

## 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].

## 30 CE

### c. 30 CE

Shammai the Elder founded Bet Shammai Torah school.

### 30 or 33 or 36 CE

Crucifixion of Christ. Possible Friday 14 Nisan crucifixion dates: April 7, 30 CE, April 3, 33 CE, March 30, 36 CE. Friday 15 Nisan is another popular date.

### c. 34 CE

Death of Philip.

### 36 CE

Marcellus Roman Prefect (36 - 37) of Judaea.

### 36 CE

Agrippa I (36 - 37) in Rome. Jonathan appointed Jerusalem High Priest (36 - 37) by Syrian Legate Vitellius.

### c. 37 CE

Conversion of Saul of Tarsus ("Paul"); a Roman citizen.

### 37

Marullus: Roman Prefect (37 - c. 41) of Judaea. A Governor not mentioned by Josephus.

### 37 CE

Accession of Gaius ("Caligula": b. 12; 37 - 41) Emperor of Rome.

### 37 CE

Birth of Josephus (?). Appointment of Herod Agrippa I king (37 - 41) (of Philip and Lysanias' tetrarchies). In 40, Herod Antipas' Galilee and Peraea tetrarchies were added to Agrippa I.

### 38 CE

Greek - Jewish riots in Alexandria.

### 39 CE

Herod Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee exiled to the Pyrenees. This event is not mentioned in any of the biblical accounts of the time.

### 39 - 40 CE

Greek-Jewish riots in Antioch. Jewish protest at Ptolemais.

## 40 CE

### 40 CE

Gaius' attack on the Temple.

### c. 40 CE

Septuagint: 4 Maccabees written in Greek in Alexandria. Paul went to Jerusalem (1st trip?) to meet Peter and James.

**40 - 41 CE**

Agrippa I in Rome.

**41 CE**

Province of Judaea disbanded and made into Agrippa I's kingdom (41-44 CE).  
Accession of Claudius (b. 10 BCE; 41 - 54) Emperor of Rome.

**41 CE**

By this time both Galilee and Judaea had been transferred to King Agrippa, reuniting Palestine for the first time since 6 CE under a single non-Roman monarch (even though he was a puppet king of Rome).

**44 CE**

Province of Judaea reconstituted after the death of Agrippa I, with Galilee and Peraea included. James, the brother of John, executed by the sword by Agrippa I.  
C. Cuspius Fadus: Roman Procurator (44 - 46 CE) of Judaea (including Samaria, Judaea, Idumaea). Theudas beheaded for parting the Jordan (as the Red Sea was parted in Exodus).

## 45 CE

**c. 45 CE**

Jacob and Simon, sons of Judah of Gamala, crucified. Philo Judaeus of Alexandria (b.30 BCE), Jewish philosopher and hellenizer, tried to unify Greek and Hebrew philosophy.

**46/47 CE**

Paul's first journey. Council at Jerusalem.

**?46 - 48 CE**

Tiberius Julius Alexander Roman Procurator of Judaea, an apostate Jew.

**47 CE**

Ananias ben Nedebaeus appointed Jerusalem High Priest (47 - 59) by Herod of Chalcis.

**c. 47-48 CE**

Paul on Cyprus with Barnabas.

**48 CE**

Ventidius Cumanas Roman Procurator (48 - 52) Judaea (Samaria, Judaea, Idumaea). Agrippa II, King of Judaea (48 - 93), ruled first from Chalcis (48-52) and then from Iturea (52-93).

**48 - 49? CE**

Council of Apostles & Elders, the 1st Christian Council, also an incident at Antioch where Paul publicly condemned Peter.

**c. 49 - 50 CE**

Paul in Corinth (center of his mission to the Gentiles).

## 50 CE

## 50 CE

Passover riot in Jerusalem leaves 20-30,000 killed.

## 52 CE

M. Antonius Felix, a Greek Freedman, Roman Procurator (52-c. 60) of Judaea. Arrest and imprisonment of St. Paul. M. Antonius Felix: massacred an "Egyptian Prophet" and c. 30,000 unarmed participants during an Exodus reenactment in 55 CE and in c. 58 CE he crushed a Jewish revolt in Caesarea.

