

## PROLOGUE

Emmanuel Anati, *Palestine Before the Hebrews*, p. 56.

1. Lower paleolithic	600,000 - 70,000	B.C.E
2. Middle paleolithic	70,000 - 35,000	
3. Upper paleolithic	35,000 - 14,000	
4. Mesolithic	14,000 - 8,000	
5. Neolithic	8,000 - 4,000	
6. Pre-pottery to pottery	5,000 - 4,000	B.C.

### Neolithic Near East-Mediterranean trade:

- A. Anatolian obsidian: spectogram of trace elements of barium, strontium, and zirconium.
- B. Sinai turquoise
- C. Cowrie shells

J. E. Dixon, J. R. Cann and Colin Renfrew, "Obsidian and the Origin of Trade," in *World Archaeology: Foundations of Civilization, Readings from Scientific American*, 81-88.

### Neolithic Trade centers:

- A. Jarmo, Ras Shamra and Catal Huyuk
- B. Pre-pottery Jericho:  
Tower and sculptured skulls (*ANE*, plate 49)
- C. Neolithic Pottery:

## **Hassuna ware (Childe, Pl. XIV) and Merimde ware (Childe, fig. 14).**

**James Mellaart, "A Neolithic City in Turkey," *OWA*, 120-129; Kathleen Kenyon, "Ancient Jericho, *OWA* 89-94; and V. Gordon Childe, *New Light on the Most Ancient East*, passim.**

## **Chalcolithic (Copper-Stone Age) 4,000 - 3,100**

### **Protoliterate Age to Literate Age c. 3300**

**Agriculture , Irrigation, Administration**

**Bright's Chart I :**

- **Obeid (Ubaid) Childe, Pl. XVIII**
- **Warka/Erech/Uruk " XIII, XXXVI**
- **Jemdet Nasr " XX, XXI**
- **Samarra " XVI, XVIII**
- **Halaf " XIX**

### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

**3300 Writing**

**3100 Bronze**

**3000 Dynastic Egypt**

## THIRD MILLENNIUM B. C. MESOPOTAMIA:

### Sumerians: 2850-2360

- theocratic city-states
- *lugal* (“great man”) and *ensi* (“priest”)
- power was held by divine sanction
- kingship from heaven (city assembly > kingship)
- city assembly + emergency measures
- agglutinative language
- ideograms and cuneiform writing
- Enlil, storm god, center at Nippur
- “Law codes” (*ANET Supplement*, 525)

See: S. N. Kramer, “The ‘Babel of Tongues’: A Sumerian Version,” *JAOS* 88 (1968), 108-111.

### Semites of Agade (Akkad): 2360-2180

Semi-nomads who took over Sumerian culture.

✱ sign = *DINGER* = divine determinative.

Kings of Akkad accorded themselves divine prerogatives

See: Brian Lewis, *The Sargon Legend* (PJ3771 .L42 L4) and Norman Gottwald, *The Tribes of Yahweh*, pp. 441-442, 765.

### Eblaïtes of Old Syria

See: Paolo Matthiae, *Ebla: An Empire Rediscovered*.  
Garden City: Doubleday, 1980.

## **EGYPT: OLD KINGDOM (29 - 23 centuries B. C.)**

**White crown of (S) Upper Egypt (i.e., “up river”)  
Red crown of (N) Lower Egypt (i.e., “down river”)**

### **Third Dynasty (c. 2600): Age of the Pyramids**

- ▶ **Memphis: Zoser Step Pyramid at Saqqara**
- ▶ **Cheops, Chefren, Mycerinus at Giza**
- ▶ **The “Great Pyramid”**
  - 481 feet in height**
  - 755' x 755' square base**
  - 2,300,000 hewn blocks**
  - average weight 2 and 1/2 tons**
  - only 0.09 percent off square and**
  - only 0.004 percent off level**
- ▶ **No law code ever found in Egypt.**
- ▶ **Pharaoh was god. He was Horus visible among his people. (Bright, p. 39/40)**
- ▶ **No “divine election” needed.**  
**Decree of the god-king sufficed.**
- ▶ **Duty of god-king was to uphold *ma'at* “justice.”**
- ▶ **Changeless order established at creation.**

## **EARLY BRONZE AGE**

<b>EBI</b>	<b>3100-2900</b>	<b>MBI</b>	<b>2250-2000</b>	<b>LBI</b>	<b>1550-1400</b>
<b>EBII</b>	<b>2900-2650</b>	<b>MBIIA</b>	<b>2000-1730</b>	<b>LBIIA</b>	<b>1400-1300</b>
<b>EBIII</b>	<b>2650-2350</b>	<b>MBIIB</b>	<b>1730-1550</b>	<b>LBIIB</b>	<b>1300-1200</b>
<b>EBIV</b>	<b>2350-2250</b>				

## **IRON AGE**

<b>IRON I</b>	<b>1200-1000</b>
<b>IRON IIA</b>	<b>1000-900</b>
<b>IRON IIB</b>	<b>900-800</b>
<b>IRON IIC</b>	<b>800-586</b>

## **THIRD MILLENIUM**

**PALESTINE: Early Bronze age.**

**Urban development in Canaanite Palestine:**

- **Jericho**
  - **Beth-Shan**
  - **Ai**
  - **Gezer**
  - **Lachish**
  - **Ebla in Syria**

## **MESOPOTAMIA after Akkad: 2180-1950**

- **Onslaught of the barbaric Guti brings the kingdom of Akkad to an end.**
- **Influx of the Hurrians and the Amorites.**
- **Renaissance of Sumerian culture:  
Ur III (2060-1950).**
- **Ur-nammu Law Code:  
*ANET Supplement, 523-525.***
- **Akkadian superceded the Sumerian language.**

**EGYPT: First Intermediate Period, 2200-2010.  
(Seventh-eleventh dynasties)**

**EGYPT: Middle Kingdom, 2010-1800.  
(Twelfth dynasty)**

**“The Hebrews were in fact late-comers on  
history's stage”  
(Bright, p. 24).**

**“Israel was born into a world already ancient.”  
(Bright, p. 42/43).**

# **EARLY BRONZE AGE**

## **BRIGHT, CHAPTER 1**

**Israel's origins date around 2000 - 1550 B. C.**

**Genesis 1-11 uses 600,000 B. C. - 2,000 B. C.  
as its time frame.**

**Genesis 12-50 uses 2,000 B.C. - 1,250 B. C.  
as its time frame.**

**Genesis 1-11 is not history,  
but theological literature.**

**Genesis 12-50 is not history,  
but theological literature.**

**Theology utilized history, story, and biography.**

**Gen 1-11 deals with the origins of evil using the creation  
story as one of several stage settings.**

**1. Evil is earthly in origin -- rebellion.**

**Gen 3 and Sirach 15:11-20**

**2. Evil is heavenly in origin -- victimization**

**Gen 6, Enoch and Jubilees**

3. **Evil is earthly in origin -- freewill**  
**Gen 4 and Sirach 15:11-20**
4. **Evil is earthly in origin -- accidental**  
**Gen 9:20-28.**
- [5.] **Evil is created by God -- predestination**  
**Isaiah 45:7 and Sirach 11:14; 33:10-13**  
**Manual of Discipline 3:13-4:26**  
**Deut 32:39, etc.**  
**(Compare I Cor 10:12-13; James 1:13;**  
**I Macc 1:44-64; 2 Macc 7; Tobit 13:2)**
- [6.] **Evil is “Satanic” -- victimization**  
**Job prologue (?); Enoch; Jubilees.**

