

17-18 Bible Study #16

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2nd Maccabees

- 2nd Maccabees focuses on a **20 year portion of the Maccabean era** which begins in the last year of *King Seleucus IV* (187-175 B. C.) and concludes with the *Maccabean* victory over the *Seleucid General Nicanor* (160 B.C.)
- It concentrates on the exploits of *Judas Maccabeus*

2nd Maccabees (Cont)

- It subordinates militarism to martyrdom
- Presents ordinary Jews as heroes who remain faithful to the Law
- Suggests the primacy of spiritual protests over the call to arms
- Presents events from a religious point of view
- Stands in the tradition of the *Hasidim* (who wrote the Book of Daniel)

4 great stories in 2nd Maccabees

- 2nd Mac 2: 4-8 **The hiding of the Ark of the Covenant**
- 2nd Mac 7: 1-42 **The death of a mother and her seven sons**
- 2nd Mac 10: 1-9 **The restoration of the Temple**
- 2nd Mac 12: 39-45 **Praying for the dead**

Transition

- We will now review the transition to the New Testament from the Maccabean period

Transition to the New Testament

1st Maccabees (Cont)

- **1st Maccabees 2:1-6**
 - *Mattathias* had five sons:
 - John died
 - Simon became the counselor
 - Judas Maccabeus (the hammer) led the army
 - Eleazar died
 - Johathan founded Hazmonean Dynasty
 - **168 B.C. – 134 B.C. The Maccabean Revolt**

