

LESSON 5

PALESTINE IN THE TIME OF JESUS AND THE APOSTLES

4 B.C. — A.D. 70

Developments and Conditions of the Period

1. Upon the death of Herod, his territory was divided among his three sons Archelaus, Herod Antipas, and Herod Philip.
2. After nine years of rule, Archelaus was removed as ruler of Judaea which was placed under the rule of a Roman procurator in A.D. 6. Pontius Pilate was procurator from A.D. 26 to 36. He is well known as the governor at the time of Jesus' death. Felix was the twelfth procurator. He governed Judaea from about A.D. 52 to 60. Festus occupied the office from A.D. 60 to 62. Paul was tried under the latter two procurators in Caesarea (a city built on the site of Strato's Tower by Herod, twenty-three miles south of Mount Carmel).
3. Roman soldiers were stationed at Caesarea and occupied the Antonia in Jerusalem during the lifetime of Jesus. Although Roman rule benefited the Jews in many ways, especially by bringing peace throughout the empire, they detested being controlled by foreigners.
4. Jewish sects (Sadducees, Pharisees, Zealots, Herodians, and Essenes) played increasingly important roles in the life of the nation. Because of Roman domination and punishment of Jewish rebels, Messianic expectations rose to new heights (see Luke 3:15).
5. Jewish nationalism increased during the period, and the life of Christ must be seen against a background of the Jewish attitude towards Roman authority.
6. Jewish religious and civil actions were limited by the control of the Romans.
7. Jewish dissatisfaction with Roman rule resulted not so much from oppression as from the idea of being under foreign domination.

Match by drawing lines from the procurators to the facts that relate them to the New Testament. Then write the dates of each in the blank under his name.

Pontius Pilate

1. Paul was tried before him.

Felix

2. He was governor at the time of Jesus' death.

Festus

(Pilate—2, A.D. 26-36; Felix—1, A.D. 52-60; Festus—1, A.D. 60-62)

Five Jewish sects which played important roles in Jewish life were _____,

_____, _____, _____, and _____.

What caused Messianic expectations to increase? _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

Herod's Successors

According to Josephus, Caesar Augustus gave half the kingdom of Herod to Archelaus with the title of ethnarch and the other half was divided between two sons of Herod, Philip and Herod Antipas, who were made tetrarchs. Archelaus and Antipas were sons of Herod by his fourth wife Malthace of Samaria, and Philip was the son of Herod by his fifth wife Cleopatra of Jerusalem. Three sons of Herod had already been executed because of political ambitions, and his younger sons were not involved in political succession.

Varus (6-3 B.C.) was the Roman governor of Syria at the time of Herod's death. Revolt broke out when the interim Roman procurator in Jerusalem attempted to confiscate Herod's wealth. Freedom fighters after the order of the Maccabees appeared in Judaea, Peraea, and Galilee. Leaders in the movement were a muscular shepherd in Judaea, the Pharisees in Peraea, and the self-declared messiah Judas, the son of a certain Hezekiah who had been executed by Herod. Each put on a royal diadem which indicated the desire to be chosen as ruler by the people. Varus arrived in Palestine with his troops to put down the revolts. About 2,000 Jews were executed during their first revolt against Rome. Later revolts occurred under the leadership of the Zealots in A.D. 6 and 66 to 70.

The three sons of Herod who were designated to rule and a delegation of the Jewish aristocracy appeared in Rome to represent their positions. The Jewish delegation wanted to be rid of the house of Herod, especially Archelaus, and to become directly subject to Augustus. Augustus, however, decided to approve Herod's testament, with the exception of making Archelaus ethnarch instead of king. Antipas and Philip were made tetrarchs (governor of a fourth part of an area). Ethnarch meant ruler of a nation and was a term of higher dignity than tetrarch. These terms were Greek in origin, but the Romans continued to use them for native rulers. A proconsul was a governor selected by the senate to rule over provinces which were settled and peaceful. Procurators were governors appointed by the emperor to serve in provinces where problems existed. The procurators were directly responsible to the emperor and had support of an army.

