Chapter 5
Political, Religious and Social Unrest in Palestine:
63 BCE to 73 CE
Ancient Palestine and the Jewish Kingdoms
Palestine and the Hellenistic Kingdoms

- The Seleucids gain control of Palestine from the Ptolemies (199 B.C.E.)
- The rule of Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-163 B.C.E.)
The Rule of Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-163 B.C.E.)

✶ Forced Hellenization upon the Jews
✶ Outlawed the traditions of Judaism
✶ Made Jerusalem Temple into shrine to Greek god Zeus
✶ The martyrdoms endured by the Hasidim ("pious ones")
The Maccabean Revolt (166-142 B.C.E.)

- The defiance of Mattathias
- Judas Maccabeus (the “Hammer”)
- Rededication of the Temple, December 164 B.C.E.
- The Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah)
- The Hasmonean dynasty (142-40 B.C.E.)
The Domination of Rome

- Roman general Pompey marches on Palestine (63 B.C.E.)
- Jewish Hasmonean kings reduced to client rulers by Roman power
The Career of Herod the Great (37-4 B.C.E.)

- **Herod’s political expansion**
- **Herod’s building projects**
  - Fortresses (Masada)
  - Port city of Caesarea Maritima
  - Refurbishment of Jerusalem Temple (Temple of Solomon)
After Herrod’s Death

❖ His Kingdom is divided among his sons
❖ This only lasts for a brief time
Herod’s Successors

**Herod’s three sons**
- Herod Philip (4 B.C.E.-34 C.E.)
- Herod Antipas (4 B.C.E.-39 C.E.)
- Herod Archelaus (4 B.C.E.-6 C.E.)

**Judea ruled by procurators after 6 C.E.**

**Other significant descendants**
- Herod Agrippa I (41-44 B.C.E.)
- Herod Agrippa II
Pontius Pilate
26-36 CE

- Roman Prefect
- Governed territories of Palestine
- Oversaw administrators who treated the Jewish people brutally and tolerated mass killings (Genocide)
The Roman Emperors

- Augustus (27-14 C.E.)
- Tiberius (14-37 C.E.)
- New Testament attitudes toward Rome
  - Jesus’ criticisms of Roman power
  - Key roles of Roman soldiers in Jesus ministry
  - Paul’s accommodating stance
  - Revelation: Rome an evil “harlot”
Jewish Revolts Against Rome

✔️ **First revolt (66-73 C.E.)**
  ➢ Incited by Jewish nationalists
  ➢ Crushed by Vespasian and Titus
  ➢ Jerusalem and Temple destroyed (70 C.E.)
  ➢ Chief historical source: Flavius Josephus

✔️ **The bar Kochba revolt (132-135 C.E.)**
Diaspora

The Babylonian Captivity of the Jews was known as the first Diaspora.

The Diaspora is the scattering of the Jewish people.

There have been two Diasporas.

The first was the Babylonian captivity, which ended when the Persians freed the Jews and the Jews returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the temple.

During the Captivity there was an Age of Prophecy. The Prophets such as Isaiah and Ezekiel. The prophets declared that the people needed to return to the original covenant or face punishment.
The Jews stayed in Israel until the Romans destroyed the Temple again in 70 CE beginning the second Diaspora.

After that the Jews were scattered throughout Europe. European anti-Semitism in the Middle Ages and the Holocaust of WWII forced many Jews to emigrate to the United States and many began to return to Israel.

This led to the formation of the state of Israel by the United Nations in 1948 ending the second Diaspora. Many Jews consider any Jew not living in the Holy Land to still be in the Diaspora.
Children of Israel

Israelites
Semitic-speaking people who lived south of the Phoenicians in the Levant.

Compared to other groups in the region, they were a small group.

Their religion, known today as Judaism, continues as a world religion and influenced the development of Christianity and Islam.
History of the Hebrews

Abraham

Abraham is seen as the Patriarch, or father, of Judaism as well as Christianity and Islam.

