 BCE

Alexander the Great (c.356-323) is born.

### c. 343 BCE

#### 31st Dynasty (343 - 332)

Also known as the **Second Persian Period**, was added after **Mantho** created his list of

kings. After a 60 year hiatus, during which there was a period of native rule, Egypt is again ruled by Persians until Alexander conquers Egypt and Persia.

Artaxerxes III Ochus (Artaxerxes III) (343-338)

Arses Arses (338-336)

Darius III Darius III Codomannus (336-332)

### 336 BCE

Darius III (336-332 BCE) of Persia. Alexander "The Great" (336-323 BCE) of Greece, son of Philip II of Macedonia. It is interesting that these two should ascend their thrones at the same time.

### 332 BCE

Alexander the Great (336-323 BCE) invades. A regional process of Hellenization begins all over the eastern Mediterranean. Alexander's generals eventually become his successors; the Ptolemy's rule Egypt and Palestine and the Seleucids rule Anatolia, Syria and Persia.

### 331 BCE

Darius III (336-331 BCE), king of the Persians and Medes was defeated by Alexander the Great, son of Philip of Macedonia. (1 Macc 1).

### 331 - 200 BCE

Alexander the Great conquered the "known" world. Following the death of Alexander, Palestine became part of the empire of the Greeks in Egypt, the Ptolemies. Hellenized cities were built along the coast at Gaza, Ascalon, Joppa, Dor, and Acco (renamed Ptolemais), ie all along the entire coast of Philistia. This provided a buffer zone between Egypt and the Seleucid empire which had already annexed Phoenicia. It also left the inland parts of Palestine (including a very small Judaea around Jerusalem and Jericho) essentially land locked. Interestingly, even at its smallest extent, Judaea still included Qumran. Inland cities were built or rebuilt, such as that at Scythiopolis (formerly Beth Shean), Samaria was Hellenized as Sebaste, and Rabbath-Ammon (Amman) was refounded as Philadelphia, which remained a free city state. Greeks, Macedonians and Hellenized Phoenicians took up permanent residence throughout Palestine.

### 323 BCE

Alexander the Great dies.

### c. 323 - 30 BCE

#### Manetho

The following, and all that appears of this work above concerning Manetho, is extracted from the volume of the Loeb Classical Library edition of *Manetho* (1940, reprinted 1980), translated by W. G. Waddell. This book draws on most of the available sources of ancient writers who quoted Manetho. It should be remembered that even these are sometimes only known through intermediary translations. Where more than one source attributed to the same author are available, they frequently disagree. Thus we cannot always be sure what Eusebius or Africanus, say, originally wrote about Manetho's work. The names of the pharaohs used in this chronology and attributed to Manetho are Waddell's English translations from his quoted sources, except where I have added my

own transliteration (rarely) taken from the Greek or Latin text printed on the facing page to more precisely match the written form of the name. Where various sources give divergent names or name-forms, I have tried to include all of them after Waddell's.

Manetho wrote in Greek during the Ptolemaic Dynasty. Very little is known about him with certainty. Even his *Aegyptiaca*, or the *History of Egypt*, is only known from secondary sources. An *Epitome* of his *History of Egypt* was made at an early date, shortly after the history was written, but probably not by Manetho himself. It took the form of lists of Dynasties with notes of outstanding kings or important events. This suggests that Manetho's works were popular and widely read from the earliest possible date. The remains of this *Epitome* are preserved primarily by the early Christian chronographers Eusebius (326 CE) and Sextus Julius Africanus. Africanus (221 CE) seems to have transmitted the more accurate version of the two. Other known works attributed to Manetho include the following:

- *The Sacred Book*, on Egyptian Religion,
- *An Epitome of Physical Doctrines*,
- *On Festivals*, possibly part of *The Sacred Book*,
- *On Ancient Ritual and Religion*, possibly part of *The Sacred Book*,
- *On the Making of Kyphi*, an incense, possibly part of *The Sacred Book*,
- *The Criticisms of Herodotus*, probably not a separate work,
- *Book of Sothis* or *The Sothic Cycle* (transmitted to us only through Syncellus), considered spurious and almost certainly not by Manetho, it may nevertheless include important transmission of some of the information contained in Manetho's work,
- *Kings of Thebes* (in Egypt), considered doubtful,
- *The Old Chronicle*, a corrupted version of the History.

*Aegyptiaca* and its *Epitome* are known only from fragmentary, often only in paraphrase, and frequently distorted, quotations chiefly by Josephus and by the Christian chronographers Africanus and Eusebius, with isolated passages quoted by Plutarch, Theophilus, Aelian, Porphyrius, Diogenes Laertius, Theodoretus, Lydus, Malalas, the Scholia to Plato, and the *Etymologicum Magnum*. His religious writings are known mainly through references in Plutarch's *On Isis and Osiris*.