Archelaus as ethnarch was put in charge of Judaea, Idumaea, and Samaria. Possibly he would have been promoted to king if he had conducted himself properly. His younger brother Herod Antipas was made tetrarch over Galilee and Peraea. Their half-brother Philip became tetrarch of parts of northern Transjordan (Batanaea, Auranitis, Trachonitis, and Paneas) and Gaulanitis. The actions of Augustus satisfied the Herodians (a group of Jews supporting the reign of the Herods) but did not satisfy the Pharisees and other Jewish groups.

List Herod's successors.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

(1. Archelaus, 2. Philip, 3. Herod Antipas)

Archelaus was made an e _____ (ruler of a nation).

(ethnarch)

Antipas and Philip were made t _____ (governor of a fourth part of an area).

(tetrarchs)

Give the territory over which Herod's successors ruled.

Archelaus _____

Herod Antipas _____

Philip _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

The ethnarchy of Archelaus: 4 B.C.-A.D. 6

When the parents of Jesus returned with Him from Egypt, they settled in Galilee instead of Judaea because they heard Archelaus ruled in Judaea (Matt. 2:22). The realm of Archelaus contained two very different countries. Samaria, since her fall in 722 B.C. to the Assyrians, was composed of a mixed population, and the Jews refused to associate with them. Judaea was the centre of Judaism and had some cultural relations with Peraea and Galilee, but Judaea was separated from them politically and geographically since they were placed under Herod Antipas.

The reign of Archelaus was marked by opposition from the Sadducees and Pharisees who desired greater freedom than was possible under a son of Herod. Not even all of the Herodians supported Archelaus; some preferred Antipas.

Although Archelaus erected impressive buildings, restored the palace at Jericho, and brought about improvements to certain areas of the country, he was hated by the leading Jews. He displeased them by deposing two high priests from the house of Boethus. He further irritated them by marrying the widow of his half-brother Alexander who had been executed in 7 B.C. The leading Samaritans were persuaded to join the opposition to Archelaus, and in A.D. 6 complaints were lodged against him with Augustus. Augustus exiled him to Vienna in Gaul and ruled the country directly through a procurator.

The tetrarchy of Herod Antipas: 4 B.C.-A.D. 39

Antipas was given the land of Galilee and Peraea (southern Transjordan). The two regions were separated by Samaria and Decapolis (central Transjordan). Both countries embraced Judaism as a result of the conversion of the mixed population and the resettlement in Galilee of Jews at the time of Aristobulus I and Alexander Jannaeus.

Galilee was a prosperous territory with trade and fishing industries. Antipas was able to rebuild the Greek city of Sepphoris which Varus had destroyed in 4 B.C. He built a new capital, which he named Tiberias in honour of the reigning emperor (A.D. 14-37), on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. The Jews refused to live in Tiberias since they claimed the site was an ancient burial place and thus unclean (Num. 19:16). The population of Tiberias, therefore, was primarily Gentile. Eventually the opposition of the Jews to Tiberias subsided and synagogues were constructed. It became the centre for a sanhedrin and developed into one of the four holy cities of Judaism. Two other important cities of Galilee were Tarichaea (or Magdala) on the west shore of the Sea of Galilee and Capernaum on the north-west shore.

The country was populated by Gentiles and Jews. Judaism flourished as a result of the migration of Jews

What did Jesus' parents do when they heard that Archelaus ruled Judaea? _____

(Compare your answer with the text and Matthew 2:22.)

What was the response of the Sadducees and Pharisees to Archelaus' reign? _____

(Compare your answer with the text.)

What was the outcome of the Jews' and Samaritans' dislike of Archelaus? _____

(Augustus exiled him and ruled through a procurator.)

Both Galilee and Peraea embraced Judaism as a result of --

1. the _____ of the mixed population
2. Jewish _____ in Galilee

(Compare your answers with the text.)

from Jerusalem to Galilee. Jesus belonged to one of the families which had emigrated from Judaea. The Gentiles were Aramaeans—the same stock as the Jews.

The Zealots were a party of extreme nationalists who lived in Galilee and opposed taxation and Roman rule. The presence of Zealots, who fought for the Mosaic Law, and of Pharisees indicates that popular religion was basically law-centred Judaism. However, Pharisees and scribes were not as numerous in Galilee as in Judaea.