According to Jewish tradition Abraham is brought by God from his home in the ancient city of Ur into a new land, Canaan (the holy land), where he enters into a covenant (agreement) with God:

in exchange for sole recognition of Yahweh as supreme universal authority, Abraham will be the father of a great nation.
Exodus
The escape of the Israelites from their captivity in Egypt.

Moses was the leader of the Hebrew Exodus. The story goes that the Hebrew God had to curse Egypt with 10 plagues in order for the Pharaoh (Ramses II) to free the Israelites.

10 Plagues
The Nile turned to blood
Frogs
Fleas and Lice
Flies
Epidemic disease which exterminated the Egyptian livestock.
Boils
Storm (Hail)
Locusts
Darkness
Death of the first born son
(Passover Holiday comes from this event)

According to the Torah, the Israelites disobeyed God and wandered the desert for 40 years before reaching the holy land.
Under the leadership of Solomon, Israel reached the height of its power. Solomon was the son of King David, and was known as a wise king.

During this time Jerusalem became the capital of the Kingdom of Israel.

Under the leadership of Solomon, Israel reached the height of its power.

He built a great temple in Jerusalem which became the focal point of the Jewish Religion.

The remains of this temple, now known as the Western Wall or Wailing Wall are still a focal point of the Jewish faith.
Began: Judaism began with Abraham.

Were From: It is thought that Abraham was from the Sumerian city of Ur.

Abraham believed that he had been selected by Yahweh (God) to be the father of a great nation.

Abraham is seen as the Patriarch of Judaism.

Monotheism: Judaism was the first religion to worship only One God. The Jews viewed Yahweh as being all-knowing (Omniscient), and all-powerful (Omnipotent).

Yahweh: The Jewish name for God. Jews view this name as sacred and will not say the full name or write the name out. They will use abbreviations in writing, or say another name for God when speaking of God.
Covenant: Jews believe that Abraham made a Covenant, or Agreement with God that he and his descendants would have no other God.

Obligations:
- Jews promised not to worship any other God.

- In exchange the Jews believe that God promised them Canaan, or the Holy land.
People of Israel

The term people of Israel refers to the descendants of Abraham through his son Isaac, and his Son Jacob who became known as Israel. Jacob was name Israel after he struggled with an angel and won, it means he who prevails with God.”.

Torah

The Torah is the holy book of Judaism, the laws of the Jewish people. It is the first five books of the Christian Bible. The Torah is also known as the Five Books of Moses or the Pentateuch.

Talmud

Books written to explain and interpret Jewish law.
History of the Jewish People

The history of the Hebrews begins in the Ancient Middle East with Abraham. Abraham forms a Covenant with Yahweh (God) to be the chosen people and worship only that God. Abraham’s people settle in Canaan where they live for many years.

A famine falls on the area and many of the Hebrews go to Egypt, the breadbasket of the Mediterranean, seeking food. There they stay and grow in number and so they are enslaved by the Egyptians.

The Exodus, is the story of the escape of the Jews from Egypt led by Moses.

After fleeing Egypt and wandering the desert for 40 years, the Israelites return to the promised land.
The Western (Wailing) Wall in Jerusalem
The most important of all Jewish monuments
It is the remnants of the Temple of Solomon
after its destruction by the Romans in 70 A.D.
The Divided Kingdom

After Solomon’s death the kingdom of Israel split into two parts.

**Division:** The **Kingdom of Israel** was the ten northern tribes with the capital city of Samaria.

The **Kingdom of Judah** was the two tribes in the South with the capital of Jerusalem.

The Assyrians destroyed the kingdom of Israel and scattered the people in 722 B.C., these are known as the lost tribes of Israel.

The Kingdom of Judah remained until it was destroyed by the Chaldeans (Neo Babylonians) and King Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. beginning the Babylonian captivity which would last until the defeat of the Chaldeans by the Persian Empire and Cyrus the Great.