There are only three things about the man himself that seem to be known with high probability: He was an Egyptian who wrote in Greek; He was a priest at Heliopolis, and; He was active in introducing the cult of Serapis. His name is unique as a proper name, if that is what it was. Perhaps it was his title rather than his name. A certain priest under the 19th Dynasty is described as "First Priest of the Truth of Thoth" and "Truth of Thoth" is how his name is sometimes interpreted.

As to when he wrote, Syncellus (George the Monk, c. 800 CE) includes the information that he "lived later than Berossos", and that he was "almost contemporary with Berossos,

or a little later." Berossos was a priest of Marduk in Babylon who lived under and wrote for Antiochus I (280 - 261 BCE), and dedicated his *Chaldaica* to him after he became sole monarch (281 or 280 BCE).

He is usually associated with the district of Sebennytus (now Samannud), the seat of the 30th Dynasty, in the Delta, although the style "Manetho of Mendes", a town about 17 miles distant from Sebennytus, is also known. Though this may be a later confusion with Ptolemy of Mendes, an Egyptian priest, probably from about the time of Augustus, who also wrote an Egyptian chronology in three books. Manetho is said to have styled himself in a letter to Ptolemy II Philadelphus as "high-priest and scribe of the sacred shrines of Egypt, born at Sebennytus and dwelling at Heliopolis."

As a priest Manetho had complete access to any number of records no longer available today. There is no way to know today exactly what records he consulted, there are some records that come down to the modern era with which he was certainly familiar and which must have been consulted in writing his History. From these we gain some insight into the quality of the versions of his work to which we have access. These include:

The first two sources cover the tradition of Upper Egypt. The next two reflect the tradition of Lower Egypt.

- *The Royal List of Abydos*, lists 76 kings in order from Menes to Sethos I, but Dynasties 13 to 17 are missing. A mutilated copy of this list also appears in the Temple of Ramesses II at Abydos (now in the British Museum).
- *The Royal List of Karnak* (now in the Louvre) originally included a list of 61 kings from Menes to Tutmosis III of Dynasty 18. It includes many names from the 2nd Intermediate period, Dynasties 13 to 17.
- *The Royal List of Sakkara* (found in a tomb at Sakkara, and now in the Cairo Museum) originally included the cartouches of 58 (now only 47 remain), including Ramesses II. It begins with Miebhis, the sixth king of Dynasty 1. It omits Dynasties 13 to 17.
- *The Turin Royal Canon* is clearly the most important of the available sources available today. It is written on the *verso* of a document containing accounting records from the time of Ramesses II on the *recto* (approximate date of 1200 BCE). When complete it contained the names of over 300 kings with their reign lengths in years, months and days. Like Manetho it begins with dynasties of gods followed by the dynasties of mortal kings. The arrangement is much like the *Epitome* of Manetho.
- *The Palermo Stone* is a more ancient source, taking the record back to before the 5th Dynasty. It was originally a large slab of black diorite seven feet long by 2 feet high. It is now broken. The middle section is still preserved and resides in the Museum of Palermo. Smaller fragments have been identified of this or a similar monumental stone have been identified in the Cairo Museum and at University College, London.

He is quoted so extensively by these later writers that most of the document seems (however distorted) to have come down to us.

### **Ptolemaic Dynasty**

Upon the death of Alexander, the Ptolemies take over the rule of Egypt, for nearly three hundred years, through the reign of Cleopatra VII. Ptolemy I (323-284 BCE) of Egypt. This period in Egypt is confused and confusing. Even today, there is some controversy over the order and precedence of the various members of this dynasty.

#### **Ptolemy I**

Ptolemy I Soter I (323-285)

Ptolemy II	Ptolemy II Philadelphus (282-246)
Ptolemy III	Ptolemy III Euergeter I (246-222)
Ptolemy IV	Ptolemy IV Philopator (222-205)
Ptolemy V	Ptolemy V Epiphanes (205-180)
Ptolemy VI	Ptolemy VI Philometor (180-164 & 163-145)
Ptolemy VII	Ptolemy VII Neos Philopator (145)
Ptolemy VIII	Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II (170-163 & 145-116)
Ptolemy IX	Cleopatra III & Ptolemy IX Soter II (116-107 & 88-80)
Ptolemy X	Cleopatra III & Ptolemy X Alexander I (107-88)
	Cleopatra Berenice (81-80)
Ptolemy XI	Ptolemy XI Alexander II (80)
Ptolemy XII	Ptolemy XII Neos Dionysos (80-58 & 55-51)
Cleopatra VII	Berenice IV (58-55)
	Cleopatra VII & Ptolemy XIII (51-47)
	Cleopatra VII & Ptolemy XIV (47-44)
Ptolemy XV	Cleopatra VII & Ptolemy XV Cesarion (44-30)

### **312 BCE**

Founding of the Seleucid (Syrian) Empire by the Macedonians. The Ptolemies take control of Palestine. Seleucus I (312-280 BCE) of Syria, founder of the Seleucid Empire.