Antipas supported Hellenistic culture which was expressed strongly in his building activities. He respected, however, Jewish piety, festivals, and convictions. He was able to reign in peace for approximately three decades until he married the ambitious Herodias. She divorced her first husband Herod (known as Philip in Mark 6:17), who was also her uncle (half-brother of her father), for Herod Antipas. She is infamous for her part in the execution of John the Baptist. She was the granddaughter of Herod I and Mariamne I, thus a Herodian and Hasmonaeon with inherited drive for power. Her daughter Salome later married Herod Philip. Herod Antipas had divorced the daughter of the Nabataean king Aretas IV, causing him to declare war for the sake of his divorced and humiliated daughter. Antipas was defeated by Aretas in A.D. 36 but was rescued by the Syrian legate.

Herodias was so ambitious for power that she drove her husband to contend for equal rank with her brother Agrippa I who was made king over the newly-independent tetrarchy of Philip in A.D. 37. The emperor Caligula decided Antipas was too power-hungry and banished him to Gaul in A.D. 39. Agrippa I, grandson of Herod I and Mariamne I and brother of Herodias, was named king also of Antipas' tetrarchy in A.D. 40.

The tetrarchy of Philip: 4 B.C.—A.D. 34

In Herod's will Philip was named tetrarch of northern Transjordan. Most of the people of his territory spoke Aramaic and Greek. The area was located on routes which passed from Damascus to Tyre, Caesarea by the Sea, and Decapolis. The rule of Philip was marked by peace and quiet.

The significant accomplishments of Philip were the building of two important cities. Caesarea Philippi was built on the site of Paneas (Panium), the favourite seat of the Greek and Roman nature-cult god Pan and of Canaanite fertility deities. These deities were worshipped in a cave from which issued a main source of the Jordan river. Philip renamed the city in honour of his Caesar, Emperor Tiberius. Philippi was added to the name to distinguish it from the Caesarea built by Herod I on the coast of northern Palestine and to honour the builder. The city was the scene of Peter's great confession of Jesus as the Christ. It is significant that Jesus asked about His own identity at a

Jesus' family had emigrated to Galilee from _____.

(Compare your answer with the text.)

The Zealots were a party of extreme nationalists who lived in _____ and opposed _____ and _____ rule.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

Antipas supported _____ culture but respected Jewish _____, _____, and _____.

(Hellenistic, piety, festivals, convictions)

What interrupted Antipas' peaceful reign of thirty years? _____

(his marriage to Herodias)

What two characteristics of Herodias caused her marriage to Antipas to affect his reign?

d _____ and a _____

How did Herodias' ambition affect Antipas' reign? _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

Finish reading this paragraph, which continues on the next page, before doing the following exercise.

List the two important cities which Philip built. _____

(Caesarea Philippi, Bethsaida-Julias)

place named for two earthly rulers and the popular site of a pagan shrine. Peter answered that Jesus is King and Son of the true God. The second city, Bethsaida-Julias, was enlarged by Philip. This fishing village was located at the point where the Jordan flows into the Sea of Galilee. It was made into a Hellenistic commercial centre and renamed in honour of Julia, the daughter of Augustus.

Philip married Salome, the daughter of Herodias, whose dance led to the execution of John the Baptist. Philip died in A.D. 34, and his tetrarchy was added to the province of Syria. Upon Caligula's accession in A.D. 37, the territory was placed under Agrippa I.

Judaea Under the Procurators

The procurators from Coponius to Pilate

Little is known about the first procurators who governed Judaea under the direct control of the emperor. Coponius was procurator of the Jews after Archelaus was deposed, from A.D. 6 to 9. Coponius governed Judaea as Augustus' personal representative; therefore, it did not become a part of Syria under the Syrian legate Quirinius (A.D. 6-9). Quirinius did share in a tax registration in Judaea and Samaria in A.D. 6. He helped to lay the groundwork for a new tax structure based primarily on the wealth of real estate. The tax reforms provoked the Pharisees into promoting the nationalistic movement of the Zealots. The revolt under Judas the Galilean caused the term Galilean to become roughly equivalent to anarchist (see Matt. 26:69).

