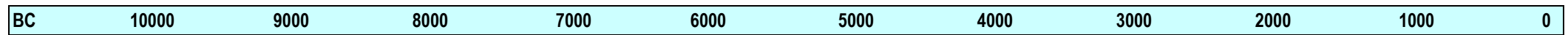




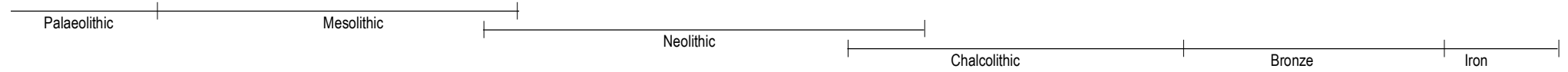
HISTORY OF SYRIA AND PALESTINE FROM THE PALAEOOLITHIC AGE TO 100 AD



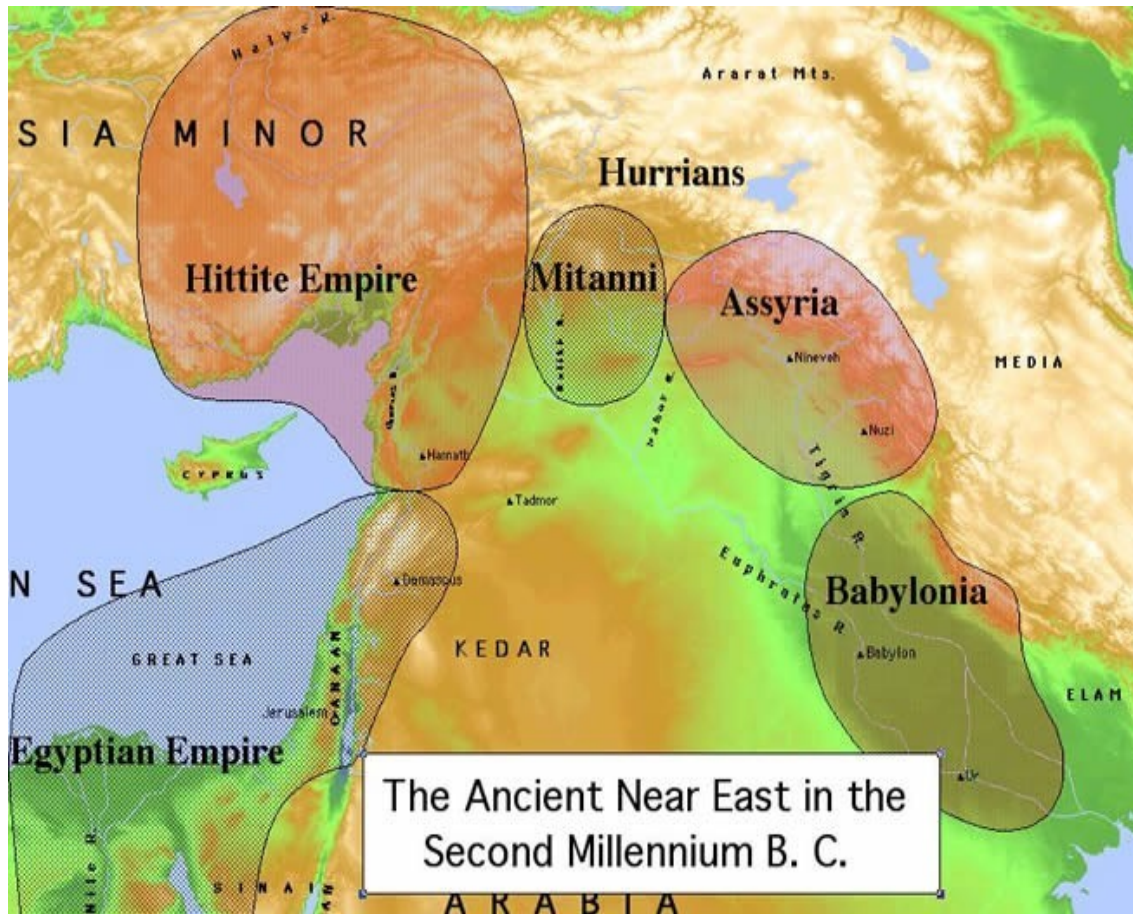
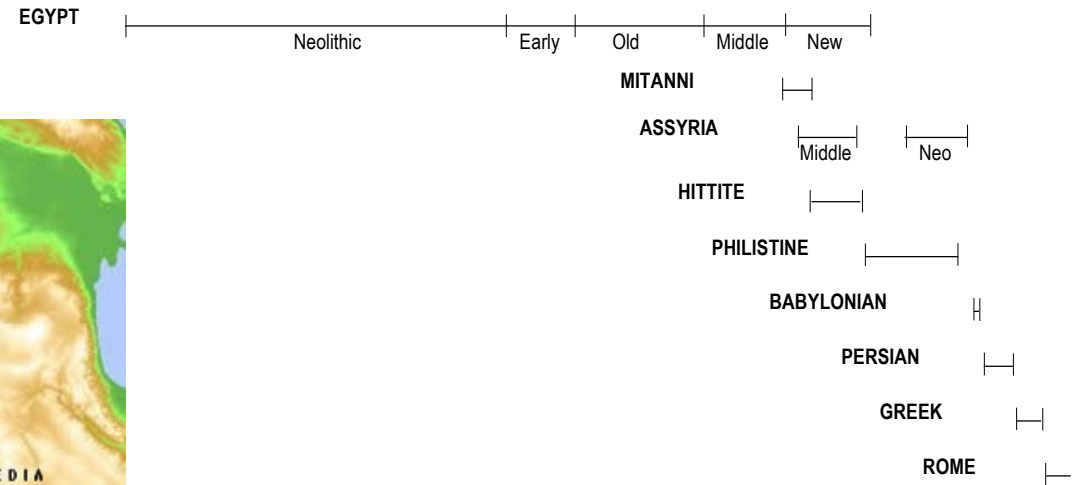
TIMELINE OF MAJOR PERIODS (to scale)