## **THE ETHNIC ELEMENTS IN THE HEBREW COMMUNITY**

- ◆ **Deut 26:5 Aramean**
- ◆ **Ezekiel 16:3 Hittite and Amorite**
- ◆ **Genesis 11:31 Ur of the Chaldees and Haran**  
**LXX: “the land of the Chaldees”**
- ✓ **See: Cyrus H. Gordon. “Where is Abraham's Ur?”**  
***BAR* 3 (1977) pp. 21-22, 52; *JNES* 17 (1958), p. 28;**  
**“Abraham of Ur,” Hebrew and Semitic Studies.**
- ✓ **Ebla text refers of “Ura in Haran.”**
- ✓ **Ugaritic text refers to a northern Ur(a).**



## MESOPOTAMIA:

- **Elamites (assisted by Mari and Asshur) bring on the destruction of UR III, c. 1950.**
- **Rise of the Amorites (*Amurru* “Westerners”)  
Amorite dynasties at Isin, Larsa, and Babylon**
- **Law codes of Eshnunna and Lipit-Ishtar  
(cf. the “Covenant Code” of Exodus 21-23)**
- **Assyrian commercial expansion, but Assyria falls to the Amorites.**
- **Shamshi-adad erected his stele at the Mediterranean.**
- **The “Mari Age” (1750-1697):  
20,000 tablets  
palace of 300 rooms  
highly developed trade: Ugarit, Cyprus, etc.**
- **The Hammurabi era (1728-1686)  
Law Code (*ANET*, 163-180)  
Rise of the god Marduk  
Babylonian creation and flood stories:  
Atra-Ḫassis  
Gilgamesh Epic  
Enuma elish**
- **Rise of the Hurrians out of Armenia, with centers  
at Nuzi and Alalakh.**

- **The “Dark Age” ended with the emergence of the Mitanni kingdom (Indo Aryans and Hurrians).**

## **EGYPT: 2000**

### **XII Dynasty:**

- ▶ **end of feudal independence of the 1st IP**
- ▶ **no return to the absolutism of the Old Kingdom**
- ▶ **Golden age of Egyptian culture: canals, land reclamation, forts, art, trade, medicine, math, and literature.**
- ▶ **Instruction of Merikare, *ANET*, 414.**
- ▶ **Execration Texts, *ANET*, 328.**

### **Dark age of foreign rule: the Hyksos (1750-1550)**

- ❑ **Hyksos were Indo-Aryan and Northwest Semitic stock**
- ❑ **Baal was identified with the Egyptian Seth**
- ❑ **Hyksos capital was at Avaris (in the northeast)**
- ❑ **Theban vassal princes fight for freedom**
- ❑ **Fall of Avaris c. 1540; end of the Hyksos**

### **Dawn of the empire period:**

#### **The New Kingdom (1550-1100)**

- **Hebrews in Egypt**
- **Egyptian Asian empire**
- **The Amarna age**
- **The exodus**

## **BRIGHT, CHAPTER 2**

**Genesis 12-50: not history per se,  
but “great theological history.”**

**“Tradition” is a neutral term: “what was handed down.”**

**Pentateuch or Hexateuch:**

**Documentary hypothesis (Wellhausen theory):**

**J = Yahwist/Jahwist (Jerusalem and Judah);  
(Gen 2:4b-24)**

**E = Elohist [*'elohim* “god”] (Ephraim);**

**D = Deuteronomy and Deuteronomistic texts;**

**P = Priestly material (Gn 1:1-2:4a)**

**Covenant with Abraham:**

**Gen 12:1-4 is Yahwistic**

**Gen 15:1-21 is Elohist**

**Gen 17:1-14 is Priestly.**

**Yahwistic “blessing motif” is found elsewhere in Gen 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14; Jer 4:2; and Acts 3:5. See also I Kings 8:41 ff.**

**Isaiah 56:1-8 and 65:17-25 have the Yahwistic spirit; Isaiah 49:22-26 and 60:10-16 have an Elohist tone.**

**Archaeology cannot prove the Bible to be true; but it can illuminate the biblical context. A biblical statement may be**

**confirmed or supported. The affirmation that “the bible is true” is a faith statement, not a simple expression of common sense.**

**Written texts of importance for the patriarchal era were found at Mari, Nuzi, Ugarit, Ebla, and from different Sumerian and Akkadian city states.**

**Anachronisms: Philistines in Gen 21:32-34; 26, and the camels in Gen 12:16, 24.**

**Patriarchs and the Arameans (Gen 31:43-55; Deut 26:5)  
The Hurrians (Gen 12:10-20; 26:1-11)  
The *Hab/piru* (also known as the *‘apiru*).**

**Ancient Israelite cultic credos are found in Deut. 6:20- 25;  
26: 5-10; and 24: 2-13.**

**Problem texts: Gen 4:26 and Ex 6:2-8 with לֹ  
Solution: לֹ (*lamed ’aleph*) = *lo’* or *lu’*  
*lo’* means “not”  
*lu’* means “verily, indeed.”**

## **BRIGHT, CHAPTER 3**

**Not all Israelites went to or exited from Egypt (as related in Exodus 1:2).**

**Israel was a “mixed multitude”**

**Midianites (Num. 10:29-32)**

**Kennizites/Kenites/Edomites**

**(Ju. 1:10-20; Gen. 36:11, 15)**

**Calebites (Josh. 15:13)**

**Hittites, Amorites, Sodomites and Samaritans**

**(Ezekiel 16:3, 46)**

**Gibeonites (Josh. 9)**

**Canaanites (Josh. 17:2; 12:17, 24; Gen. 34; 38:5)**

**Jerahmeelites (I Sam. 27:10; 30:29)**

**Israel's tribal diversity according to Jacob's women:**

**Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin (Gen 30:22-24; 35:16-21)**

**Joseph = Ephraim and Manasseh (Gen 41:50-52)**

**Bilhah: Dan and Naphtali (Gen 29:31-35; 30:1-8)**

**Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah (Gen 29:31-35)**

**Zilpah: Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon and Dinah  
(Gen 30:9, 17-21; 35:26; 37:2-12)**

**Tribes that were probably in Egypt: Joseph, Levi, Simeon**

**Tribes in the Negeb among Kenites: other Leah tribes**

**Concubine tribes: remained in north and central Canaan**

## The Book of Exodus

- 1:8 oppression in Egypt  
2:1 - 7:7 Moses  
7:8 - 13:16 contest with pharaoh  
13:17 - 14:31 exodus and victory at *yam suf*  
15:1 - 15:18 “**Song of the Sea**”  
15:19 - 15:21 “**Song of Miriam**”  
15:22-17:16 and  
Num. 10:11-20:22 = “wilderness”  
16:1 - 16:36 murmuring in wilderness (Cf.  
15:22-26; 17:2-7; Num. 11:4-6;  
12:1-2; 14:2-3; 16:12-14; 20:2-13;  
21:4-5; and Josephus iii:2:5-6 [vol  
ii, p. 182-3])  
17:1 holy war initiated  
17:1 - 17:7 etiological story about Massah  
17:8 - 17:16 etiological story about  
**Rephadim**  
Massah < *nasah* “to test”  
Meribah < *rib* “to content”  
Rephadim < *rapad* “to support aid,” a  
synonym of *tamak* “to hold” in 17:12  
18:1-27 Moses and Jethro  
19:1 encampment at Sinai  
19:3b - 19:6 divine election