The procurator (financial agent or supervisor) was responsible for collecting revenue for the emperor and keeping order in the province. He would usually delegate the collection of taxes to private companies, tax-contractors, or individuals. The method followed during the Greek period by Joseph the Tobiad was to pay the total taxes and then collect them in his own name. Under the Romans, the tax-collectors could be employed Roman tax-contractors or Jews who collaborated with them. The people in Galilee classed their Jewish tax-collectors with Gentiles and sinners (Matt. 5:46).

The procurator had at his disposal a band of soldiers to control potential uprisings. The Roman army was divided into legions and cohorts, but no legions (6,000 men) were stationed in Palestine. Each cohort was commanded by an officer called a tribune. The subordinates of the tribune were called centurions. One cohort was stationed permanently in Jerusalem at the Antonia. The cohort consisted of five hundred foot soldiers and one hundred horsemen. In addition to manning the Jerusalem garrison, an escort accompanied the procurator when he visited Jerusalem. The procurator and his bodyguard would occupy the palace built by Herod which was given the Roman name praetorium

What incident which is significant to Christianity occurred in Caesarea Philippi?

(Compare your answer with the text. See the first part of this paragraph on the previous page.)

<u>Emperors</u>	<u>Judaeen Rulers</u>	<u>High Priest</u>
Augustus (to 14)	Archelaus, ethnarch (4 B.C.-A.D.6)	
	<i>Procurators:</i>	
	Coponius (6-9)	Annas (6-15)
	Ambibulus (9-12)	
Tiberius (14-37)	Rufus (12-15)	
	Gratus (15-26)	Caiaphas (18-36)
	Pilate (26-36)	
	Marcellus (36)	Jonathan (36-37)
Caligula (37-41)	Marullus (37-41)	Theophilus (37-41)
Claudius (41-54)	[Agrippa I, king] (41-44)	
	Fadus (44-46)	
	Alexander (46-48)	
	Cumanus (48-52)	Ananias (48-58)
Nero (54-68)	Felix (52-60)	
	Festus (60-62)	
	Albinus (62-64)	Ananus II (62)
	Florus (64-66)	

A tax registration in Judaea and Samaria in A.D. 6 and other tax reforms provoked the Pharisees into promoting the nationalistic movement of the _____.

(Zealots)

Give two responsibilities of a procurator.

- _____
- _____

- (1. to collect revenue for the emperor,
2. to keep order in the province)

A legion had _____ men.

The commanding officer of a cohort was a _____.

The tribune's subordinates were _____.

The cohort had _____ foot soldiers and _____ horsemen.

The palace occupied by the procurator was called the _____.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

(Matt. 27:27). The procurator often went to the Antonia for official business.

As the highest military tribunal, the procurator exercised authority over the Roman soldiers, and he was also empowered to sentence members of the civilian population to death (John 18:31). Pilate, therefore, had the power to sentence Jesus to death. Paul was tried before Felix (Acts 23:24).

Under the procurators, the Jews preserved some autonomy. Augustus respected the ethical and religious traditions of the Jews and refrained from interfering as much as possible. He removed the image of the emperor from the military standards of Palestine. The Jews were not required to participate in emperor worship, and Jewish men were exempted from the army. Augustus gave some protection to the temple traditions.

The Sanhedrin

The highest Jewish authority was invested in the High Council, or Sanhedrin, which traced its origin back to the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. Its membership was composed of seventy elders (heads of families) under the leadership of the high priest.

Annas held the office of high priest from A.D. 6 to 15. He was a Sadducee and a man of substance who favoured Roman rule. After he was removed from office, he continued to dominate the Council until his death in A.D. 35. He exercised influence through a son-in-law (Caiaphas) and the four other sons who subsequently occupied the office. Caiaphas was high priest at the time of the trial of Jesus (A.D. 18-36).

Although the high priest was a powerful figure in Jewish life, the Romans limited his power by retaining the policy of deposing and appointing the priests. At the time of Jesus, the high priest was leader of the Jews in worship and in observance of annual festivals. He represented the Jews before the procurator, and he presided over the Sanhedrin which directed the civil affairs of Judaea.

For court cases, members of the Sanhedrin, vested in their robes, sat in semicircles with the high priest in the centre. The plaintiffs and defendants stood before the president to present their cases. Witnesses were heard, and the cases were then discussed in the absence of the concerned parties. A vote was then taken by the Sanhedrin.