AGES in Syria-Palestine region (approximate)



EMPIRES :



Hittite chariots



PALAEOLITHIC
(Old stone age; 'paleo' = old, 'lithic' = stone)

- * Glacial ice from last ice age retreats
- * Primitive man; lived on natural resources
- * Migrated to get plant/animal food
- * Man a hunter-gatherer
- * Had simple stone implements, e.g. type found in Mt Carmel caves
- * Syria-Palestine man not much different from man in Eurasia



Palaeolithic wood hut (in France)



Stone tools



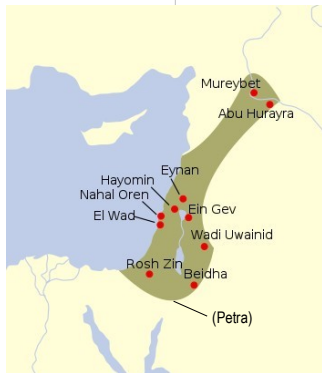
MESOLITHIC
(Middle stone age; 'meso' = between)

- * Between old and new stone ages = transition from hunter-gatherer to settlements
- * Man begins to control environment → cultivate, especially wheat, barley → agriculture
- herd and breed animals
- * Settlements begin in South (not North) Syria and Palestine (culture known as **Natufian**) → as far South as (modern) Petra
- * Settlements also in North Iraq and Anatolia



Mesolithic agriculture

- * **Jericho** one of oldest towns; shows changes over time:
 - * ~ 9000 Jericho one of first major settlements; shows full sequence from palaeolithic to neolithic – huts → brick houses → town with wall by ~8000



Spread of Natufian culture

- * Fully settled neolithic culture based on agriculture and herding

- * ~ 7000 Other smaller neolithic settlements in Palestine, Syria, NE Iraq, Anatolia