### **300 BCE**

### **280 BCE**

Antiochus I (280-261 BCE) of Syria.

### **264 - 146 BCE**

Punic Wars between Rome and Carthage.

### **246 BCE**

Seleucus II (246-226 BCE) of Syria.

#### **223 BCE**

Antiochus III (The Great: 223-187 BCE) of Syria.

#### **218 BCE**

Hannibal campaigns in Italy.

#### **203 BCE**

Ptolemy V (203-181 BCE) of Egypt.

## **200 BCE**

World Population estimates = 150 - 231 million.

Could the bloodiness of Alexander's conquests account for a suggested drop in the world population between 400 BCE and 200 BCE, or is there some other well known explanation for this effect?

#### **198 BCE**

Judaea ceases to be a province of Egypt and becomes a province of the Seleucid Empire ruled by the Greek-Syrian successors of Alexander the Great. Signs of Hebrews succumbing to the Greek cultural influence (Hellenization) appear. The Book of Ecclesiasticus, by Jesus ben Sira, dates to about this time. He was a sage of Jerusalem who railed against the 'ungodly men' who have 'forsaken the Law of the Most High God'.

#### **197 BCE**

390 years after the beginning of the Babylonian exile. The earliest year according to the Damascus Document of the birth of the Righteous Teacher.

In the epoch of wrath, three hundred and ninety years after he gave them into the power of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, he visited them and caused a root of planting to sprout from Israel and from Aaron to possess His land and to grow rich with the good things of His land. And they came to understand their iniquity and to know that they were guilty men; but they were like blind men or like those who grope for the way twenty years. And God recognized their works, that they sought Him with a whole heart and so raised up for them a Righteous Teacher to make them tread in the way of His heart and to instruct the last generations that which He would do in the last generation against the congregation of the false. (CD 1.5-12)

Though F. M. Cross warns us not take the scriptural number "390" (Ezek 4.5) seriously, it is not totally out of the question that it is meant to be a real number. If He visited them, and then let them wander for 20 years, while the Righteous Teacher grew and matured, then 177 BCE would be the earliest year in which he could begin teaching.

If Cross is correct that 390 cannot be read arithmetically, then we are forced to fall back to looking for 20 years periods of error and "groping". He suggests the approximately 20 period from the 160s to the 140s BCE when the Hasidim supported the Maccabees.

Cross' chronological interpretation is to assume that the break of the Hasidim either with Jonathan late in his career or with Simon early in his career, marks the end of the 20 years of groping. Simon became High Priest in 143/142 BCE.

#### **190 BCE**

Battle of Magnesia.

#### **187 BCE**

Seleucus IV (187-175 BCE) of Syria. Beginning of Hellenistic infiltration; resisted by the Zadokite High Priest Onias III.

### **181 BCE**

Ptolemy VI (181-146 BCE) of Egypt.

### **175 BCE**

Seleucus IV deposed by his brother Antiochus IV (Epiphanes: 175-163 BCE), who seizes the throne to become king of Syria. Seleucus' nine year old son, Demetrius, is sent as a hostage to Rome. Onias III deposed as high priest in favor of his Hellenophile brother, Jesus, who changed his name to the Greek form, Jason (175-172 BCE). Hellenization was most popular among the Judaeans elite. Jason sets out to transform Jerusalem into a Hellenistic city.

### **172 BCE**

Jason expelled from office in favor of Menelaus (172-162 BCE), who was also a Hellenizing high priest. Onias IV, son of Onias III, is prevented by Menelaus from taking his hereditary position as high priest.

### **c. 171 BCE**

Antiochus IV takes the title Epiphanes, "God made manifest".

### **171 BCE**

Onias III murdered by Menelaus. With the death of Onias and the deposition of Jason, his usurping brother, the Zadokite family, from which the incumbents of the high priest's office traditionally came, lost their centuries old monopoly. Forced Hellenization begins.

## **170 BCE**

### **169 BCE**

Epiphanes allies himself with the Hellenizing movement in Jerusalem. He then makes an excursion into Egypt (the Delta region, at least) and he enjoys successful plundering there. On his return to Jerusalem Epiphanes invades the sanctuary and loots the Temple of its treasures. Onias IV, the hereditary high priest, flees to Ptolemy. In contravention of biblical law, which authorizes only one sanctuary and only in Jerusalem, Onias plans and eventually builds a small town like Jerusalem, Leontopolis, and in it a Sanctuary like the one in the Temple in Jerusalem.