## 53 - 63 CE

Parthian War with Rome.

## 54 CE

Claudius poisoned by his wife Agrippina. Accession of Nero (b. 37; 54-68) Emperor of Rome, last of the Julio-Claudian line.

## 55 CE

### c. 57 CE

Paul makes his last visit to Jerusalem.

### c. 58 CE

Paul is imprisoned in Caesarea. "Quarrel in Caesarea referred to Nero" - could this be Paul?

### 59 CE

Nero killed his mother Agrippina.

### 58/9 - 62 CE

Porcius Festus Roman Procurator. Trial of St. Paul and appeal to Nero (because as a Roman citizen he was entitled to such an appeal).

## 60 CE

### c. 60 CE

Paul sent to Rome and imprisoned.

### 60 CE

Porcius Festus, Roman Procurator (60 - 62).

### c. 62 CE

Paul martyred for treason in Rome? Nero killed his wife Octavia, and married Poppaea Sabina.

### 62 CE

Luceius Albinus, Roman Procurator (62 - 64) of Judaea. "Being a heartless Sadducee, Ananus {II} thinking that he had a favorable opportunity, because Festus had died and Albinus was still on his way, called a meeting [literally, "sanhedrin"] of judges and brought into it the brother of Jesus-who-is-called-Messiah, James by name, and some others. He made the accusation that they had

transgressed the law, and he handed them over to be stoned." [JA 20.9.1, Marginal Jew, p.57]

#### **64 CE**

Fire of Rome (July 18). Nero blamed the Christians. Gessius Florus Roman Procurator (64 - 66) of Judaea (Samaria, Judaea, Idumaea), a Greek from Asia Minor. He raided the Temple setting off the Jewish rebellion of 66-73. The first persecution of the Christians began in Rome. The Romans generally made little or no distinction between Christians and Jews, considering them ethnically, culturally, and religiously, one and the same people. Thanks to Paul's efforts this had already begun to change, but at the time and to a Roman, the differences might not yet have been discernable.

#### **65 CE**

#### **66 CE**

Nero entered the Olympic Games and won. Nero freed Greece from Roman administration. Nero also ordered the suicide of his courtier Petronius. Roman Legate of Syria Cestius Gallus forced to retreat from Judaea.

#### **66 - 74 CE**

The First Revolt of the Palestinian Jews against Rome.

#### **66 - 69 CE**

Tiberius Julius Alexander prefect of Syria.

#### **66 CE**

Cestius Gallus in Jerusalem at Passover. Riots in Caesarea. Riots in Alexandria. Anti-Semitic uprisings in cities of Syria.

#### **66 CE, May**

Outbreak of war. Florus' attack on Jerusalem. Masada captured by Sacarii.

#### **66 CE, September**

Roman troops driven out of Jerusalem.

#### **66 CE, November**

Defeat of Cestius at Beth-horon. Appointment of Josephus and five other regional commanders.

#### **67 CE**

Arrival of Roman General Vespasianus (Vespasian) and Titus. Anti-Semitic riots in Antioch. Peter, first Pope?, first bishop of Antioch?, martyred (crucified?) in Rome? Pope Linus (67 - 78).

#### **67 CE, July**

Capture of Jotapata. Vespasian conquers most of Galilee.

#### **67 CE, October**

Capture of Gamala. In Jerusalem, arrival of John of Gischala; his alliance with the Zealots; deposition of high priest; faction fighting.

#### **68 CE**

Nero dethroned and on June 9 committed suicide. Accession of Galba, Roman Emperor (June 68 - January 69, assassinated).