- * ~ 6500 settlements in North Syria → spreads

Neolithic village



- * ~ 6000 – 5000 Forest cover of Syria decreases → stock-breeding

- * ~ 6000 Relatively uniform culture over Syria-Palestine

- * **Pottery:** ~6800 Simple clay-pottery appears in Anatolia → 6000 true fired pottery, e.g. in Ugarit (Ras Sharma) → spreads → 5000 Byblos → 4500 Palestine



Halafian pottery

NEOLITHIC
(New stone age; 'neo' = new)

CHALCOLITHIC
('chalc' = copper)

- * ~5300 Chalcolithic **Halafian** culture in Mesopotamia (Khabur river region); introduction of copper tools, weapons → spreads to Mediterranean coast → age of trade, craftsmen, less self-sufficiency → needs support of population

- * ~ 4500 Halafian influence gone



Chalcolithic mine in Palestine

- * ~4300 beginning of town life in Mesopotamia → later city states (3rd millennium)

- * **Palestine:** Neolithic overlaps with chalcolithic newcomers from NE – primitive villagers and copper artisans; Palestine absorbing earlier Halafian culture

- * **Syria** backward area at this time; decrease in settlements



Ancient Mari

- By ~3000 Syria-Palestine now have more village populations



Sculpture of 5th dynasty scribe

EARLY BRONZE AGE
(bronze = alloy of copper/tin)

- * ~3000, many towns and city states; some of them walled, e.g. Arad, Megiddo, Jericho, Byblos, Mari

- * Interaction of towns with Euphrates valley to west and Egypt to SW

- ~ 2500 Mari an important Syrian city-state

By late in 3rd millennium, towns in Syria, Palestine and Mesopotamia have Semitic rulers due to incursions of Semitic people from Syrian desert; most of population = previous indigenous populations

- * ~2700-2300: very prosperous time for Syria-Palestine towns
- * Newcomers from NE to North Syria → more copper working → bronze weapons



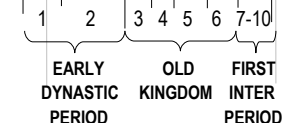
Pyramids at Giza

By 3000, trade and some control in Palestine and coastal Syria, e.g. Arad bitumen from Dead Sea, wood from Byblos (port)

EGYPT

Neolithic arrives later; recipient of progress. Copper to Egypt from Palestine

DYNASTIES:



* ~2000 phonetic alphabet evolved

SYRIA and PALESTINE

----> Amorites into Syria

Amorites into Palestine

* **Amorites** (=Amurru) from Arabia, break into Mesopotamia, Syria (2200-2000) and Palestine (2300-1900) → disrupt previous civilisations → become Semitic

* Destruction of Jericho and other places → new settlements

Egypt

* Amorites assimilate in Byblos and coastal areas → new culture (area known as Canaan after 1200)

* Rulers are universally Semitic with a substratum of indigenous neolithic/chaldolithic population



Bronze age implements

* Hurrians from Eastern Anatolia migrate to Mesopotamia



Asiatics entering Egypt ~1900

* trade with Byblos resumes

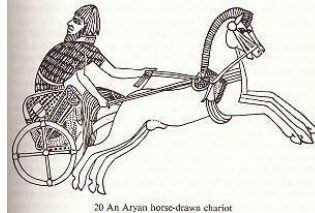
* many Asiatics attracted to trade with Egypt; settle in Eastern delta
* close ties with Palestine and coastal Syria

MIDDLE BRONZE AGE (in Syria-Palestine)

* Written records appear from Egypt and Mesopotamia → unified culture from Mediterranean coast to Euphrates (river), connected by city states, e.g: Mari, Carchemisch, Aleppo, Qatna, Alalakh, Ugarit (Ras Shamra), Byblos through trade with Mesopotamia and Egypt

* About this time, other Semitic tribes from the Syrian desert → effects as far as Euphrates. Might include the 'Hapiru' (?= Hebrew) – a social class of bandits, mercenaries, vagabonds, or peddlers rather than an ethnic group

* Hurrians now spread from east of Tigris to Syria; still a minority. Later, part of the Mitanni [Hurrians invented the horse-drawn chariot]