**Death of first-born 4:22-23**

**11:1-10**

**Psalm 105:36; 78:51  
(II Kings 3:24-27)**

**Boils**

**9:8-12**

**Cattle**

**9:1-7**

**Psalm 78:48a**

### **Despoiling of the Egyptians**

**Exodus 3:21-22; 11:2-3; 12:35-37; Psalm 105:37**

**Josephus, Antiquities ii:xiv:6 [ii, p. 170]: “honored the Hebrews with gifts”**

### **The name of God**

**Exodus 3:14-15 *'elohim***

***'ehyeh 'aser 'ehyeh* “I am who I am”**

***'ahyeh 'aser 'ahyeh* “I cause to be ...”**

**Yahweh = yhwh “May he cause to be”**

**Jehovah = the consonants of *yhwh* + the vowels of *'adonay***

**Peter Galatin, confessor to Leo X (1518 AD)**

**Raymond Martin in 1270 AD.**

**Kenite hypothesis: H. H. Rowley, *From Joseph to Joshua*  
and T. Meek, *Hebrew Origins*.**

**Exodus 20:1-17 Decalogue (Deut. 5:6-21) (See below)**

**20:22-23:33 “covenant code” (cauistic “if”)**

**24:1-2 and 9-11 are a unit: “they saw God”**



**24:3-8 is a separate unit on covenant**  
**24:12-14 is to be followed by Exodus 32**  
**25:1-31:18 is a unit of cultic instruction**  
**32:1ff. Golden calf (cf. I Kings 7:25, 44;**  
**Jer. 52:20; and I Kings 12:25-33)**  
**34:10-34:26 ritual decalogue**

**Other law codes in the Pentateuch:**

<b>Priestly laws</b>	<b>Leviticus 1-18, 27</b>
<b>Holiness code</b>	<b>Leviticus 19-26</b>
<b>Priestly supplement</b>	<b>Numbers 1-10</b>
<b>Priestly supplement after Sinai</b>	<b>Num. 28-31; 33-36</b>
<b>Deuteronomic code after Sinai</b>	<b>Deut. 12-26</b>
<b>Blessing and curses</b>	<b>Deut. 27-28</b>

**Decalogue: code for capital offenses קנא or קנה**

<b>1. No other gods</b>	<b>Ex. 22:20; Deut 13:2,5</b>
<b>2. Graven images</b>	<b>Deut. 17:2-7</b>
<b>3. Name of yhwh</b>	<b>Deut. 6:13; 10:20; Lev. 24:15-16</b>
<b>4. Sabbath</b>	<b>Ex. 32:12-17; 35:2</b> <b>(Compare 23:12 and 34:21)</b>
<b>5. Parents</b>	<b>Ex. 21:15, 17; Deut 27:19; 21:20</b>
<b>6. Murder</b>	<b>Ex. 21:12, 23; Num. 35:16-21; Lev. 24:17</b>
<b>7. Adultery</b>	<b>Lev. 18:6-23; 20:10-22 John 8:1-11);</b> <b>Deut. 27:19-23; Galatians 5:19-21.</b>
<b>8. Stealing</b>	<b>Ex. 21:16; Deut 24:7 (kidnapping)</b> <b>Ex. 22:1-4 (restitution of property)</b>

9. False witness            Deut. 19:16-21  
 10. Covet                      Ex. 34:24; Matthew 5:30;

**“Hymn to the Sun-god”**

(from the library of Ashurbanipal, 668-627b.c.):

*“a man who covets (lifts his eyes to) his neighbor's wife will die before his appointed day. Your weapon will strike him and there will be none to save.”*

Lambert, *Babylonian Wisdom Literature*, p. 130.

<b>Ritual “decalogue” in Exodus</b>	<b>34:</b>
1. No other gods	34:14 קנא or קנה
2. No images	17
3. Feast of unleaven bread	18
4. Offering first-born	19-20
5. Sabbath	21
6. Feast of weeks	22
7. Feast of ingathering	22
8. Males appear before <i>YHWH</i>	23
9. No leaven in sacrifice	25
10. Consume the passover	25
11. First fruits	26
12. Kid in mother's milk	

**Curses in Deuteronomy 27**

1. Graven image
2. Contempt for parents

3. Remove landmark
4. Leading the blind astray
5. Injustice to the “sojourner”
6. Sleeps with his father's wife
7. Sleeps with an animal
8. Sleeps with his sister
9. Sleeps with his mother-in-law
10. Strikes a neighbor
11. Takes a bribe
12. Treats these words with contempt

**Hymn to Aten, *ANET* 369-371**

**Amarna letters, *ANET* 483-490**

**Hittite wars of Ramesses II-- Pharaoh of the Exodus**

**Deborah era: Ramesses III**

**Numbers 1:46 and 26:51, see Bright, fn 27, p. 117.**

**The Song of Deborah: Judges 5**

**The Sea Peoples and the Philistines**

**Book of the Wars of Yahweh: Num. 21:14ff**

**The Book of Jasher: Joshua 10:12-14 (see J. S. Holladay, *JBL* 87 [June, 1968], 166 ff.)**

**On the uncertainty surrounding the “conquest” note  
Bright's language on pp. 138-139 (2nd ed.).**

**Movement through Trans-Jordan:**

**Numbers 21:14-15; Judges 5:4-5; Numbers 24:17-19  
versus Deuteronomy 2:9, 16, 27**

**Oracle of Balaam: Numbers 22-24**

**Balak, king of Moab, sends for Balaam.**

**Balaam's delirium: 22:12 and 11:20-22.**

**Angel of Yahweh came "to Satan" Balaam, 22:22;  
22:32.**

**Joshua 1-12 speaks of three campaigns:**

- 1. Across the Jordan to Gilgal, Jericho, Ai, Shechem**
- 2. Southward to Gibeon, but not to Jerusalem**
- 3. Northward to Hazor and Galilee**

**Joshua vs. Judges**

**Hebron Josh. 10:36 Judges 1:10**

**Debir 10:38-39 1:11-15**

**Hazor 11 4-5**

**Note: undefeated cities/areas:**

**Judges 1:19; Josh. 13:2-6; 15:63; 16:10; 17:12, 18.**

## **BRIGHT, CHAPTER 4**

**"Israel's tribal organization was itself a theocracy under the kingship of Yahweh." (2nd ed., 149)**

**Amphictyony: sacral league (Delphic 12 and Etruscan 12)**

**12 Aramean tribes (Gen. 22:20-24)**

**12 Ishmaelite tribes (Gen. 25:13-16)**

**12 Edomite tribes (Gen. 36:10-14)**

**12 Israelite tribes (Gen. 29:16-30::24; 35:16-20)**

**Evolutionary cycle:**

**polytheism, henotheism, monaltry, monotheism.**

**Monotheism can be philosophical, ontological, implicit,  
or practical.**

**Early Hebrew poetry is a key to Israel's early faith since it was generally unedited. These poems include:**

**Song of Deborah (Ju. 5; cf. Ju. 4 and Josh. 11)**

**Blessing of Jacob (Gen. 49)**

**Balaam Oracles (Num. 23-24)**

**Song of Miriam (Ex. 15:1-18, 21)**

**Blessing of Moses (Deut. 33)**

**Psalm of Habakkuk (Hab. 3)**

**Song of Moses (Deut. 32)**

**Note that the Exodus and Sinai traditions became normina-  
tive. The Noahian and patriarchal traditions were  
superseded.**