If Onias' party formed the basis for the Hasidaeans who appear later, then this copy of the temple must eventually have been recognized as a mistake. If the Hasidim were the beginnings of the sectarian group that is supposed to have occupied Qumran, then we have to explain how the bones of sacrificial animals came be buried at Qumran. Cross attributes to Strugnell the idea that the Qumran sect lived their lives on a pattern of the camps in the wilderness, where sacrifice outside the Temple was permissible, under the auspices of a Zadokite priest. That would explain why there was no remote resemblance to the Temple at Qumran like there had been at Leontopolis. Other copies of the Temple have been reported and it is possible that several groups were eventually convinced to leave their fake temples and join the camps in the wilderness movement, if there was one.

I like the idea that Onias III was the original inspiration for the Teacher of Righteousness. Though he did not lead anyone into the desert, original writings of such a sect would have provided a place of honor for the last Zadokite High Priest. That would seem to leave Jesus, renamed Jason, as the Wicked Priest. The parallel to the later Jason Maccabaeus must have had a galvanizing effect on such a sect as he removes the last vestiges of hope for a return of the Zadokite high priests to the Temple. The Wicked priest could thus be a composite based on the coincidence of identical names for two hated priests.

Jason Maccabaeus enemy, but probably not a second candidate for the Teacher of Righteousness, was Alcimus. The Hasidim supported him at one time, and technically he was the last Zadokite high priest, but he turned on them and killed many. Another good candidate for the Teacher of Righteousness is some unnamed student or descendent of Onias III.

## 168 BCE

Epiphanes stopped by the Romans in his second campaign against Egypt.

## 167 BCE

Sacrifices are suspended in the Temple for 3-1/2 years. Persecution of those Hebrews who opposed unification with the Seleucid Empire on the basis of Greek culture and religion. Official abolition of Judaic religion and practice under threat of death. Epiphanes' Mysian commander, Apollonius, tortures and kills many in Jerusalem. The Temple is transformed into a sanctuary of Olympian Zeus. On December 6, Epiphanes erects a "horrible abomination" upon the altar in the Temple. (In the original Hebrew this is a contemptuous pun on the title "lord of Heaven" given to Zeus Olympios to whom an image or an altar was apparently erected.) The opposition to the Hellenizers is finally galvanized into action by this final "abomination of desolation". Apollonius built the massive walls and towers that became the Citadel overlooking the Temple and its courts on Mt Zion. The Syrian garrison, together with dissidents, occupied the Citadel for 26 years (until 141 BCE) and served as a continuing threat to the Temple, the City of Jerusalem, and the citizens of Jerusalem. (1 Macc; Dan 11:36-39)

## 166 BCE

Rising of the Maccabees (166-160 BCE) supported by the traditional, anti-Hellenistic, parties. Originally lead by Mattathias, son of Hasmon (Simeon), or Asamonaeus (hence the term "Hasmonaean" for their dynasty), a priest from Modein (20 miles NW of Jerusalem), who with his five sons start a revolt, tear down the pagan altars, and reinstate circumcision. They are initially supported by the traditional, anti-Hellenistic, groups, in particular, by the company of the Pious, the Hasidaeans or Hasidim. After Mattathias death, his son Judas (nicknamed "Maccabaeus" meaning "the hammer") takes over as leader of the rebel army and defeats Antiochus' generals, Apollonius and Seron. Apollonius was killed and Judas claimed his sword. Seron was also defeated and he and his army were driven out of Judaea and took refuge in the land of the Philistines (the coastal cities of southern Palestine, especially Jamnia which was an important base for Seleucid power).

F. M Cross makes a fairly good case for the Hasidim as the Essenes whom it is claimed occupied Qumran. Their later initial support of Alcimus, despite the presence of his Hellenizing Syrian supporters, is a strong suggestion of their dedication to the reinstallation of the Zadokite High Priests. This seems more than a little fanatical given Alcimus willingness to let 60 of the Hasidim be executed by his own supporters.

## 165 BCE

### 165 BCE

Epiphanes sets out to levy tribute from Persia to pay for his wars against Judaea (he failed). At the same time he left Lysias in charge of the Empire and his son, Antiochus. He also ordered him to send an army against Judaea with orders to wipe out the Hebrew race and to efface their memory from the land. He intended to resettle the land with foreigners and redistribute the land by lot.

Lysias sent Ptolemy, Nicanor and Gorgias at the head of the armies of Syria.