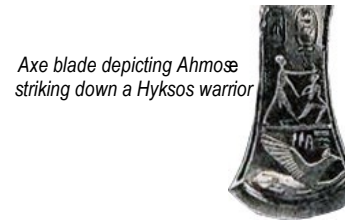


Hurrian chariot

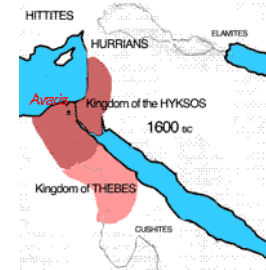
* Semitic Hyksos spread into in Egypt (probably because of migration over time, not due to invasion)

*~ 1720 Semitic chiefs called Hyksos make Avaris their capital

* 1674 Memphis falls to Hyksos



Axe blade depicting Ahmose striking down a Hyksos warrior



Egypt - 15th - 17th dynasties: Hyksos/Thebes

* Use of Babylonian cuneiform writing; Egyptian hieroglyphs familiar in region



Relief of Ahmose defeating Hyksos in battle

* ~1600 North Syria now a united state - **Mitanni** → strong by ~1550

* 1580-1550 **Kamose** (last ruler 17th dynasty) starts to expel Hyksos (?just leaders) to southern Palestine; other settlers become slaves; expulsion finished by his brother Ahmose

* Ahmose (1570 – 1546) first ruler of 18th dynasty. Attacks Palestine: meets resistance

* Amenhotep I (1546 – 1526) directs attention to south of Egypt as Mitanni strong

*Thutmose I (1525-1512 to Syria (unstable period) and West Euphrates - only tentative hold at first

* Thutmose II (1512-1504)

EGYPT:

MIDDLE KINGDOM

SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

NEW KINGDOM

11th dynasty (2055-1985)

12th dynasty (1995-1795)

* capital near Memphis
* prosperous period: peace literature flourished

(1795-1650)

13th dynasty
14th dynasty (minor rulers)

* 13th dynasty: viziers have power over kings
* central control collapses partly because of foreigners in delta

(1650-1570) 15th dynasty
Hyksos in north

16th (minor Hyksos rulers) in south
* 17th dynasty not under control of high officials
* peaceful interaction with Hyksos at first

17th dynasty at Thebes

18th dynasty (1570-1300)

LATE BRONZE AGE

IRON AGE

EGYPT NEW KINGDOM

18th dynasty (1570 ~1300)

19th dynasty (1300 ~ 1186)

20th dynasty (1186 ~ 1086)

ASSYRIAN EMPIRE (1500 - 1200)

HITTITE EMPIRE (in Syria) (1400 ~ 1150)

* Palestine (< 1500) proto-alphabet

* Hapshesut (Queen 1503-1482) (daughter of Thutmose II; joint rule with Thutmose II) Egypt's power in Asia decreases; power of Mitanni increases

* Thutmose III (1504-1450)

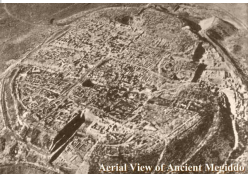
* 1480 Thutmose III – Battle of Megiddo → Egyptian firm control over Palestine (for 100+ years)

* Several revolts by Mitanni in Syria and Palestine



Thutmose III

* ? 1448 Amenhotep II (1450-1425) takes 70000 captives from Palestine to Egypt (?or perhaps just a census of captives)



Ancient Megiddo

* 1425 Thutmose IV (1425-1417) peace treaty with Mitanni (Khatti & later Hittite threat) → Egypt controls Levant to Ugarit; Mitanni control N. and NW. Syria

* Amenhotep IV (1417-1379)

* Hittites (from Anatolia) become a power; Egypt weaker

* 1365 Hittites conquer most of Syria: Mitanni defeated; no full control; some, e.g. Amurru (~ Lebanon) seek independence

* 1360 Hittites gain full control of Syria → vassal city states (~60 years); too strong for Egypt (have vassal states in lower Syria)