**The language of election:**

**BERITH “covenant”**

**SEGULLAH “private property”**

**HESED “loving kindness”**

**SHEMA ... “hear, O Israel...”**

# COVENANT FORM AND THE SUZERAINTY TREATIES

**D. R. Hillers, *Covenant: the history of a biblical Idea*, pp.  
28-38.**

## **Hittite treaties (1400-1200):**

- 1. Preamble (Ex. 20:1)**
- 2. Historical prologue (Ex. 20:1; Josh. 24:2-13)**
- 3. Stipulations (Ex. 20:2ff.; Josh. 24:14ff.)**
- 4. Public reading (Josh. 8:34; Deut. 31:9-13)**
- 5. Witnesses (Josh 24:22; I Sam. 20:12-23)**
- 6. Blessings (Josh. 8:34; Deut. 28)**
- 7. Curses (Josh 8:34; Deut. 27 and 28)**

## **YAHWEH ALONE IS GOD**

**Divine council Psalm 19:1-11 (NEB) and 89:6-7.**

### **Other gods:**

**Deut. 4:19; 29:26; Micah 4:5; 2 Kings 3:21-27  
Acts 14:16; Wisdom of Solomon 13:1ff.; Zeph. 2:11  
Deut. 32:8 (LXX, King James vs. RSV)**

## **PSALM 82**

- A. Convening the heavenly court**
- B. Presentation of the charge against the defendant gods.**
- C. Exhibit 1: Job description for rulers (Lev. 19:15)**
- D. Exhibit 2: Status report on result of injustice**
- E. Pronouncement of judgment by the supreme judge**
  - death sentence for the gods --**
- F. Prayer from the audience:**
  - universalism and monotheism --**

**Egyptian and Assyrian weakness set the stage for the rise of the monarchy in Israel**

**The tale of Wen-Amun: *ANET*, 25-29.**

**Significant text related to warfare:**

**Deut 7:20 “God will send hornets among them....”**

**Exodus 23:28 “I will send hornets before you. ...”**

**Joshua 24:12 “I sent the hornet before you....”**

**(cf. צרעה “leprosy” in Deut 24:8)**

**From the Elijah cycle of tradition:**

**I Kings 14:10; 21:21; 19:16**

**From the Elisha cycle of tradition:**

## **2 Kings 9:1-6, 12 (contrasted with 9:7-10)**

**Hosea 1:4 “You shall call his name Jezreel...”**

**Hosea 8:4 “They made kings but not through me...”**

**(2Kings 9:11 “mad fellow” and “fool” in Hosea 9:7)**

**I Chron 22:8 “You have shed much blood...”**

**I Kings 3:11 “Because you have not asked ...”**

## **BRIGHT, CHAPTER 5**

**Philistines: “the hated invader” or “fellow invader”?**

**Israelites and Philistines were in competition for the same thing -- Canaan.**

**Philistine military aristocracy and iron monopoly.**

**Battle of Aphek (c. 1050) and the capture of the ark (I Sam 4), which was returned after a plague and layed in neglect at Kerjath-Jearim (1 Sam. 5-7).**

**Three traditions about Saul’s becoming a “king”:**

- 1. Pro-monarchy tradition (I Sam. 9:1-10:16)  
Saul privately annointed by Samuel at Ramah.**
- 2. Acclamation at Gilgal by the people after the  
Defeat of Ammon (1 Sam. 11).**



3. **Anti-monarchy tradition (1 Sam. 7:3-8:22; 10:17-27; 12) Saul's election at Mizpah.**

**Significant texts related to saul:**

**I Sam 15:11, "I repent that I made Saul king .."**

**(Note 15:35; cf. Gen 6:6, "God repented")**

**I Sam 15:30, "then he said" probably belongs to 15:29, Reflecting Saul's thought, rather than a contradiction between 15:11 and 15:29.**

**I Sam 15:22, "to obey is better than sacrifice."**

**But what if the obedience calls for human sacrifice?**

**I Sam 16:14, "an evil spirit from the Lord."**

**(cf. Deut 32:39; Isaiah 45:7; Sirach 11:14; Tobit 13:2). [*ra`* "sick, bad, evil"]**

**I Sam 24:10, "I will not put forth my hand against my lord (*'adon*), for he is the messiah of YHWH."**

**On the institution of *herem* (not to be confused with *harem*) note the Moabite inscription (lines 15-20), where Mesha, King of Moab, to satisfy the Moabite god Chemosh, "devoted" 7,000 Israelites.**

### **Saul and David**

1. **David the son of Jesse killed Goliath (1 Sam 17:45-55)**
2. **Elhanan the son of *Ja`are 'oregim*, the one of the house of the bread (*bet hallahmi*) killed Goliath (II Sam 21:19)**
3. **Elhanan the son of *Ja`ir* killed Lahmi, Goliath's brother (*'et lahmi 'ahi galyat*) (I Chron 20:5)**

**Was “David” a title (“champion”) used elsewhere for others?**

**Was every reference to “David” referring to David ben Jesse?**

**Was David's personal name “Elhanan” and his regnal name “David”?**

**Is *ja`are* an error for *ja`ir* and are both errors for *jesse*.**

**ישי יער יער יעיר יערי**

**Is *'oregim* a dittography or a word play from the stems:**

- (1) *rgm* “stone, grave stone, to stone, kill by stoning”**
- (2) *'rg* “to weave, a reference to the weaver’s beam”**