During the time of Jesus, the Sanhedrin had a consistory, referred to as high priests. It functioned as an executive committee of the Council and was comprised of the high priest, the captain of the temple guard, five additional aristocratic priests, and three or four priests or laymen who served as treasurers to handle the wealth which passed through the Temple. The executive group dealt with current problems in their society.

The procurator could sentence civilians to death. Give the procurator who had such power over the following:

Jesus _____

Paul _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

List some indications that Augustus respected the ethical and religious traditions of the Jews.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

The highest Jewish authority was invested in the _____, which was composed of _____ elders under the leadership of the _____.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

After Annas was removed from the office of _____, he continued to dominate the _____ (Sanhedrin). This is why he was listed along with Caiaphas as high priest at the trial of Jesus.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

The high priests were appointed and deposed by the _____. List three duties of the high priests.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

The Sanhedrin directed the civil affairs of Judaea, which included hearing _____ cases.

(Compare your answer with the text.)

The consistory (executive committee) of the Sanhedrin was referred to as _____. List the members of this group.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

The temple guard was comprised of Jews who functioned as policemen to control all popular movements. They participated in the capture of Jesus and the guarding of His tomb (John 18:3; Matt. 27:65). Perhaps Paul was performing police duty at the execution of Stephen.

The treasurers were responsible for the temple property, the income from sacrifices, and the wages of priests and workmen. They had to be capable businessmen and were often called rulers.

Pontius Pilate: A.D. 26-36

After the procuratorship of Coponius, three men filled the office from A.D. 9 to 26. Little is known of the work of these men. Pilate was appointed to the position in A.D. 26 and is well known from New Testament records. Because of his emphasis on Roman supremacy, conflicts arose between him and the Jewish people. The Roman procurators were dependent on their superiors for promotions; therefore, they attempted to please their superiors in Rome. Political leaders residing in Rome had little chance of being able to sense the best administrative policies for the Jews.

The procurator before Pilate, Gratus (15-26), appointed and deposed high priests frequently. Finally in A.D. 18, he discovered a person who pleased him—Caiaphas who was son-in-law of Annas. Pilate was also pleased with Caiaphas; therefore, he left him in office as long as he was procurator.

To show Roman supremacy, Pilate ordered the cohort occupying the Antonia (Akra) to march in the city at night with the imperial standards decorated with the image of the emperor. This action brought about a demonstration from the Jews. Later Pilate took money from the temple treasury to build an aqueduct from the Pools of Solomon to Jerusalem. This precipitated a second demonstration. Since the Jewish unrest jeopardized his office, Pilate sought a way to placate the Jews. Since the festivals were periods of frequent unrest, Pilate yielded to the decision of the high priest to put Jesus to death and release Barabbas.

The unpopularity of Pilate increased after the death of Jesus. By A.D. 36, opposition had become so strong that Vitellius, the new legate of Syria, deposed him. The high priest Caiaphas was also deposed, and another son of Annas, named Jonathan, was appointed.

Palestine During the Time of the Apostles

The death of Stephen came about A.D. 36. Without consulting the Roman authorities, the high priest led the Sanhedrin in making the decision to stone Stephen and to persecute the Christians. The death of Stephen possibly took place under Jonathan. A year

Jesus was taken captive by the _____, which was Jews who functioned as _____.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

Pilate was unpopular with the Jews because he emphasized _____ supremacy. Roman procurators were dependent on their superiors for _____.

(Roman; promotions)

How did Pilate exhibit Roman supremacy? _____

He further antagonized the Jews by taking money from the _____ to build an _____. How did Pilate seek to placate the Jews? _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

How did the Sanhedrin overstep its authority in A.D. 36? _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

later, Vitellius replaced Jonathan with his brother Theophilus (A.D. 37-41).

The emperor Tiberius died in A.D. 37 and was succeeded by Caligula (A.D. 37-41). The new emperor was an ardent lover of Hellenism; therefore, the control of Judaea came once again under an imperial procurator (Marullus, A.D. 37-41). Tiberius was much more tolerant of Judaism than Caligula. The Christians were scattered by the persecution which followed in Jerusalem (Acts 8:4). Persecution subsided when Jonathan was deposed in A.D. 37.