Egyptian & Hittite empires c. time of Battle of Kadesh



Relief of Ramses II located in Abu Simbel, depicted fighting at the Battle of Kadesh

* Seti I (? 1306 – 1290) → control over Palestine

* 1274: Ramses II (?1290 – 1224) Battle of Kadesh → border of Egypt and Hittite empires (Syria under Hittite control)

* ~ 1258 Ramses II treaty with Hittites due to rising Assyria in region

* 1270 (?) Major Hebrew exodus from Egypt

[still wars; economic boom in Syria & Palestine; Hittites & Egyptians control trade. resources]

* 1230 Hebrews begin control of Palestine - 12 'tribes' ----->



The Kadesh peace agreement, the earliest written international agreement of any kind



Hittite chariot ~1400



Mitanni empire (brown) at greatest extent ~1400

* ~ 1200 period of turmoil → new groups - Sea Peoples (from Aegean, S. Anatolia) & Philistines (from Asia Minor) attack Egypt, destroy Levant → end of Egypt in Asia

* ~1180 Hittites in Syria destroyed by Neo/Syro-Hittite states (north Syria and south Anatolia) → last until ~700

* Canaanite culture → Phoenician coast → five city-states (from Byblos to south); last until ~ 300

* Philistines introduce iron; cities last to ~ 700 ; iron weapons not common in Syria & Palestine until 1st millennium - Philistines only aggressive as Israel grows

* ~1200 Israelites able to take towns; occupation complete: 1200 ----- period of Judges in Israel -----> 1020

* Other groups established in Levant/Syria as independent kingdoms: Aramaeans, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites



Incursions of the Sea Peoples

PHILISTINES (1200 ~ 700)

* Period of Assyrian weakness

* Egypt & Hittites also very weak

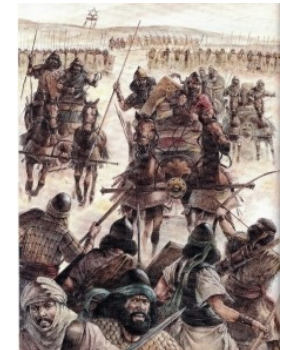


Philistine armour

* 1100 Tiglath-Pileser I of Assyria fails to subjugate neo-Hittites

* Saul's reign (? 1020 – 1010) Philistines defeat Saul; Ark captured

* Aramaeans: (desert nomads/Semitic from South Syria) now well established in Levant



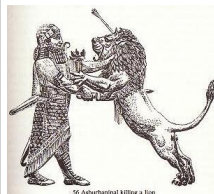
Depiction of Aramaean tribes in battle

PHILISTINES(1200 ~ 700)



The region ~850

* Ashurnasirpal II (884 – 860)
* Shalmaneser III (859 – 824)



Ashurnarsipal killing a lion

* Assyrian recovery

* 876 Assyria defeats N. Syrian states → tribute from Phoenician city states (Tyre, Sidon) [Ashurnasirpal];

* 870 Ahab (Israel) & Jezebel (Tyre)

* 853 Assyrians halted by Aramaeans & Phoenicians [Shalmaneser]

* 814 Phoenicians establish Carthage & ~50 trade colonies
* Assyrians conquer all inland Syria; Damascus destroyed: tribute from Phoenicia, Israel, Philistia; * 804



Assyrian lion 8th C

IRON AGE (1200- ? 539)

NEO- ASSYRIAN EMPIRE (900 – 612)

* Tiglath-Pileser III (745 – 727)
* Sargon II (727 – 705)
* Sennacherib (705 -681)

* Phoenicians spread alphabet to Greece → Etruscans → Rome → ...