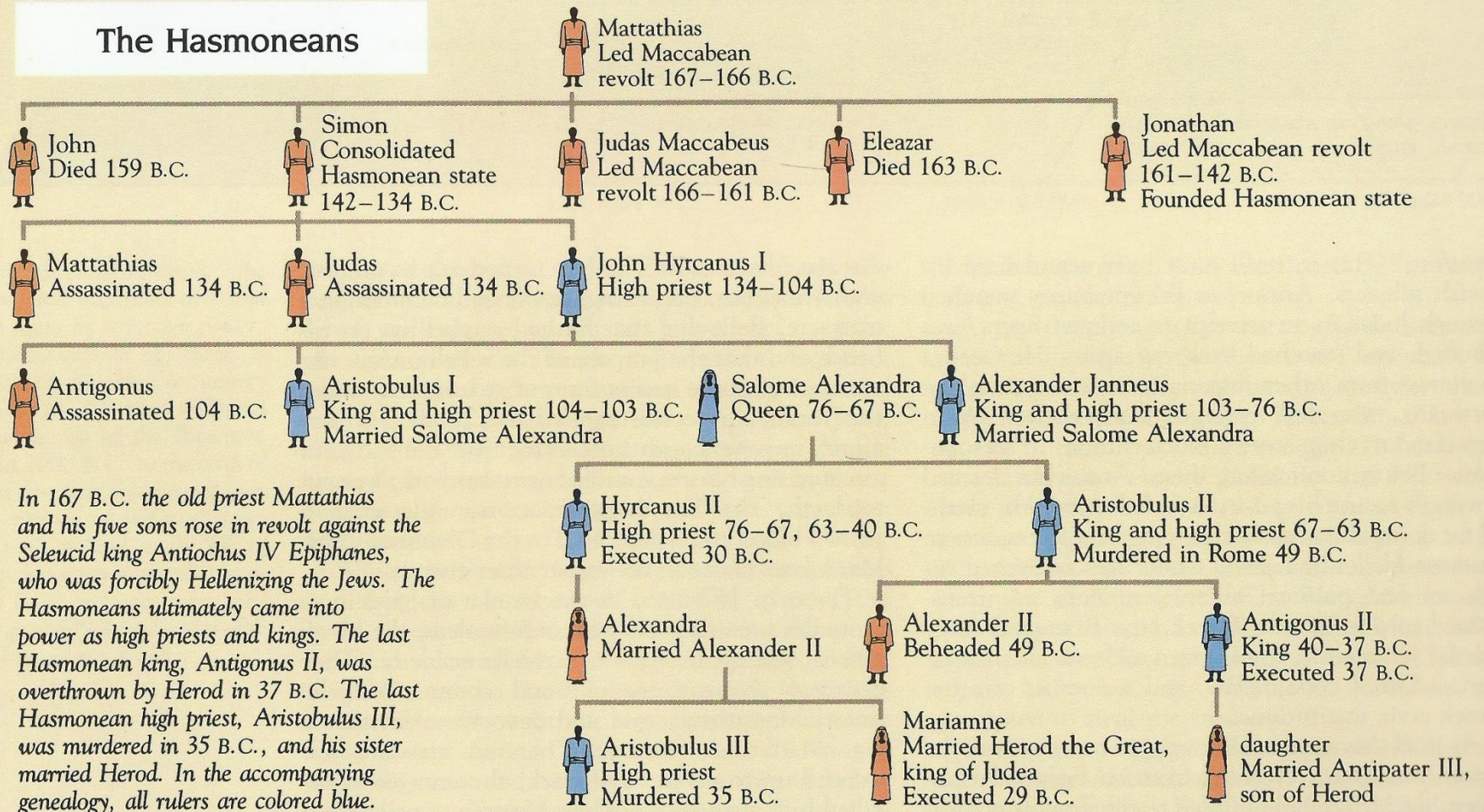
Transition

- **175 B.C.** *King Antiochus Epiphanes* came to power
- **164 B.C.** Judas captured and rededicated the temple (*Hanukah*)
- **163 B.C.**
 - *King Antiochus Epiphanes* died in *Persia*
 - *Lysias* broke through the Jewish line but had to return to *Antioch* as *Philip* was about to return and challenge 8 year old *Antiochus* as king
 - *Eleazar* (brother of Judas) died in battle fighting an elephant

Transition (Cont)

- *Lysias* negotiated peace with the Jews granting them religious freedom but not political independence
- *Judas* continued to fight the *Hellenizers*
- **161 B.C.** *Judas* sent a small delegation to *Rome* to obtain a declaration of friendship
- **160 B.C.** The *Syrians* surrounded and **killed *Judas Maccabeus*** who was replaced by his brother ***Jonathan***

The Hasmoneans



Transition (Cont)

- **161 B.C. Jonathan:**
 - Fought the *Hellenizes*
 - Made a truce with the Syrians
 - Began the ***Hasmonean Dynasty*** (140 B.C. – 116 B.C.)
- **152 B.C.** a civil war raged in Syria and the winning side made *Jonathan* **high priest, general** and **governor of *Judea*** who for 10 years grew in power
- **143 B.C.**
 - *Jonathan* was lured into a trap, arrested by the *Syrians* and replaced by his brother ***Simon***
 - *Simon* captured the citadel
 - The Syrians counterattacked and killed ***Jonathan***

Transition (Cont)

- **High Priests of the Hasmonean Dynasty**
- Jonathan Apphus, 153-143 BC
- Simeon Tassi, brother of Jonathan Apphus, 142-134 BC
- John Hyrcanus I, son of Simeon Tassi, 134-104 BC
- Aristobulus I, son of John Hyrcanus, 104-103 BC
- Alexander Jannaeus, son of John Hyrcanus, 103-76 BC
- John Hyrcanus II, son of Alexander Jannaeus, 76-66 BC
- Aristobulus II, son of Alexander Jannaeus, 66-63 BC
- Hyrcanus II (restored), 63-40 BC
- Antigonus, son of Aristobulus II, 40-37 BC

Transition (Cont)

- **142 B.C.** *Simon* one year after negotiating peace with *Syria*, he captured the *Citadel* again, removing the last vestige of the *Syrians* in *Judea*
- After **450 years** *Jerusalem* was again the capital of a sovereign state
- **140 B.C.** the Jews made the supreme office hereditary in *Simon's* family making him High Priest and King in all but name
- **134 B.C.**
 - *Ptolemy*, the governor of *Jericho*, wanted to seize power by surprising and killing *Simon* and two of his sons at a banquet