## **THE UNITED MONARCHY: KING DAVID (1000-961)**

**King Eshbaal / Ishbaal, son of Saul (2 Sam 2:8ff.)**

**Gilead, Galilee, Esdraelon, Central Palestine.**

**King David, king over Judah with anointing at Hebron (2 Sam 2:1-4).**

**Eshbaal was murdered (2 Sam 4) -- the first of many Assassinations:**

**(A) 4 kings inherited the throne and were murdered:**

**Nadab, Elah, Zechariah, Pekahiah.**

**(B) 3 kings who were assassins were assassinated**

**Or met violent death: Zimri, Shallum, Pekah.**

**(C) plus the violence done to or by Ahab, Omri and Jehu.**

**David annointed king over Israel at Hebron (2 Sam 5:1-3)**

**David: the man of war (1 Chron 22:6-8; 28:2-3).**

**Edom and Moab: compare 2 Sam. 8:1-15; I Kings 11:15-17;  
22:47 with Deut. 2:3-4; 23:7; Obadiah.**

**David: the man of love:**

**7 wives (1 Chron 3:1-5)**

**10 mistresses (2 Sam 12:8; 15:16)**

**19 sons by his wives + unknown number from others**

**1 daughter known by name, Tamar.**

**David, the murderer (II Sam 11:1-12:15, esp. 12:10,  
“The sword shall not depart from your house”).**

**David's family affairs:**

**Rape of Tamar (II Sam 13:1ff.)**

**Murder of Amnon (II Sam 13:23ff.)**

**Death of Absalom (II Sam 18:33)**

**Death of Daniel/Chileab (1 Chron. 3:1; 2 Sam. 3:2**

**“King” Adonijah executed (1 Kings 1:22ff.; 2:23-25)**

**Last words to Solomon: “kill!” (1 Kings 2:6).**

**“David” as a messianic figure:**

**Psalm 89:1-37 “his line shall endure for ever.”**

**I Sam.13:14 “a man after god's heart”(Acts 13:22).**

**Psalm 89:38-52 “thou hast rejected the covenant.”**

**I Kings 11:11 “tear the kingdom from you .”**

**I Kings 14:8 “I tore the kingdom away from**

**the house of David”** (cf. I Sam. [Saul]; I Kings 14:10 [Jereboam]).

### **Solomon (c. 961-922)**

**Solomon had few foreign enemies (1 Kings 11:14, 21-26)  
Fighting was restricted to “all in the family.”  
He executed Adonijah, Joab, and Shimei (1 Kings 2:25, 29, 46).**

**Solomon had 700 wives and 300 (1 Kings 11:1-7).  
He was not a sexual giant but politically astute.  
Widows and non-brides, due to David's casualties,  
were taken into the kings court as “royal welfare”  
recipients.**

**Solomon’s wisdom (1 Kings 4:29-34):**

**Prayer dream for wisdom (1 Kings 3:3-15).**

**[note the following texts dealing with  
wisdom: Proverbs 3:13-18; Isaiah 29:13;  
I Cor 1:19 (quoting Eliphaz), 27; 3:19.]**

**Judgment of the two harlots (1 Kings 3:16-28).**

**3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs.**

**The poems he uttered were perhaps ones he collected.**

**Solomon's folly:**

**Foreign wives and foreign gods (I Kings 11:4).**

**Economic expansion requiring slave labor**

**I Kings 9:20-22, no Israelite slaves; but**

**I Kings 5:13-18 acknowledges, “a levy of forced**

labor (mas = מַס) out of all Israel.”  
Samuel’s words became true (1 Sam.8:10-18) as  
Solomon displays opulence (1 Kings 10:23-29).  
Rehoboam acknowledged, “my father chastised you  
with whips” (1 Kings 12:11).  
Solomon set the stage for the divided kingdom:  
A return to the division attested at the time of  
Saul's death with King David of Judah and King  
Ishbaal of (north) Israel

## Bright Chapter 6

### Independent Israel and Judah

Digest of the annals of the Kings (I K 14:19, 29).

**“To your tents, O Israel!”** (I Kings 12:16).

Ahijah designates Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:29-39);  
Later he renounces him (1 Kings 14:1-16).  
Ahijah: against unity and dynasty.

Shemaiah dictates to Rehoboam (1 Kings 12:21-24).

**“The empire of David and Solomon was gone.”**

**Defection of Damascus**

**Philistines were free except for Gath**

**Ammon owed no allegiance to Israel**

**Moab enjoyed a brief period of freedom**

**Edom may have remained under Judah's control.**

**Rehoboam occupied Benjamin (1 Kings 14:30).**

**Invasion of Shishak (1 Kings 14:25-28)**

**Karnak inscription**

**Triumphal stele found at Megiddo.**

**Shishak's threat kept Israel safe from Judah/Rehoboam.**

**Zerah the Ethiopian (2 Chron 14:9-14) defeated by**

**Asa at Mareshah (2 Chron 11:8);**

**but Asa had to get help from Benhadad I to hold off Baasha  
(1 Kings 15:16-22).**

**Northern capitals: Shechem, Tirzah, Samaria**

**(1 Kings 16:24):**

**Northern shrines: Dan and Bethel**

**Golden bulls (1 Kings 12:28)**

**ANEP, pp. 163-170, 177-181.**

**Assurnasirpal II (884-860):**

**Tribute from Arvad, Byblos, Sidon, and Tyre.**

**“washed his weapons” in the Mediterranean.**

**The “house of Omri” (I Kings 16:23-28):**

**Marriage alliance with king of Tyre -- Jezebel.**

**Ahab captured and released Benhadad (I Kings  
21:35-43)**

**Jezebel, Naboth and Elijah of Gilead (I Kings 21).**

**Jezebel: worshipper of the Tyrian god, Baal Melqart, king of the underworld (the Canaanite *mot* means “death”).**

**Ahab and Elijah (1 Kings 21:19-29).**

**Elijah’s prophesy against Syria did not come true (2 Kings 13:17) Syria and Israel fell to assyria.**

**Ahab and Miciah ben Imlah (1 Kings 22)**

**Micaiah's (mis)perception of how heaven works.**

**Elisha’s propensity for violence: 2 Kings 3:26-27; 13:14; and one significant exception: 2 Kings 6:8-23.**

**Elisha and the coup d'etat against Ahab -- 2 Kings 9.**

**The bloodbath of Jehu -- 2 Kings 9:24-10:30**

**Mixed message from the prophets:**

**I Kings 14:10            2 Kings 9:6-10**

**I Kings 19:19           Hosea 1:4**

**I Kings 21:21.**

**Elisha and the healing of Naaman -- 2 Kings 5.**

**Athaliah's usurpation of the murderous Jehoram:**

**2 Kings 8:16-29; 11:1-21**

**2 Chronicles 21:2-4; 18-21; 22:11.**

**The Black Obelisk, ANEP, plate 355; ANET, 208.  
Jehu pays tribute to Shalmaneser III**

**Assassination of Amaziah after losing to Jehoash who  
plundered Jerusalem -- II Kings 14: 17-21.**

**The “Indian summer” before the Assyrian assault:  
resurgence under Uzziah of Judah (786-46) and  
Jeroboam II of Israel (783-42).**

**Rise of “classical prophecy.”**

## **Bright Chapter 7 Period of the Assyrian Conquest**

**1000-587 B. C. paralleled 500 years of power vacuum,  
with only temporary incursions by Assyria and Egypt.**

**Tiglath-pileser III (745-727):  
Conquest rather than tax gathering incursions  
resettlement of conquered into other provinces**