* 800 ~ 750 Israel prospers; peaceful



Tiglath-Pileser III

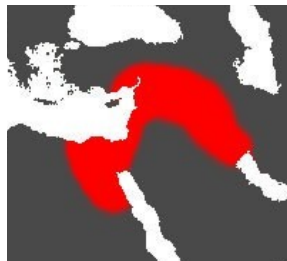
* 753 Founding of Rome
* 738 Israel → tribute to Assyria

Israel & Damascus * 732 revolt; Israel annexed

Samaria falls (Sargon II) * 722
Israel ceases to exist; inhabitants deported; Judah → vassal state (~100 years)

[8th and 7th C – destruction of Phoenician & other cities & deportation of inhabitants]
Israel prospers ~50 years peace

* 776 First Olympic Games



Maximum extent of Assyrian empire ~660

Nabopolassar (625 - 605)

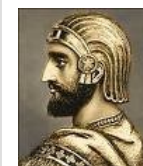
* Nebuchadnezzar (605 - 562)

Cyrus II (the Great) (549 – 530)

* Darius I (522 -486)

* 597 Babylonians capture & destroy Jerusalem → 'Exile'; puppet king installed

[Edomites move west to Judah → 'Idumaea']



Cyrus II

PERSIANS:

* 539 Cyrus II (the Great) defeats Babylon → Levant again to enjoy prosperity

* 537 -445 Jews return to homeland (mainly under Darius I)

* 536 – 519 Temple rebuilt under Zerubbabel

* 525 Egypt falls to Persians



Eagle standard of Cyrus

Aramaic adopts Canaanite script; spreads... → Persia (~ 500)

* 709 All former Hittite & Aramaean states → Assyrian empire

* 701 Hezekiah in Judah rebels; Sennacherib destroys some Judean cities, Jerusalem survives

* 700 All Syria & Palestine taken over by Assyria
* 671 Egypt conquered by Assyria
* 651 Egypt expels Assyrians

Josiah shakes off Assyria * 625

Babylon (vassal of Assyria) becomes * 612 independent, then overthrows Assyria; Nineveh destroyed

Assyrian royal line ends * 609

Brief Egyptian control of Levant * 609 – 605 (Necho II). Josiah attacks Necho (609)

Nebuchadnezzar defeats Egypt at Carchemish * 605



Babylonian empire ~586



Model of second temple at Jerusalem

* David's reign (?1010 ~ 970)

Captures Jerusalem → capital
* 1000 King of all Israel

* Solomon's reign (970 ~ 940)

Phoenicians have good relations with and Solomon

* 922 Israel splits into two kingdoms, Israel & Judah

[relatively peaceful and stable century until Assyrian recovery]



Different dress of Philistine (left) and Israelite *right) warriors

PERSIAN EMPIRE (?538 – 331)

- * Xerxes (486 -465)
- * Artaxerxes I (465 -424)

[No rebellion by Phoenicia; even help Persia in conflict with Greeks]

- * 445 Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem to build wall



Maximum extent of Persian empire ~490

- * 500 Start of Roman republic



Extent of Greek empire ~320

* Greeks settling along coast of Syria and Palestine; Hellenisation begins (possibly because of Persian peace)

* Phoenicia now adopts a pro-Greek policy →

- * 386 abortive rebellion by Tyre



Alexander the Great

Ptolemaic dynasty (Egypt) (305 - 31)
Seleucid dynasty (Syria) (280 - 63)



Depiction of the Battle of Issus

* 333 Alexander defeats Darius III of Persia in Battle of Issus (S Turkey) and invades Syria

* 332-331 Alexander → Tyre → Egypt and back

* 323 Alexander dies: → empire shared among friends and generals → 20-year struggle among successors

* 312 Seleucus I → kingdom in Babylonia

* 301 Seleucus I gets Syria Ptolemy gets Egypt, south Phoenician coast, Palestine, Transjordan

(lasts ~100 years)

[spread of Greek culture and language]



Seleucid empire ~200

GREEK PERIOD (332 - 30)

* 198 Antiochus III defeats Ptolemy → Seleucids regain control of south Phoenician coast, Palestine, Transjordan

* 188 Antiochus III defeated by Romans in Greece → Levant open to Roman intervention

* 168 Antiochus IV – threat from Egypt → attacks Egypt → Romans order him to withdraw