### **164 BCE**

Truce with Syria. Cleansing, rededication and repair of the Temple in Jerusalem. Daily sacrifices resume in the Temple on December 14, 164 BCE after Judas initiates an attack to drive the Syrian garrison out of the Upper City and into the Citadel. Judas "Maccabaeus" assumes responsibility as high priest (164-161 BCE) even as Menelaus continues to hold the official title from the king of Syria. Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-163 BCE) of Syria dies as early as November or December in Persia shortly after hearing that the Temple in Jerusalem is recaptured by Judas. (Dan 7:25; 12:7, 8:14, 9:27)

### **163 BCE**

Antiochus V (163-162 BCE), the nine year old son of Epiphanes, king of Syria.

### **163 BCE**

Judaeans living in Galilee and Gilead are attacked and Judas sends armies to rescue them. Joseph and Asariah, whom Judas left in charge during his absence, attack Jamnia and are defeated by Gorgias' army. After Judas returned from his rescue mission to Gilead, he attacked Idumaea and Philistia, plundered their cities, and then returned to Jerusalem.

### **162 BCE**

Antiochus V of Syria is executed by his twenty-five year old cousin, Demetrius I (162-150 BCE), who fled his captivity in Rome to claim his rightful place as king of Syria. Judas attacks the Syrian garrison in the Citadel in Jerusalem. Menelaus is executed by the Syrians. Alcimus (162-159 BCE) is appointed high priest by the king of Syria. This splits the ranks of the Hasidim within the Maccabean movement. As an Aaronic priest, most of the Hasidim trusted Alcimus until he accepted this appointment. Alcimus Syrian supporters' kill 60 of the Hasidim who trusted his peaceful words. Judas and his brothers did not trust Alcimus from the beginning since he came with Bacchides and a large Syrian army to enforce his appointment as high priest.

### **161 BCE**

Judas allies himself with Rome. The treaty brings the Judaeans no practical help against Syria, however. The Syrian army now under Nicanor attacks in order to protect the garrison and Alcimus.

## **160 BCE**

### **160 BCE**

Nicanor dies in battle and his army is defeated. Bacchides takes command of the Syrian army. Judas "Maccabaeus" dies in battle about one month after Nicanor. His brother Eleazar died in 162 BCE in an earlier battle and another brother, John, dies a few days after Judas in a Syrian plot. That leaves only two remaining Hasmonaean brothers, Jonathan and Simon. Jonathan (160-142 BCE) inherits Judas' position as leader of the rebels and eventually receives from the king of Syria the title High Priest (152-143/2 BCE) and then governor of Judaea (145-142 BCE). Jonathan is from a priestly family but not of the Zadokites, the traditional holders of the position of the high priestly title.

### **c. 160? BCE**

Temple of Onias IV built. **159 BCE** Alcimus, the last Hellenizing High Priest, dies of a stroke. No High Priest is appointed for 6 or 7 years until Jonathan is appointed by Alexander Balas, usurper of the Seleucid throne, in 152.

## 153 BCE

The Syrian throne of Demetrius I (162-153 BCE) usurped by Alexander Balas (nominal king of Syria 153-145 BCE), alleged to be a son of Antiochus IV. Jonathan's support of Alexander over Demetrius earned him some favors from Alexander during the struggle and after they were successful.

## 150 BCE

### 150/49 BCE

Alexander Balas confirms Jonathan as high priest. An important step toward Judaeen independence. Also, marks a furtherance of the split between the conservatives, like the Hasidim, who still looked to the Zadokites for their high priests, and the Maccabees. Both sides were still united in their antipathy to the Hellenizing influence of the Seleucid Empire, however.

### mid-second century BCE

Qumran was rebuilt and expanded (including general repairs and strengthening of the walls, including the addition of the ramp of undressed stones buttressing the outer wall of the first two levels of the tower). There seems to be general disagreement about whether or not this type of structure was "typical" of the fortified structures of the period. The term "country forts" has been proposed, but as far as I can tell there is no consensus about who built such forts, why they were built where they are, or even if they were forts or simply strong houses built in remote locations. Conceivably, the structures styled country forts could have been built on many different plans and some, like Qumran according to de Vaux, may have used the shell of much older structures to save some of the effort required to build from scratch.

### 146 BCE

The revolt of the Achaean League. This marks the end of Greek independence. This episode is inserted by the Author of 1 Maccabees into his narrative at an earlier date primarily to show the Greeks, whom he regards as the enemies of God, suffering a defeat at the hands of the Romans at a time when Rome is making friendly overtures to Judas. In fact, by the time this occurred, Judas had already been dead for fourteen years.

### 146 BCE

Ptolemy VII (146-116 BCE) of Egypt.

