

<b>History that brings us to the point of Jesus and his message</b>	
586 BC	Exile to Babylon / Ruler: Nebuchadnezzar - Temple in Jerusalem destroyed
539 BC	- Persians defeat the Babylonians. - King Cyrus release the Jews to rebuild the Temple.
333 BC	Alexander the Great defeats the Persian empire - Hellenization - the spread of Greek culture takes place. - Israel ruled by either Ptolemy (Egypt) or Seleucids (Antioch)
175 – 164	Antiochus Epiphanes – ruled the Seleucid Empire - Attempted to force Jews to convert - Outlaw reading the Torah / circumcision - Turned Temple in Jerusalem into a pagan shrine
ca. 167 BC	<b>Maccabees:</b> Lead a revolt and win a war against the Greek rulers. - Holiday of Hanukkah. - <i>Zealous</i> for the law. - <i>kana'im</i> – the zealous ones (small z)
165 – 63 BC	Israel Self-governed: - Many Jews from Babylon finally return to Homeland and settle in Galilee (taste of freedom).
63 BC	Rome takes over –
47 BC	Herod was governor of Galilee - Hezekiah <sup>1</sup> – leader of partisans revolting against Roman tax - Executed by Herod ( <i>Jos. Ant.</i> 14, 158-160)
4 BC	Judas of Galilee <sup>2</sup> ( <i>Acts</i> 5:37) - Attack royal arsenal in Sepphoris ( <i>Jos. Ant.</i> 17,271)
6 CE	Found the Zealot movement (capital Z) ( <i>Jos. Ant.</i> 18, 23-25)
66 CE	Zealots draw Rome into War
70 AD	Jerusalem and Temple destroyed

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/7670-hezekiah-the-zealot>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/9032-judas-the-galilean>