Transition (Cont)

- *Simon's* third son, ***John Hyrcanus***, seized power
- *Ptolemy*, backed by the Syrians, seized power and controlled Judea
- For the next six years *John Hyrcanus* remained in power by paying a heavy tribute
- **128 B.C.** The king of Syria was killed and Judea proclaimed its independence
- *John* reigned for 30 years and extended the borders of the Jewish state and enforced the Mosaic Law

Transition (Cont)

- The scribes (called ***Pharisees***) traveled with the army and settled among the conquered people to supervise their transition to Judaism
- The *Pharisees* were the spiritual successor of the *Hasideans* whose **zeal for the law** had inspired the Maccabean heroes
- Within one generation they had become a great and influential power in the land

Transition (Cont)

- At first *John Hyrcanus* supported the ***Pharisees*** until their increasing influence led the aristocrats in Jerusalem to form a new party called the ***Sadducees*** to oppose them
- The ***Sadducees*** persuaded *John* to support them, causing the ***Pharisees*** to fall into disgrace
- The ***Pharisees*** disliked *John* who extended his power while neglecting the high priesthood
- The aim of the war of independence was to restore the ancient Jewish state

Transition (Cont)

- *John* created a Greek-styled kingdom with only a superficial focus on the life and religion of the Jews
- **104 B.C. *John Hyrcanus* died** and was succeeded by his son ***Aristobulus***, known as the Greek-lover
- He invaded *Galilee* and forcibly circumcised and converted the heathen population
- **103 B.C. *Aristobulus* died** and was succeeded by his 37 year old widow ***Alexandra*** who married ***Janneus*** his 22 year old brother and took the name *Alexander*

Transition (Cont)

- *Alexander Jannaeus* grew unpopular
- **94 B.C.** the **Pharisees** led a six year rebellion in which they called on the *Syrians* to intervene
- The people changed their support to *Jannaeus* who repelled the Syrian invasion
- *Jannaeus* crucified **800 leading Pharisees** and killed their wives and children in front of them
- As in the past, the wilderness of Judea became a refuge of those **Zealous** for the Law
- Some set up monastic communities such as the **Essenes** who produced the dead sea scrolls

Transition (Cont)

- **76 B.C. *Janneus* died** and his widow ***Alexandra*** installed her half-witted elder son, ***John Hyrcanus II***, as high priest
- The ***Pharisees*** recovered their lost influence and supplanted the ***Sadducees*** as the political leaders of Judea (this was known in the ***Pharisaic*** tradition seen by the *Pharisees* as the golden age)
- **67 B.C. *Alexandra* died** and her two sons (***Hyrcanus II*** and ***Aristobulus II***) fought each other in a civil war

Transition (Cont)

- ***Hyrcanus II's*** granddaughter ***Mariamne*** married Herod the Great
- **63 B.C. the Roman army** under *Pompey* invaded and **captured Jerusalem** establishing a 500 year Roman administration

Sadducees

- A group that grew out of the upper class Jewish families associated with the high priesthood
- Were sympathetic to the *Hasmonaean* rulers
- Were sons of Zadok, descendants of the pre-exilic family of priests
 - **Zadok** was a legendary **priest**, said to be descended from *Eleazar* the son of *Aaron*
 - He aided King David during the revolt of his son Absalom and was subsequently instrumental in bringing King Solomon to the throne.