### 145 BCE

Alexander Balas (nominal king of Syria 150-145 BCE) dies, leaving his son Antiochus VI (145-138 BCE) raised to the throne as king of Syria by Tryphon, his father's general. (One timeline listed Demetrius II (145-139 BCE), but this almost has to be a reference to Tryphon who was raising and leading Antiochus VI. A Demetrius is also mentioned in 1 Macc. as confirming Simon's position as high priest ten years after Demetrius I's death, though this could be misleading if the times were altered for expositional purposes by the author.)

Jonathan named governor of Judaea (145-142 BCE). Jonathan's younger brother, Simon, is made a military governor of part of Palestine. Additional important steps toward Judaeen independence.

### c.143 BCE

Treaty with Rome renewed by Jonathan, necessitated by the death of the ruler, Judas, who made it. Jonathan is arrested by Tryphon.

### 142 BCE

Jonathan (161-142 BCE) is executed in prison. Jonathan's brother Simon (142-134 BCE) becomes high priest.

## ?141 BCE

Syrian garrison expelled from the Citadel; Judaea effectively independent.

## 140 BCE

### 140 BCE

In the third year of his rule, Simon calls an assembly of 'the priests and people and heads of the nation and the elders of the country' to confirm his and his family's right to serve as high priest 'until a faithful prophet arise' to decide the priestly question, between the Hasmonaeans and the Zadokites, presumably. Simon is thereby appointed ethnarch, his position as high priest is confirmed by the whole Jewish assembly, and both of his titles are confirmed as hereditary, marking the beginning of the Maccabean, or Hasmonaean, dynasty. The decree was engraved in bronze and mounted on a stela on Mount Zion. Annexation of Joppa and Jamnia. For the next 64 years the Hasmonaean successors annexed, one by one, all the Hellenistic towns of Palestine, and conquered Idumaea in the south and Samaria and Ituraea in the north.

### 138 BCE

Antiochus VI (145-138 BCE) of Syria dies. Antiochus VII (Sidates: 138-129 BCE) king of Syria after defeating Tryphon's attempt to usurp the throne.

### 134 BCE

Simon with two of his sons, Judas and Mattathias, is killed on a visit to the fortress, Doq, being constructed above Jericho for Simon by Ptolemy, son of Abudos and son-in-law of Simon. Ptolemy dispatched troops to Gezer to kill Simon's other son, John Hyrcanus, but he survives. John Hyrcanus I (135-104 BCE) becomes high priest and ethnarch. Annexation of coastal cities, Samaritis, and Idumaea. Hyrcanus is opposed by the Pharisees. The embarrassing part of this fiasco is that Simon and his sons attended a banquet held in their honor by Ptolemy, and they were drunk when Ptolemy's men murdered Simon. The two sons were spared only briefly, then executed, too.

### 129 BCE

Antiochus VII (138-129 BCE) of Syria dies.

### 116 BCE

Ptolemy VIII (116-81 BCE) of Egypt.

### 104 BCE

John Hyrcanus I (135/4-104 BCE) high priest and ethnarch of Judaea dies. Aristobulus I (104-103 BCE) becomes high priest and king for about one year. Annexation of Galilee.

### 103 BCE

Aristobulus I (104-103 BCE) dies. His brother Alexander Jannaeus (103-76 BCE) high priest and king. He marries his brother's widow, Alexandra Salome, as required by Judaic law. Annexation of remaining coastal cities, the Greek cities east of Jordan, and Peraea. Alexander is resisted by the Pharisees.

## 100 BCE

### 82 BCE

Sulla (82-79 BCE) Dictator of Rome.

**81 BCE**

Ptolemy IX (81-80 BCE) of Egypt.

**76 BCE**

Alexander Jannaeus (103-76 BCE) dies. Jannaeus' widow Alexandra Salome (76-67 BCE) queen.

His son, Hyrcanus II (I: 76-67 BCE), becomes high priest.

**73 BCE**

Birth of Herod the Great (73-4 BCE).

**70 BCE**

**68 BCE**

Antiochus XIII (68-67 BCE) of Syria. **67 BCE** Hyrcanus II high priest and king (67 BCE, three months). Antipater is his minister. Hyrcanus II is deposed by his brother Aristobulus II (67-63 BCE) who becomes both king and high priest.

**66 BCE**

Pompey takes over command from Lucullus and campaigns (66-63 BCE) in Asia.

**66 - 63 BCE**

Pompey's campaigns in East. Annexation of Syria as a province.

## **63 BCE**

Pompey's siege of Jerusalem. Aristobulus II taken prisoner by Pompey after the fall of Jerusalem. Judaea becomes a Roman province. Hyrcanus II (II: 63-40 BCE) reinstated as high priest and ethnarch. Antipater (father of Herod the Great) is still his chief minister and increasingly powerful. Aristobulus II and sons taken to Rome. Cities on coast and east of Jordan detached from Judaea. Between father and son the Dynasty of Antipater and Herod eventually supplants the Hasmonaeans.