### **Sometime between 68 and 70 CE**

Qumran is captured by Roman forces, either shortly before or shortly after the fall of Jerusalem. Other fortresses known to have been captured after the fall of Jerusalem include Herodium, Machaerus, and Masada making it somewhat more likely that Qumran fell as part of the general offensive against the Jews in the Judaeen Wilderness after the fall of the capital rather than before. (It is also possible that Qumran was taken and occupied before the offensive on Jerusalem. It is too small to justify diverting the entire army, but its occupiers may have been enough of an annoyance to justify installing a small garrison in order to monitor the army's flank.) If Qumran was taken after the fall of Jerusalem, the Tenth Roman Legion moved directly on Jerusalem after capturing Jericho and the area south of Jericho as far as the tip of the Dead Sea.

### **68 CE**

Subjugation of most of Judaea, Idumaea and Peraea. Romans inactive from c. July. Simon, son of Gioras, in control of parts of Judaea and Idumaea. In Jerusalem, reinforcements summoned from Idumaea; alliance between John and Zealots ended.

### **69 CE**

Simon admitted into Jerusalem; fighting between him, John of Gischala and Zealots.

### **69 CE, January**

Murder of Galba. Otho, Roman Emperor (January 69 - April 69, assassinated).

### **69 CE, Spring**

Roman recovery of territory lost to Simon.

### **69 CE, April**

Death of Otho. Vitellius, Roman Emperor (April 69 - December 69, assassinated).

### **69 CE, July**

Vespasian (69-79 CE) proclaimed Emperor of Rome.

### **69 CE Autumn**

Titus left in command by Vespasian, who moved to Egypt.

### **69 CE, December**

Death of Vitellius and Flavian victory. By appointment of the Roman Senate, Vespasian (b. 9) proclaimed Roman Emperor (December 69 - June 23, 79) while still in Egypt. (Founder of the Flavian Dynasty (69-96), built the Colosseum, quelled Roman & Jerusalem revolts.)

## **70 CE**

### **70 CE - Overview**

The year 70 CE, as Hershel Shanks puts it, has served as an impenetrable wall to the study of early Judaism and Christianity. With the destruction of Jerusalem, and all that entails, almost all documentary evidence of intertestamental Judaism was also destroyed. We have some, but in fact very little, information about only

four Jewish sects from the period immediately preceding the destruction of the City (Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes and Christians). What little we know about the differences among them comes only from later writers.

The earliest post-destruction Jewish writings (the Mishnah) date from 200 CE. Among Christian documents, only Paul's letters and, possibly, the gospel of Mark were written before the destruction. Everything else was later. Even the books of Josephus, which were written shortly after the destruction, introduce the additional complicating factor that they were written for a Roman audience who were not interested in the sectarian questions that interest most of us today.

In other words, there is no documentary evidence about sectarian Judaism from the intertestamental period that has not been filtered through the biases of later generations; until we come to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Here for the first time we encounter writings that may come from one or more sects that were not previously part of the "known" cast of conventionally recognized groups. Not surprisingly, most modern scholars have tried to fit these writings onto one of the known groups (Essenes, dissident Sadducees, or the Hassidim, for example). They are missing a terrific opportunity to break open the doors to understanding this period by not at least considering other possibilities.

More than half of the texts discovered at Qumran were unknown to modern biblical and Jewish scholars prior to their discovery at Qumran. Scholars seem not to have noticed what this implies about the state of intertestamental Judaism prior to the destruction of Jerusalem. It suggests the possibility, if not the likelihood, that among the thousands of books destroyed there were likely to be more thousands of books that we still know nothing about. The diversity of Judaism during that period has still not been fully appreciated, but that does not mean it was not a fact of life at the time.

If anything, this brings into even sharper focus that apparent intention of the early Christians to remain Jews, in the fullest sense of that word, for decades after Jesus' death. The differences of opinion between James, called the Brother of Jesus, and Paul seem now to have been dominated by this specific dividing line. Paul wanted to include non-Jews, and to allow modifications to Jewish laws to accommodate them (no circumcision required, for example), while James and his followers still considered themselves Jews, intended for their sect to remain Jewish, and expected their members to all be Jews. One can predict, on the basis that Paul's faction won, that Christian writings have also been purged of this earlier tradition. It also explains why the "Church in Jerusalem" seems to have died out without a whimper. James and Mary and most of the unknown members of that church were literally cut out of the history of Christianity by later Church fathers who purged the Christian literature as surely as the Roman destruction of Jerusalem purged much of the Jewish literature.

