Lesson 1- Setting the Stage for the New Testament

The New Testament arises out of a world shaped by social and literary conventions

Key words:
• Alexander the Great
• Hellenism
• Pax Romana
• The Maccabean Revolt
• Second Temple Judaism
• Herod

Scripture:
Galatians 4: “The fullness of time”

Lecture Outline:

I. Alexander’s Greatness – Hellenism expansion
   1. Son of Philip the Macedonian and student of Aristotle

      2. Defeated Persians in 334 BC

      3. Youthful daring and brilliant military strategist

      4. Conquers Palestine in 332 BC

      5. Hellenization
         a.

         b.

         c.

         d.

         e.

      6. Died in 323 BC
II. Ptolemites and Seleucids
   1. 300 BC - Seleucus founds Antioch

   2. The LXX (250 BC - 150 BC)

   3. Antiochus IV (Epiphanes)

   4. 167 BC - Abomination of Desolation

III. The Hasmoneans: Resurging Jewish National Identity
   1. Maccabean Revolt - 167 BC

   2. Hanukkah

   3. Dead Sea Scroll

   4. Pompey seizes Jerusalem - 63BC

   5. PAX ROMANA

IV. Variegated Nomism in Second Temple Judaism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pharisees</th>
<th>Sadducees</th>
<th>Essenes</th>
<th>Zealots</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>- Moses plus traditions</td>
<td>- Moses only</td>
<td>- Moses plus Teacher of Righteousness</td>
<td>- Originally bands of brigands</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Purity/Sabbath</td>
<td>- Jesus: Exodus 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>- Allied with the “people of land”</td>
<td>- Partially priestly class</td>
<td>- Exile continuing in wilderness</td>
<td>- Wanted control of commerce</td>
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<td>(landowners)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Temple/focus</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Temple</td>
<td>- Davidic hope</td>
<td>- Partially priestly</td>
<td>- Critical of non-</td>
<td>- Critical of taxes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hope of Restoration</strong></td>
<td>focused in law-keeping</td>
<td>class - Temple/focus</td>
<td>Zadokite priests</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Traditional mix with resurrection</td>
<td>- Political Compromise - No resurrection</td>
<td>- Apocalyptic hope - Fatalism with focus on purity - Military strength</td>
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</tbody>
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V. Herod the Great and Roman Power

1. Antipater supports Julius Caesar against Pompey in 48 BC

2. Caesar assassinated in 44 BC

3. Antipater killed in 43 BC

4. Herod, Antipater’s son, supports Mark Antony against Cassius in 42 BC

5. Herod’s transfer of allegiance to Augustus and gains Palestine in 31 BC

6. Hellenistic government includes great building projects including Temple begun in 19BC

VI. Herod’s house and Roman Occupation

1. Caesar Augustus grants Herod’s will and appoints his sons over the following regions:

   Archelaus
   a.
   b.
   c.

   Antipas
   a.
   b.

   Philip
   a.
   b.

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VII. Herods in the NT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herod the Great</th>
<th>King</th>
<th>Built temple, killed infants</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herod Antipas</td>
<td>Tetrarch, son of HG</td>
<td>Married Herodias, killed John, “tried” Jesus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herod Phillip I</td>
<td>Tetrarch, son of HG</td>
<td>First husband of Herodias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herod Agrippa I</td>
<td>King, grandson of HG</td>
<td>Killed James, imprisoned Peter, eaten by worms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herod Agrippa II</td>
<td>King, son of HA I</td>
<td>Heard Paul’s defense</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

VIII. Jewish Apocalyptic and War with Rome

1. Agrippa is appointed king over Philip’s holdings by Caligula in AD 39.

2. After killing James and imprisoning Peter, Agrippa died suddenly in AD 44.

3. Agrippa II was eventually made King. Paul appeared before him at Caesarea.

4. War broke out in AD 66

5. Jerusalem and the temple are destroyed in AD 70.

IX. Jewish Messianism “in the Fullness of Time”

1. The Kingdom of God

2. The post-exilic rise of apocalyptic literature

3. The priestly tradition
4. The Essene tradition

5. Psalms of Solomon

6. Book of Enoch

Questions for Consideration:
1. What do you know about 1st Century Palestine?

2. How was the NT influenced by the Jewish, Greek and Roman cultures? What do you know about the different Jewish sects?

3. What were the Jewish sects in 1st Century Palestine? What were their beliefs?