**Azariah of Yaudi = Azariah (Uzziah) of Judah  
ANET, p. 282.**

**Anarchy in Israel:  
[Zimri lasted only one month -- I k 16:15-23]  
Shallum lasted one month -- ii k 15:13-15**



**Menahem, the assassin, supported (?) by Tirzah**

**Atrocities in israel:**

**Isaiah 9:19            Hosea 7:1-7; 8:4; 10:3**

**II Kings 15:16        Amos 1:13**

**Hosea's hope: 2:16-23; 14:1-7.**

**Aramean-Israelite coalition:**

**Isaiah 7; 2 Kings 15:37; 16:5-6; 2 Chron 28:16-17.**

**Tiglath-pileser's destruction of the west:**

**734 Gaza, Wadi el-Arish**

**733 Israel invaded -- 2 Kings 15:29**

**732 Damascus destroyed -- 2 Kings 16:9**

**ANET, 282-284**

**724 Shalmaneser V brings Hoshea to submission**

**722 Sargon II destroyed Samaria**

**720 Hamath destroyed**

**ANET, 284-287**

**2 Kings 17:1-6.**

**27,290 deportees resettled into other provinces**

**“Israel's political history had ended.”**

**“Judah escaped but not as a free nation.”**

**“Ahaz had signed away his liberty.”**

**Isaiah: “reaffirmation of Davidic theology”**

**Micah: “uncompromising doom and unequivocal assurance”**

## **The inviolability of Jerusalem:**

**II Kings 19:29-35     Isaiah 10:24-27; 14:24-27;  
Isaiah 30:1-6; 31:4-9.  
Compare Jeremiah 26.**

## **Judah under Ahaz:**

**Syncretism: ii k16:2-4, 10-18; Isaiah 2:6-8;  
Isaiah 8:19f.; Micah 5:12-14.  
Child sacrifice: 2Kings 16:3; 17:31; Jeremiah 7:31.  
Poverty and corruption: Micah 2:1-9; 3:1-4, 9-11;  
Isaiah 1:21-23; 3:13-15; 5:1-8;  
5:23; 10:1-4.**

**Egypt's 25th dynasty -- the Ethiopian dynasty  
Piankhi and Tirhakah (2 Kings 19:9).**

## **Judah under Hezekiah:**

**Anti-assyrian patriotism (ANET, 286)  
Reforming yahwistic zeal (2 Kings 18)  
Covenant with David (2 Sam 7:14-17; Psalm 89)  
Messianic emphasis (Micah 5:2-6; Isaiah 9 and 11)  
Cultic reform (2 Kings 18:3-6; 2 Chron 29-31)  
Tel Arad (2 Kings 18:22)  
Restoration of 12 tribes (2 Chron 30:1-12;  
Isaiah 8:16ff.; 9:1-7)  
Rebellion against Sennacherib (2 Kings 18:8;  
20:12-19; Isaiah 39)  
Isaiah's warning (30:1-7; 31:1-3)  
Isaiah's support (14:24-27; 17:12-14; 31:4-9  
2 Kings 19:29ff.)  
Destruction of Lachish**

## **Hezekiah's capitulation (2 Kings 18:14-16)**

**Sennacherib and the bubonic (?) plague:**

**2 Kings 19:35; 20:12-19; Isaiah 39; Herodotus ii:41; Anet, 287-288.**

### **Bright, Chapter 8**

#### **The Kingdom of Judah: the Last Century**

**Vassal to Assyria, independence, subjugation to Egypt, Subjugation to Babylon, rebellion, destruction, exile.**

**Manesseh's reversal (687-642) of Hezekiah's policy --  
2 Kings 21:3-7; 23:4-7; Zephaniah 1:4f.**

**The prayer of Manesseh (Apocrypha, 219) and 2 Chron 33:15-19. Compare 2 Kings 21:9-15; 24:3; Jeremiah 15:1-4.**

**648 rebellious Babylon defeated by Assurbanipal  
Possible support by Assurbanipal for Manesseh  
(2 Chron 33:14)**

**627 Assurbanipal died**

**614 the fall of Assur to Babylon**

**612 the fall of Nineveh**

**610-609 final collapse of Assyria at Haran.**

**609 battle of Charchemisk**

**Necho opposes Babylon**

**Josiah supports Babylon**

## **Judah regains here independence**

**Manesseh's son, Amon, was assassinated --**

**2 Kings 21:19-26.**

**8 yr old Josiah placed on Judah's throne**

**8th year of his reign: policy shift-- 2 Chron 34:3**

**Samaria, Megiddo, Gilead re-annexed to Judah**

## **Josiah's reform in the 18th year of his reign:**

**2 Kings 3-25; 2 Chron 34:1-35:19.**

**Radical purge of idolatrous practices.**

**Execution of Kemarim priests (23:5).**

**Invitation to rural priests (23:8).**

**Resurgent nationalism: a free Davidic Israel.**

**Zephaniah and Jeremiah (5:21-30; 6:16-21).**

**“Nostalgic law code and novel Mosaic covenant”.**

**Death of Josiah (2 Kings 23:29f.; 2 Chron 35:20-4).**

## **Judah as an Egyptian vassal:**

**Jehoahaz deposed/deported by Necho**

**Brother Eliakim (=Jehoiakim) enthroned**

**Use of forced-labor for palace work (Jeremiah 22:13-19).**

**“Eternal security” –Jeremiah 5:12; 7:4; 14:13.**

**Jehoiakim against Jeremiah (Jeremiah 22:13-19)**

**605 Nebuchadnezzar defeated Egypt at Carchemish.**

**603/2 Jehoiakim become vassal to Nebuchadnezzar.**

**(2 Kings 24:1)**

**601 Jehoiakim rebels against Nebuchadnezzar.**

**598 Babylonian army marches against Jehoiakim, who died (assassinated ?) -- Jeremiah 8f.**

**18 yr old son Jehoiachin comes to the throne.**

**597 (March 16) Jerusalem surrendered:  
Jehoiachin reigned for only 3 months.  
“Pensioner” in Babylon, *Anet*, p, 308.  
First deportation to Babylon (2 Kings 24:10-17).  
Uncle Mattaniah (= Zedekiah) installed.**

**King Zedekiah:**

**Well intentioned but weak (Jer 37:17-14; 38:5).  
P. R. conscious (Jer 38:19).  
Zedekiah, Jeremiah and Hananiah.  
Ebed Melek and Baruch.**

**588 blockade of Jerusalem (Lachish Letter 3-4).  
587 fall of Jerusalem and the second deportation  
(2 Kings 25:2ff.; Jeremiah 54:5f).  
582 the third deportation.**

**Assassination of the governor, Gadaliah.**

## **Bright, Chapter 9 Exile and Restoration**

**Inadequate picture provided in biblical sources, in  
Lamentations, Ezra, Nehemiah,  
I Esdras (LXX [Septuagint], Chronicles of Ezra).**

**Population went from 250,00 to 20,000  
(Albright, *Biblical Period*, 47, n.75).  
4,600 exiles (Jer 52:28-36; cf. 2 Kings 24:14, 16) in  
interment.**

**No importees as the Assyrians introduced into Samaria.  
Edomites south of Beth-Zur (1 Esdras 4:50).  
Jehoiachin “on pension” (Jer 52:31-34 = 2 Kings 25:27-30).  
Jeremiah at Daphne (Jer 43:7).**