## **62 BCE**

Return of Pompey to Rome with Hebrew prisoners.

## **60 BCE**

## **58 BCE**

Caesar's Gallic Wars (58-51 BCE).

## **57 - 55 BCE**

Unsuccessful attempts to reinstate Aristobulus and sons. Gabinius governor of Syria.

## **55 BCE**

Judaeans help to Gabinius in Egypt. Temple treasure seized by Crassus. Antipater appointed governor of Palestine.

## **55 - 53 BCE**

Crassus governor of Syria

## **53 - 51 BCE**

Cassius governor of Syria.

## **50 BCE**

## **50 BCE**

Cleopatra VII (51-30 BCE) of Egypt.

## **49 - 45 BCE**

Civil war between Caesar and Pompeians.

## **49 BCE**

Death of Aristobulus II and elder son.

## **48 BCE**

Death of Pompey at Pharsalus.

## **48/7 BCE**

Judaeans help to Caesar in Egypt.

## **47 BCE**

Caesar in Judaea. Hyrcanus II's position confirmed. Power and honors given to Antipater. Joppa restored. Rebuilding of walls of Jerusalem authorized. Herod in Galilee.

## **47 - 46 BCE**

Sextus Caesar in Syria.

#### **46 BCE**

Herod in Syria.

#### **44 BCE**

Murder of Caesar in Rome.

#### **43 - 42 BCE**

Civil war between Caesarians and 'liberators'. Cassius (the 'liberator') in Syria.

#### **43 BCE**

Mt Etna erupts. Cassius demands money.

#### **42 BCE**

Battle of Philippi. Death of Brutus and Cassius at Philippi.

### **40 BCE**

#### **40 BCE**

Parthian invasion of Syria and Palestine. Antigonus II, son of Aristobulus II, occupied the throne and was high priest (43-37 BCE) with Parthian support. Death of Phasel. In Rome, Herod appointed king. Herod begins his campaigns for possession of Palestine.

#### **40 - 31 BCE**

Qumran was damaged either by an earthquake (31 BCE, known to have occurred in Palestine from the works of Josephus) or an attack (possibly as early as 40 BCE during the Parthian invasion). Originally, thought by de Vaux to have been abandoned after this event. This now appears to be unlikely. The consensus has shifted toward more or less continuous occupation with continuity in both pottery and life style of the inhabitants. Therefore, it become more probable that the same people simply moved back in immediately, or shortly, after the event.

Continuous occupation scenarios appeal to me because I am still playing with the idea that Qumran acted as a point of entry for goods arriving by boat from south and east of the Dead Sea. That might have necessitated some official presence on a more or less continuous basis. Consistent with this and suggested by others, is that it might also have provided a holding area for people who were forbidden to enter Jerusalem. Some think the graves at the site contain the ill and infirm who were not allowed to continue to Jerusalem and had no way to return.

The fortified nature of the buildings may have been inadequate for a frontier fortress like those at Masada or Machaerus. It was, however, quite adequate for a small lightly armed staff to keep the peace, guard the boats, and monitor the goods and people seeking to gain access to Jerusalem by boat from beyond the Dead Sea.

#### **40 - 4 BCE**

Nominal reign of Herod the Great. Early reports suggested that no coins from this period were found at Qumran leading to speculation that it was abandoned during this entire period. During the early years of Herod's nominal reign, Antigonus II (40-37 BCE) controlled Jerusalem and parts of Palestine.

#### **39 - 38 BCE**

Roman campaigns against Parthia. East under Mark Antony's control; Antony dominated by Cleopatra.

### **37 BCE**

Herod (37-4 BCE) captures Jerusalem with Sosius and assumes the throne. Herod's marriage to Mariamme I. Antigonus II deposed and, possibly, executed. He may not have been executed until 18 BCE. End of the Hasmonaean dynasty and the beginning of the Herodian Dynasty.

### **36 BCE**

Murder of high priest, Mariamme's brother. Parthians defeat Antony.

### **c. 35 BCE**

Coastal cities, including Joppa, given to Cleopatra by Anthony.

### **32 BCE**

War between Herod and Malchus of Nabataea.

### **31 BCE**

Execution of Hyrcanus II. Defeat of Antony and Cleopatra by Octavian (Augustus) in a naval battle at Actium.

## **30 BCE**

### **30 BCE**

Herod's position confirmed by Octavian. Coastal cities and Greek cities east of Jordan restored. Egypt annexed to Roman as a province.

### **c. 30 BCE**

Malchus of Nabataea succeeded by Obodas.