* 167 On return, desecrates temple in Jerusalem

* 166 Religious Jews revolt under Mattathias (died ~166)

* 164 Judas Maccabeus (son) takes Jerusalem
Period of Seleucid weakness; internal dissension; revolts; loss of territory

* 163 Antiochus IV dies; Antiochus V retakes Jerusalem → gives Jews religious freedom

* 160 Judas wants political freedom; dies in battle; Jonathan (brother) de facto ruler

* 152 Jonathan → high priest
* 150 Jonathan → general & joint ruler with Seleucids

* 141 Simeon (successor) → free from Seleucid rule → independent Hasmonean rule

* 135-76 Three rulers - John Hyrcanus I (135-104)
- Aristobolus I (104-103)



A model of Jerusalem in Hero's time

HASMONEAN (MACCABEAN) STATE (in Palestine) (168-63)
(priestly family)

ROMAN RULE (64/63-->

- Alexander Jannaeus (103-76)
- period of territorial expansion → nearly all Palestine and Transjordan; internal conflict: secular v religious → weaken state

* 76 Alexander Jannaeus dies; rivalry 76-66 Jannaeus' wife (Salome Alexandra) rules, then civil war between her sons Hyrcanus II and Aristobolus II

* 65 Hyrcanus supported by Aretas III (a Nabataean) and Antipar (an Idumaean); Hyrcanus & Aretas besiege Aristobolus in Jerusalem; Romans demand Aretas withdraw → save Aristobolus

* 64 Pompey in Damascus → annex Syria; 63 annex Palestine → all Levant under Roman rule

[West Syria + Palestine = Roman Syria (capitol Antioch); Judea reduced to original size]

* Pompey dislikes Aristobolus, supports Hyrcanus → high priest; Aristobolus → Rome (a captive); Antipar given secular power

Rome beaten by* 53 Parthia and Persia

Civil war in Rome: Julius * 44 Caesar assassinated; Syria unstable; Marc Antony restores Roman rule; Antipater → procurator of Palestine; Herod (son) governor of Galilee. * Antipater dies 42.

Parthians dislodge Rome from * 40 most of Syria; allow Hasmoneans (Antigonus, son of Aristobolus) to seize power; Hyrcanus II captured; Herod flees to Rome

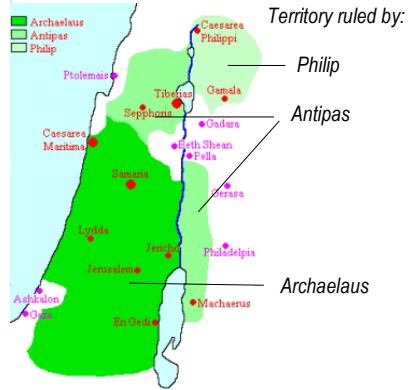
Marc Antony vanquished; Octavian emperor * 31 Herod's kingdom at greatest extent, stability * 20

Jesus born *~ 6

Herod dies → kingdom to 3 sons *4

ROME

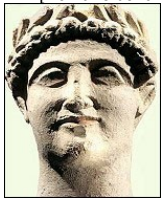
- Herod's three sons: Archaelaus, Antipas, Philip --> rule different regions of Palestine
- Herod's grandson - Agrippa



- * 6 Archaelaus disposed; replaced by Roman prefects (e.g. Pontius Pilate)
 - * 34 Philip dies; territory to Agrippa
 - * 39 Antipas removed: territory to Agrippa
 - * 37 Agrippa gets Archaelaus' former territory
- [Agrippa rules like Herod: Greek in gentile areas, A devout Jew in Jewish areas. At this time, more Jews are less averse to Greek culture]
- * 44 Agrippa dies
Claudius establishes the province of Judea under a Roman procurator
 - * 66 -----> 77 Greedy and incompetent procurators → First Jewish revolt against Roman rule; Vespasian subdues Galilee and Judea

Last rebels commit suicide at Mesada * 73
 Titus (son) destroys temple & Jerusalem * 70

[Romans behave moderately in rest of country]



Herod the Great