Sadducees

- Did not oppose the *Hasamonaean* seizure of the office of high priest under the *Seleucids*
- As members of Jerusalem's aristocracy, they preferred the privileges and security of association with the *Hasmonaean* high priests
- Were political survivors who were tolerant of *Hellenistic* (Greek) culture in *Jerusalem*

Sadducees

- Only believed in the written ***Torah*** (the Law)
- Denied the existence of angels, the resurrection and an afterlife

Pharisees

- Came from the ranks of the *Hasidim* of the *Maccabean* period
- Opposed the thrust of the *Hasmonean* policy
- Were “separatists” (Heb *para* is to divide) who wanted to cut themselves off from all that was not holy in according to the Law
- Resisted the imposition of gentile manners on Jewish society

Pharisees

- Were opposed to culture
- Were in periodic confrontation with the *Hasmonaeans* and the *Sadducees*
- Composed a significant portion of those crucified by *Alexander Janneus*
- Wanted to teach ordinary Jews how they could live every day according to the Law

Pharisees

- Collected and subscribed to the sayings of the Fathers, which applied the Law to life situations
- Believed in the existence of angels and the resurrection of the body and the entire Old Testament

Essenes

- Came from the ranks of the *Hasidim*
- Opposed the *Hasmonaeans* on religious grounds
- Were successors to the faithful who resisted the *Seleucid* persecution of the Jews
- Practiced a more radical form of separation from the gentiles than the Pharisees

Essenes

- Around **150 B.C.** they:
 - Deemed the high priesthood of *Jonathan* and *Simon* to be illegitimate
 - Gathered around the “Teacher of Righteousness” with a vision of forming a faithful remnant in anticipation of end times
 - Built a community at *Qumran* which endured until its destruction by the Romans in 68 A.D.

The Zealots

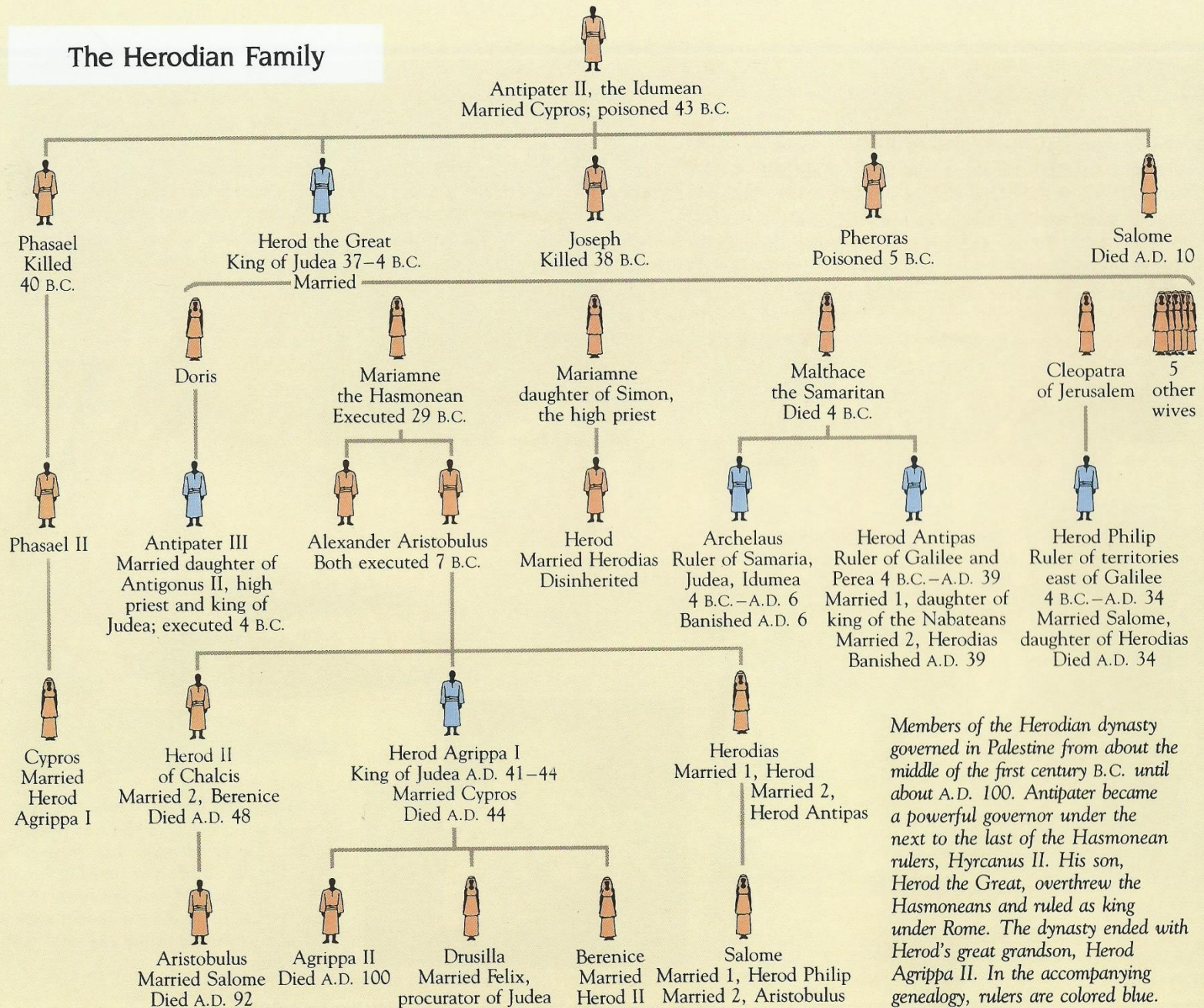
- *Zealots* were an aggressive political party whose concern for the national and religious life of the **Jewish** people led them to despise even Jews who sought peace and conciliation with the **Roman** authorities
- Led the people of Judea to rebel against the Roman Empire and expel it from the Holy Land by force of arms, most notably during the First **Jewish**–Roman War (66–70 A.D.)
- Began the Jewish revolt in **66 A.D.** against the *Romans* which ended with the destruction of the Temple and *Jerusalem* in **70 A.D.**