**Elephantine Jewish community (possibly syncretistic). 377**

**Shattered dogmas: king, zion, etc. (Lam 2:14; Isa 37:33-36;  
cf. Jer 4:9-10; 7:4; 21:8).**

**New focus on torah and tradition: sabbath and  
circumcision.**

**Ezekiel's civitas dei (40-48): theocracy**

**44:9-32**

**Zadokite priesthood**

**45:1ff.**

**Subordinate king**

**Utopian program.**

**Fall of Babylon:**

**Nebuchadnezzar entered Egypt (568).**

**Amel-Marduk = Evil/Amel Merodach (Jer 52:31).**

**Nabonidus:**

**Sin, the moon god**

**10 year residence in Teima**

**Prime minister Belshazzar cared for the realm.**

**Rise of Cyrus:**

**550 Ecbatana fell**

**547 Sardis (Lydia) fell**

**539 Babylon fell.**

**Second Isaiah: “greatest of all”**

**Chapters 40-55 before 539**

**Chapters 56-66 after the return).**

**Reinterpretation of faith (role of David, monotheism).**

**Messiah Cyrus and edic of restoration (Ezra 1:2-4; 6:1-3).**

**Cultural autonomy**

**The “servant poems” (42:1-4 [5-9]; 49:1-6 [7]; 50:4-9 [10f];  
52:13-53:12; 61:1-3). 359**

**Shesh-bazzar = Shenazzar = \*Sin-ab-usur = Sanabassar.**

**Josephus, *Antiquities* xi, I, 3 (p. 346) “unwilling to leave”.**

**Ezra 3:6-11; Zech 4:9 -- Zerubbabel laid the foundations,**

**Ezra 5:16 Sheshbazzar -- laid the foundations.**

**Ezra 6:13-18 temple rebuilt by March 515!**

**Darius (522-486) brought Persia to its zenith:**

**Suez canal (Rogers, *History of Persia*, 110-120)**

**Behistun inscription (ibid., 97).**

**Messianic hope of Haggai (1:1-11; 2:15-19; 2:20-23)**

**Zechariah (1:17; 2:1-5, 11;**

**4:1-6a, 10b-1; 6:9-15).**

**Bright, Chapter 10**

**Jewish Community in the Fifth Century**

**Xerxes (486-465): razed Babylon's esagila, melted Marduk,  
and bridged the Hellespont (480)**

**Captured athens, burned the acropolis  
Persian fleet destroyed near samos  
Assassination after ousted from europe.**

**Biblical sources: Nehemiah, Ezra 4:6-23; Obadiah, Malachi.  
Failure of the Davidic state to materialize (Zerubbabel).**

**Census: 42,360 + 7,337 + 245 = 49,942 (Ezra 2:64-66).**

**Rule from Samaria (Mal 1:8; Ezra 4:12; Neh 12:10, 26).**

**Elephantine Jewish community: *anat-yahu, anat-bethel*, etc.**

**Enmity of Edom (Bright's bias, p. 379/378).**

**Rebuilding of fortifications under Artaxerxes I (465-424):  
Ezra 4:7-23 and Neh 1:3.**

**Intermarriage and edict of divorce:**

**Neh 3:23 ff.; Mal 2:11 ff.; Ezra 10.**

**Nehemiah's career: 445-433 and 431-428/7 (two terms).**

**Golden age of Athens.**

**The Peloponesian wars (431-404).**

**“Most certainly a eunuch” (Bright, p. 382)?**

**I. Delegation of December 445 (Neh 1:1-3)**

**He left immediately (?) or in 440 (Josephus).**

**Wall completed december, 437, after 52 days of work**

**(Compare Josephus xi: v: 8 “two years**

**And four months” with Neh 6:15) (12:27-43).**

**Sanballat, “Yahwist” governor of Samaria (Neh 13:28)**

**Tobiah, “Yahwist” governor of Ammon (Neh 6:18).**

**ii. Eliashib installed Tobiah in the temple (13:4-9).**

**Ousted him, closed the gates on sabbath, etc.**



**The career of Ezra the scribe: uncertainty about date:  
Started in 458 (Ezra 7:7, 7th year of Artaxerxes I)  
(13 years before Nehemiah completed  
his work).**

**or 428 ("7th year" was a scribal error for 37th of  
Artaxerxes I, after wall was completed).**

**or 398 (the 7th year of Artaxerxes II,  
long after Nehemiah)**

**Regularize Jewish religious practice (Ezra 7:12-26)**

**Cult personnel exempt from taxes (7:24)**

**"Minister of state for Jewish affairs" (7:25 ff.)**

***Soper* "scribe" or *sapiru* "governor".**

**Nehemiah 8 follows chronologically after Ezra's arrival;**

**Nehemiah 10, represents the conclusion of both men.**

**Ezra's ministry lasted only one year! (XI: V: 5)**

**Legend in II (IV) Esdras: recreated entire scripture.**

**Transition from political nation to "Torah community"**

**Mark of a Jew was adherence to the Torah.**

## **Bright, Chapter Eleven**

### **End of the Old Testament Period**

**"Blackout" on the Jews from 400-333 B. C.**

**Neh 12:10-11, 22; 1 Chron 3:17-24; 2 Chron 36:22 ff.**

**No knowledge of governors or high priests!**

**Josephus xi:vii ff.**

**End of Persian rule: Artaxerxes I died in 424**

**Xerexes II assassinated by son**

**Darius II - 423-404**

**Peloponesian wars ended 404.**

**Artaxerexes II - 404-358**

**His brother (Cyrus) tried to assassinate him**

**Battle with and killed Cyrus at Cunaxa**

**10,000 defeated Greek mercenaries of Cyrus**

**Retreat to Black Sea: Xenophon's Anabasis**

**Artaxerexes III slew all rivals**

**Burned Sidon (Jidejian, pp. 50-53;**

**Diodorus 16:41, 4f.)**

**Poisoned by son and successor**

**Arses - 338-336**

**Poisoned and all children slain**

**Darius III - 336-331**

**Rise of Philip of Macedon who, when murdered, was  
succeeded by Alexander the Great (336-323).**

**333 Battle of Issus. Darius abandoned family.**

**Seven month seige of Tyre.**

**Entered Egypt without resistance.**

**Hananiah may have succeeded Nehemiah (Neh 7:2).**

**Hananiah of Elephanntine #419 was possibly his brother.**

**In 410 Persian Bagoas (Bagohi) was governor of Judah.**

**High priest Johanan (grandson of Eliashib) murdered his  
brother Joshua within the temple in a power struggle.**

**(Josephus xi:vii, 1)**

**Jaddua ben Johanan is the Chronicler's last high priest**

**Elephantine letters: *Anet* 492; Cowley # 33; Kraeling #12.**

**Rise of the Samaritans as a separate religious community.**

**Josephus xi:vii “inconsistency” and papyri.**

**Sanballat III possibly governor of Darius III.**

**Destruction of Samaria by Alexander.**

**Skeletal remains at Wadi Daliyeh.**

**Samaritans rebuild Shechem.**

**Rise of Aramaic and the Aramaic script.**

## **Bright, Chapter Twelve Judaism at the End of the O. T. Era**

**Redefinition of the term “Israel”.**

**The remnant of Judah which rallied around Torah.**

**Non-canonical Jewish writings:**

**(1) Apocrypha: Maccabees, Ecclesiasticus, etc.**

**(2) Pseudepigrapha: Jubilees, Enoch, etc.**

**Growth of the Hebrew canon:**

**(1) *Torah* (“teaching,” not “law” per se).**

**(2) prophets (major and minor is quantitative).**

**(3) writings (not defined until Jamnia in 90 ad).**

**“Law” (*torah*) surpassed prophecy's function.**

## **Dogma of Aaronic priesthood**

**Sirach 45:6-24; 50:1-21**

**Ezekiel 44:10-25**

**Exodus 1 ff, 43**

**High priest lineage was from Eleazer Ben Aaron...Ben Levi  
(Num 3:32; 25:11ff; 35:25, 28; Nehemiah 12:10-11)**

**Ordinary priest = sons of Aaron – cult specialists  
(Ex 28:1; 41; 29:9; Lev 1:5-8; Num 3:10; 18:7)  
24 families, 16 of which were Zadok Ben Eleazar  
8 of which were Ithamar Ben Aaron**