- Return of Vespasian to Rome. Sack of Jerusalem by Roman Armies occupying Judaea. End of the Second Temple Period.
- 70 CE, Spring**  
Siege of Jerusalem by the Roman army begins.
- 70 CE, May**  
Two outer northern walls of Jerusalem captured by the Roman besieging army. Circumvallation built.
- 70 CE, July**  
Antonia fortress in Jerusalem recaptured by Titus, eldest son of Vespasian.
- 70 CE, August**  
Titus conquers Jerusalem and the Temple stormed and burnt. All Jews are banned from the city.
- 70 CE, September**  
Upper City captured and burnt.
- 70/1 CE, Winter**  
Fire in Antioch.
- 71 CE, Spring**  
Titus visits Jerusalem.
- 71 CE, Summer**  
Triumph of Vespasian and Titus.
- 71 CE, Autumn?**  
Capture of the fortress at Herodium.
- 72 CE**  
Capture of the fortress at Machaerus. Battle of Jarden forest.
- 72 - 73 CE**  
Trouble in Alexandria and Egypt; Temple of Onias closed.
- 73 CE, May**  
The fortress at Masada, after a long siege by the Roman army, falls. Its defenders, mostly or exclusively Zealots, commit mass suicide the night before the fortress is captured. Only a handful of survivors are captured alive. This marks the end of the First Revolt of the Jews against Rome.

## 75 CE

### 79 CE

- Pope Anacletus (79 - 91, "blameless?")
- 79 CE, June**  
Titus (b. 39), eldest son of Vespasian, Roman Emperor (June 23, 79 - September 13, 81).
- 79 CE, August**  
Pliny the Elder (b. 23) dies during the eruption of Vesuvius on August 24, which buries Pompeii and Herculaneum.
- 81 CE, September**  
Domitianus (b. 51), Roman Emperor (September 13, 81 - September 18, 96), Vespasianus' youngest son.

**c. 90 - 91 CE**

Rabbis assembled at Jamnia (Yavneh) for the "Council of Jamnia" to formulate the biblical canon.

**between 90 - 96 BCE**

The Book of Revelation makes its first appearance.

**91 CE**

Pope Clement I (91 - 101); wrote to Corinth in 95.

**94 CE**

"Jewish Antiquities" by Josephus, written in Aramaic, translated into Greek.

**96 CE**

Nerva (b. 35?), Roman Emperor (September 18, 96 - January 25, 98). Nerva instituted law reform; adopted Trajan and named him his successor.

**98 CE**

Trajanus (Trajan, b. 53?), Roman Emperor (January 25, 98 - August 8, 117), Nerva's chosen successor. The Roman Empire reached its maximum extent under Trajan. Under his reign are the following accomplishments; Roman Arch Aqueduct at Segovia, Spain; annexations of Dacia (Romania 106-1453), Arabia (106-c630), Armenia (114-162), Mesopotamia (114-115). An extensive revolt occurred (115-117) when Procurator Lucius Quietus provoked Kitos War in Jerusalem. Revolt spread to Libya, Cyrenaica, Egypt, Cyprus, Mesopotamia. That ended the Roman eastward expansion.

## **100 CE**

**c. 100 CE**

Josephus (37? - c. 100), Jewish general, turncoat, historian, hellenist, dies in Rome. Among his extant works are included JW=Jewish War (71); AA=Against Apion (c. 90); JA=Jewish Antiquities (94).

Masoretes at Tiberias compiling Masora (MT), standard Scriptures of Judaism.

**116 - 117 CE**

Jewish uprisings in Palestine, Egypt and Mesopotamia.

**132 - 135 CE**

Bar Kochba Revolt. Jerusalem razed and Aelia Capitolina built on the site.

## **200 CE**

World Population estimates = 190 - 256 million.

In Sepphoris at about this time, Judah ha-Nasi compiled the Mishnah.