#### **Roman Emperors**

Augustus (30 BCE - 14 CE)  
Tiberius (14-37)  
Gaius Caligula (37-41)  
Claudius (41-54)  
Nero (54-69)  
Vespasian (69-79)  
Titus (79-81)  
Domitian (81-96)  
Nerva (96-98)  
Trajan (98-117)  
Hadrian (117-138)  
Antoninus Pius (138-161)  
Marcus Aurelius (161-180)  
Septimus Severus (193-211)  
Geta, Caracalla (209-217)  
Diocletian (284-305)

### **29 BCE**

Murder of Mariamme I.

### **27/6 BCE**

Octavian is given the name 'Augustus' and becomes emperor of Rome (27 BCE - 14 CE). Sebaste founded by Herod (named for Sebastos, ie Augustus).

### **23 BCE**

Auranitis, Trachonitis and Batanaea added to Herod's kingdom.

### **c. 23 BCE**

Herod married to Mariamme II.

#### **23 BCE**

Rebuilding of the Temple begins.

### **20 BCE**

#### **20 BCE**

Paneas, Ulatha and Gaulanitis added to Herod's kingdom.

#### **18 BCE**

Work begins on Herod's Temple.

#### **16 BCE**

Herod's first visit to Rome.

#### **12 BCE**

Herod's second visit to Rome. Trial of Alexander and Aristobulus (both sons of Herod the Great by Mariamme I). Border trouble with Nabataea.

### **10 BCE**

#### **c. 7 BCE**

Execution of Alexander and Aristobulus.

#### **c. 6 BCE**

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke date the birth of Jesus of Nazareth to the last years of Herod's reign (ca. 12 - 4 BCE).

#### **5 BCE**

Episode with the golden eagle on the Temple gate.

#### **4 BCE**

Execution of Antipater III (son of Herod the Great by Doris). Death of Herod the Great (March). Civil war. Division of the kingdom, by Augustus during his adjudication of Herod's will, between Philip (Tetrarch of Batanaea, Trachonitis, Auranitis and some parts of Zenodorus' domain near Paneas - with a revenue of 100 talents: 4 BCE - 34 CE), Herod Antipas (Tetrarch of Peraea and Galilee - with a revenue of 200 talents: 4 BCE - 39 CE), and Archelaus (Ethnarch of Idumaea, Judaea and Samaritis - with a revenue of 400 talents: 4 BCE - 6 CE).

#### **4 BCE**

In de Vaux's original timeline, Qumran was reoccupied by Jewish sectarians around this time. Now it appears that it may never have been entirely abandoned. In either event, it was continuously occupied from about this time by Judaeans of some sort, or sorts, until its capture by the Roman army close to 70 CE, after which it was occupied by Roman forces until the turn of the century.

#### **c.1 BCE**

World Population estimates = 170 - 400 million.

## **Beginning of the Common Era**

## 6 CE

Deposition of Archelaus from the Ethnarchy by Augustus for his misgovernment of Judaeans and Samaritans alike. Annexation of Judaea, which included Judaea, Idumaea and Samaria (plus Qumran), as a province. The province was ruled by various Roman governors (6-41 CE). Among these was Pontius Pilate (27-37 CE).

## 6 CE

Coponius Roman Prefect (6 -c.9) of Judaea.

## c. 6 CE

Augustus appointed Annas (Ananus I) ben Seth High Priest (6 -15) of Jerusalem Temple ("House of Annas" produced 8 High Priests of Judaea).

## c. 9 - c. 12 CE

Ambivius Roman Prefect of Judaea.

## 10 CE

## c. 10 CE

Death of Salome.

## c. 12 CE

Rufus Roman Prefect (c. 12 - 15) of Judaea.

## 14 CE

Accession of Tiberius (14 - 37).

## 15 CE

Gratus: Roman Prefect (15 - 26) of Judaea.

## 16 CE

Eleazar, son of Annas (6-15), appointed High Priest (16 -17) of Jerusalem Temple.

## 18 CE

Joseph Caiaphas (18 - 36), son-in-law of Annas (6 -15), appointed High Priest of Jerusalem Temple by Prefect Valerius Gratus, deposed by Syrian Legate Vitellius. Archelaus dies, 12 years after being deposed from the Ethnarchy.

## c. 19 CE

Herod Antipas moved Galilaean capital from Sepphoris to his new Tiberius.

## 20 CE

## 26 CE

Pontius Pilate governor (26 - 36) of Samaria, Judaea, and Idumaea.

## c. 29 CE

John the Baptist, in the "15th year of Tiberius" [Lk3:1-2], who is identified equivocally as a "Nazirite"? [Lk1:15], was arrested and killed by Herod Antipas [Lk3:19-20].