**Low grade priests were the Levites:  
(Num 3:12-13, 41, 45; 8:14-17; etc.)  
20-50 age bracket according to 1 Chron 3:24  
25-50 “ Num 8:23-26  
30-50 “ Num 4:  
[Nethunim in Num 3:9; different from the  
Nethinim in Neh 7:60 or Ezra 2:58]**

**Nation = priests: Ex 19:6; Lev 11:44 ff.; Num 15:40.**

**Origin of the scribe and wisdom teacher.  
Origin of the synagogue.**

**Absolutizing of the Torah: eternal and immutable  
(Psalm 119:89, 160; Sirach 16:26; Jubilees 1-3).  
“Mechanical conformity” was never the aim.**

**The particularistic vs. the universalistic.  
Theological reflection in early Judaism:  
Rule and providence of God  
Angels and intermediaries  
Evil and divine justice (devil and demons)**

**Eschatology and apocalyptic  
Judgment and after life.**

## **Jews under the Ptolemies**

**Ptolemy seized control of Egypt;**

**Seleucus seized control of Babylonia/Syria**

**Capital cities: Alexandria and Seleucia and Antioch**

**Battle of Ipsos (301) give Palestine/Phoenicia to Ptolemy**

**100 year rule**

**Zeno papyri (Fayyum discovery)**

**Zeno, agent of the finance minister of Ptolomey II  
(Philadelphus) (285-246).**

**Two letters from a Tobiah of Ammon**

**Ptolemies apparently did not interfere with Judah's affairs**

**Jewish population in Egypt grew by leaps and bounds**

**1,000,000 by 1st century A. D.**

**Alexandria became center of world Jewry.**

**Greek became the language of the Egyptian Jews.**

**The LXX -- Septuagint**

**Rise of the Selucid Antiochus III (the Great)**

**223-187**

**Followed by**

**Seleucus IV (187-175)**

**Antiochus IV (175-163)**

**Selucid power from Asia Minor to India.**

**Struggle with Ptolemy IV (Philopator) and**

**Antiochus IV (Epiphanes).**

**Defeat of the latter at Baniyas (Panum) in 198.**

**Jews of Jerusalem welcomed Antiochus with open arms:**

**(Josephus xii:iii, 3f.)**

**Tax reductions by 1/3**

**3 year grace period**

**Clergy exemption and state aid for the cult**

**Exemption for elders and scribes**

**Hannibal, defeated at Zama in 202, encouraged**

**Antiochus III to enter Greece. Rome responded,  
humiliating Antiochus at Magnesia / Apamea.**

**Antiochus killed while robbing an Elamite temple to pay  
Rome**

**(Daniel 11:18-20).**

**Antiochus IV (Epiphanes), who had been a hostage to Rome,**

**“Felt desperate need to unify his people for the  
defense of the realm,” via the Hellenization of all.**

**Hellenization of the East:**

**Sebaste (Samaria)**

**Philoteria (S. Galilee)**

**Philadelphia (Amman)**

**Scythopolis (Beth-Shan)**

**Ptolemais (Acre)**

**Sports and the cult of Heracles/Hermes (2 Macc 4:18-20)**

**Resistance to Hellenization:**

**Pirke Aboth 1:3 (3rd century A. D. with old material)**

**Antigonus of Socho the Proto-Saducean**

**High priest Onias III was in Antioch when Seleucus IV was  
assassinated (2 Macc 4:1-6);**

**Only to have brother Joshua/Jason displace him by offering  
Antiochus IV money and promises of Hellenization**

**(I Macc 1:11-15; 2 Macc 4:10-15).**

**Joshua/Jason outbidded by Menelaus (2 Macc 3:4; 4:23)  
who funded his campaign with stolen temple vessels and  
had the protesting Onias assassinated**

**(2 Macc 4:27-32; 4:33-38).**

**Jason (with 1,000 men) revenged Menelaus, but it ended  
in a massacre and his flight from Jerusalem**

**(1 Macc 1:17-24; 2 Macc 5: 5-20).**

**Antiochus ordered out of Egypt by Rome (Daniel 11:29).**

**The proscription of Judaism**

**(I Macc 1:41-64; 2 Macc 6:1-11)**

**Disobedience carried the death penalty**

**(I Macc 2:29-38; 2 Macc 6:18-7:42; 4 Macc)**

**Apollonius, commander of Mysian mercenaries, plundered  
Jerusalem.**

**Erection of the citadel “Acra” for a Selucid garrison.**

**“Acra” was viewed as a garrison of Hellenized pagans and  
renegade Jews (1 Macc 3:45; 6:21-24; 11:21; 14:36).**

**“The abomination of desolation”**

**Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11**

**December, 167**

**Cult of olympian zeus introduced in the temple**

**I Macc 1:54**

**Samaritan temple dedicated to Zeus Xenius**

**II Macc 6:2**

**Josephus xii:v, 5.**

## **The Book of Daniel**

**The Macabbean revolt -- a guerrilla war against the Selucids**

**In the village of Modein the priestly Mattathias Ben Johanan Ben Simeon Ben Asamoneus rebelled (I Macc 2:1-28).**

**His five sons: John, Simon, Judas (the “hammer”), Eleazar, and Jonathan (I Macc 2:42f.) were joined by the Hasadim. Victory at Emmaus and Beth-Zur (I Macc 3:42 - 4:59).**

**December, 164 the temple was rededicated**

**The feast of dedication -- Hanukkah (1 Macc 4:36 ff.)**

### **Bright, Epilogue**

**Maccabean revolt as “ending” and “beginning”**

**Hasmonean “priest-kings”**

**John Hyrcanus (135-104)**

**Roman conquest: 63 B. C.**

**Revolts against Rome: 66-70**

**and 132-135 A. D by Bar Cochba**

**Tannaitic period: 1st cent. B. C. E to 3rd cent. C. E.**

**Samaritans:**

**Note Bright's bias: “relic” and “peculiar fossil”**



**Qumran:**

**Continued the Hasidic tradition, akin to the Essenes.**

**Sadducees:**

**Priestly aristocracy and secular nobility.**

**Pharisees:**

**Punctilious in their observance of the law, but had a larger “canon” and an obligatory “oral law”; chary of apocalypticism and revolutionary activity.**

**Hasidim:**

**Zeal for the law, no compromise with Hellenism; struggle for religious liberty more than political independence.**

**Zealots:**

**fanatically brave and reckless men . . . strike for independence against whatever odds, trusting in God.**

**Essenes:**

**lived in eschatological tension awaiting the imminent consummation. Zadokite members and apocalyptic elements.**

**Talmud:**

**Mishnah: oral law**

**Gemarah: commentary on the oral law**

**Haggadah: narrative theology and interpretation**

**Halakah: legal interpretations**

# **Targum: Aramaic translation/interpretation(s) of the Hebrew *Tanach***