The rule of Agrippa I

Agrippa I became king of Philip's tetrarchy in A.D. 37. The tetrarchy of Antipas was added in A.D. 40, and all of Palestine came under his rule from A.D. 41 to 44. Agrippa was educated in Rome with the emperor's sons. Because of his personal friendship with the emperor, Agrippa was able to dissuade Caligula from having an image of himself set up in the Jerusalem Temple in A.D. 39. Caligula was assassinated in January of A.D. 41.

Claudius succeeded Caligula as emperor and ruled until A.D. 54. Agrippa had been a school companion of Claudius; consequently, his continuation as king was secured. After Claudius added all of Palestine to Agrippa's realm in A.D. 41, Agrippa ruled the same area which comprised the kingdom of Herod.

As a ruler, Agrippa I attempted to gain the respect of the Pharisees; therefore, he carried out the observances of Judaism. Josephus and the Talmud (body of Jewish writings) give favourable descriptions of his character. Outside of Judaea, however, he appeared to be a friend of Hellenistic culture.

In an effort to please the Pharisees, Agrippa persecuted the Christians (see Acts 12—Herod Agrippa I), slaying the apostle James and placing Peter in prison. These actions took place about A.D. 42. The death of Agrippa followed two years later in A.D. 44 (Acts 12:19-23).

The return of procurators

With the death of Agrippa I, the kingdom of Judaea was ended by Claudius. The province was placed directly under Roman control. Claudius did make Agrippa II, the son of Agrippa I, ruler over neighbouring territories from A.D. 50 to 94. Drusilla, the third daughter of Agrippa I, married the procurator Felix. Bernice, his first daughter, was the widow of Herod II and was suspected of sexual intimacy with her own brother Agrippa II (Acts 25:13, 23). Agrippa II served as a Roman confidant in Jewish questions; consequently, he was requested to give advice regarding Paul's trial in Caesarea (Acts 25:13—26:32).

Caligula was an ardent lover of _____.

H _____.

The Christians were scattered by the _____ in Jerusalem.

(Hellenism; persecution)

When did Agrippa I become king? _____

Look ahead to the last paragraph of this topic and give the date of his death. _____

(A.D. 37, A.D. 44)

Agrippa attempted to gain the favour of the _____ by carrying out the observances of _____.

(Pharisees, Judaism)

Give another way Agrippa tried to please the Pharisees. _____

James was put to death by _____ Agrippa I about A.D. ____.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

Why was Agrippa II requested to give advice regarding Paul's trial in Caesarea?

(because he served as a Roman confidant in Jewish questions)

Under the emperor Claudius (A.D. 41-54), the procuratorship was again restored to Judaea with Samaria and Galilee as part of the province. The disappearance of the glory of Herod's kingdom, restored according to strict religious principles under Agrippa I, brought violent Jewish reaction. About A.D. 50, Claudius had the Jews banished from Rome. Jewish nationalists continued to carry a burning hatred for foreign domination, and Zealots were gaining more influence and succeeded eventually in inciting the population to rebel.

The first procurator of Claudius was Cuspius Fadus (A.D. 44-46). A prophet named Theudas claimed to be the Messiah and led a revolt against the Romans in A.D. 45 (perhaps a different Theudas from the one who preceded "Judas the Galilean" in Acts 5:36). He tried to part the waters of the Jordan miraculously in his march towards Jerusalem against the Romans. He was beheaded by Fadus.

The next procurator was Tiberius Alexander (about A.D. 46-48), an Alexandrian Jew and nephew of the Hellenistic Jewish philosopher Philo. The Jewish nationalists considered him an unscrupulous apostate in the service of tyrants. He suppressed nationalism by crucifying two Zealot party leaders, the sons of Judas the Galilean.

The third procurator of Claudius, Ventidius Cumanus (A.D. 48-52), confronted Jewish uprisings after the expulsion of Jews from Rome in A.D. 50. The Jewish Christians Aquila and Priscilla departed from Rome and established residence at Corinth during this period (Acts 18). Civil war arose between the Zealots and Samaritans.

Antonius Felix was appointed procurator in A.D. 52 and continued until 60. Although Felix was the husband of a Roman princess, a descendant of Antony and Cleopatra, he married the beautiful Jewish princess Drusilla (Acts 24:24). The fact that Agrippa II allowed his sister to marry an uncircumcised Roman reveals the Hellenistic interests of Agrippa and his personal ambitions for political advantages.

Felix imprisoned Eleazar, a militant Zealot for twenty years, and brought about the assassination of Jonathan, the former high priest. In opposition to the procurator, the young Zealots in Jerusalem organized themselves as assassins, or sicarii (daggermen). The Zealots slew the Jews who had compromised with the Greeks and the Romans. Under a popular leader, called the Egyptian, thousands of the Zealots sought to take Jerusalem in A.D. 55, but they were resisted by the Roman troops. Jewish nationalistic trends intensified as the Hellenistic ruler Nero came to the throne (A.D. 54-68).

The activities of Paul

The Apostle Paul was probably converted in A.D. 36, and he stated that the Jerusalem Council was

Jewish nationalists continued to hate _____ domination, and the _____ incited rebellion.

(foreign, Zealots)

How did Tiberius Alexander attempt to suppress nationalism? _____

(Compare your answer with the text.)

Jewish Christians Aquila and Priscilla departed from Rome and went to live in _____ during the expulsion of Jews from _____ in A.D. _____.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

Drusilla was a _____ princess who married _____. Read Acts 24:24.

(Jewish, Felix)

Who were the sicarii? _____

(Compare your answer with the text.)

When was Paul converted? _____

(Compare your answer with the text.)

conducted fourteen years later (about A.D. 49; see Gal. 2:1). During his second missionary journey, he appeared before Gallio who was proconsul in Corinth in A.D. 50-52 (Acts 18). When Paul's third missionary journey ended, he was taken captive in Jerusalem and imprisoned in Caesarea where he appeared before both Felix and Festus. The procuratorship of Felix ended in A.D. 60, and then Paul appeared before Festus (A.D. 60-62). Festus was succeeded by Albinus (A.D. 62-64). The last procurator of Judaea was Florus (A.D. 64-66). He increased the opposition of the Jews by increasing taxation.

The Jewish revolt

With the intensification of Jewish nationalism and the heroism of the Zealots, Palestinian Christians began to emigrate from Jerusalem before the Jewish revolt against Rome (A.D. 66-70). Many of them settled in Pella. Probably most of the Christian communities in Jerusalem, Judaea, and Galilee had scattered and resettled in other parts of the East before the war. The Zealots may have influenced Peter against Paul in their Jew-Gentile controversy during the fifties, but the Zealots' extreme fanaticism later may have forced the Christians from Jerusalem, perhaps resulting in Peter's going to Rome about A.D. 63. Both Paul and Peter possibly were put to death under Nero in A.D. 65 during a time of persecution of Christians. The great fire in Rome in A.D. 64 was blamed on the Christians. As defenceless scapegoats, their condemnation would bring no repercussions from other parts of the Roman Empire.

In A.D. 66 the patriotism of the Zealots reached a climax. The last two procurators had impoverished the Holy Land in an effort to gain more money for the support of the Roman army. The cultural struggle between the Greeks and Jews in Caesarea of Palestine resulted in street fighting. The procurator Florus had demanded seventeen talents from the temple treasury in Jerusalem, an act resulting in anti-Roman demonstrations. The daily sacrifices of the Jews on behalf of the emperor ceased; this action was interpreted as rebellion against Rome.

Aristocratic patriots and Zealots led in the revolt. Gallus, the Syrian legate, moved against Jerusalem in November of A.D. 66, but he had to abandon the siege of the Temple. Jewish rebels surprised the retreating Roman legions, and the legate found it necessary to request aid from the emperor. In the spring of A.D. 67, Vespasian marched with 60,000 men against the Jewish rebels. The Jews continued to resist superior forces at fortified places. By the fall of A.D. 67, Vespasian had gained control of Galilee. He was successful against Peraea and Judaea by the next spring.

The defeat of the Jews was due in large measure to the internal struggles of the various parties, even while the Roman army was besieging Jerusalem. The final assault of the Roman army on Jerusalem was twice

When was the Jerusalem Council held? (See Galatians 2:1.) _____

Paul was taken captive in Jerusalem and imprisoned in _____ where he appeared before _____ and _____.

(A.D. 49; Caesarea, Felix, Festus)

Most Christians had left _____ before the Jewish revolt against _____ in A.D. _____, led by the _____.

(Jerusalem, Rome, 66-70, Zealots)

delayed by army revolts resulting from the death of Nero and the accession of Vespasian as emperor. He sent his son Titus to complete the defeat of the Jewish rebels in A.D. 70. Titus began a new siege in April of A.D. 70 and succeeded in taking the Temple by August. The Temple was burnt along with much of the city. The Jews ceased to function as a political entity.

The Temple was destroyed in A.D. _____, and the Jews ceased functioning as a p _____ entity.

(70, political)

Home Study Exercise

Basic activity (Levels 1, 2, and 3)

1. Name and give the dates of three procurators who are of interest to the New Testament student. _____

2. Name the three successors of Herod and the territory over which each ruled. _____

3. Acts 5:37 refers to "Judas of Galilee." Give his date and purpose. _____

4. Distinguish between the titles given to the three sons of Herod who succeeded him. _____

5. What does Joseph's decision recorded in Matthew 2:22 reveal about Archelaus? _____

6. List the similarities and differences of Galilee and Judaea during the life of Jesus. _____

7. How did Antipas' marriage to Herodias affect his reign? _____

8. Why is Caesarea Philippi important to Christians? _____

9. What political changes took place in Judaea in A.D. 6? _____

10. Give two functions of procurators. _____

11. Name three concessions Augustus made in respect of Jewish religious traditions. _____

12. Why could Annas be listed along with Caiaphas as high priest at the trial of Jesus? _____

13. What was the Sanhedrin and what were its activities? _____

14. Who were the "high priests" at the time of Jesus? _____

15. Were the officers who took Jesus captive in Gethsemane Jews or Romans? _____
 Identify their official position. _____
16. Why was Pilate unpopular with the Jews? _____
 _____ . How could his problems help explain his decision at the trial of
 Jesus? _____
17. Give the dates of the following:
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Death of Stephen, A.D. _____ | Paul's conversion, A.D. _____ |
| Reign of Agrippa I, A.D. _____ | Execution of James (Acts 12), A.D. _____ |
| First Missionary Journey, A.D. _____ | Jerusalem Council, A.D. _____ |
| Second Missionary Journey, A.D. _____ | Paul's imprisonment at Caesarea, A.D. _____ |
- (Acts 24:27)
18. Which Herod had the Apostle James executed? _____
19. Who was Drusilla? _____
20. Were many Christians still in Jerusalem during the revolt in A.D. 66-70? _____
 What Jewish party was primarily responsible for the revolt and destruction of Jerusalem?

Supplementary activity (Levels 2 and 3)

1. Read an article in a Bible encyclopedia or dictionary on the synagogue, and describe its organization and functions.
2. Make an outline or chart showing the Herodian rulers and Roman procurators who possessed political authority in Judaea and Galilee from 4 B.C. to A.D. 70.

Advanced activity (Level 3)

1. Read an article on Jerusalem in a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia, and locate the Temple area and Herod's palace.
2. Do additional reading from the supplementary reading list below or a Bible dictionary on the Zealots, and explain their part in the extreme nationalism which led to revolt.

Optional supplementary reading (listed in order of importance)

- Bo Reicke, The New Testament Era, pages 109-152; 174-210.
 W. Foerster, From the Exile to Christ, pages 97-138.
 Robert H. Pfeiffer, History of New Testament Times, pages 33-44.
 W. Barclay, The Bible and History, pages 259-267.

Seminar Discussion

1. How did political conditions affect the life and ministry of Jesus? Of the apostles?
2. Which bore the greater responsibility for the revolt, Jewish nationalism or Roman arrogance?
3. Are there evidences in the New Testament that the Zealot party influenced the people concerning the Messianic role they expected of Jesus? Some scholars have identified the title "Iscariot" of Judas' name as meaning sicarii.
4. What were Peter's intentions when he drew his sword in Gethsemane? Was Peter ready to die?
5. What would likely have happened to the movement of Jesus if He had yielded to the popular Messianic expectations?