The Herod the Great

Herod the Great

- Herod's father ***Antipater***
 - Was the founder of the *Herodian* dynasty and made governor of *Idumea* and *Hyrchanus'* principle adviser (perhaps the most important man in the land)
 - **47 B.C.** *Julius Caesar* made him the chief minister of all *Judea* and exempted him from taxes
 - Found political posts for his two eldest sons; *Herod* who became the governor of *Galilee*, *Phasael* was given Jerusalem
 - **Died in 43 B.C.**
- *Herod* captured and executed the leader of a gang of bandits resulting in his being tried in the Sanhedrin for murder

The Herodian Family



Members of the Herodian dynasty governed in Palestine from about the middle of the first century B.C. until about A.D. 100. Antipater became a powerful governor under the next to the last of the Hasmonean rulers, Hyrcanus II. His son, Herod the Great, overthrew the Hasmonians and ruled as king under Rome. The dynasty ended with Herod's great grandson, Herod Agrippa II. In the accompanying genealogy, rulers are colored blue.

Herod the Great (Cont)

- He challenged the court, then fled under the protection of the Roman governor in *Damascus*
- He soon won the governorship of *Samaria* followed by *Galilee*
- He became *Rome's* most ardent supporter in *Palestine*
- **40 B.C.** he was forced to flee to *Masada* during the *Parthian* invasion
- He appealed to *Rome* for help and *Mark Anthony* saw him as the best hope for reviving *Roman* dominance in the eastern region of the empire

Herod the Great (Cont)

- **39 B.C.** he conscripted an army and attempted to free his family at *Masada* who were under siege of the *Hasmonean King Antigonus*
- His next objective was *Jerusalem*
- **37 B.C.** the *Romans* joined *Herod's* troops, and *Syrian auxiliaries* conquered *Jerusalem*
- Herod paid a sizable ransom to persuade the *Romans* to depart and leave him in charge of *Jerusalem* (**37 B.C.**)
- He was seen by the Jews as client king of the *Romans*

Herod the Great (Cont)

- The *Romans* executed *Antigonus*
- *Herod* executed many of the Jewish supporters of *Antigonus* to include 45 members of the *Sanhedrin*
- He, however, could not get around the prohibition of **Du 17:15** forbidding making a foreigner king of the Jews (He was an *Idumean*)
- Although he was fairly tolerant of the more zealous groups he demanded an oath of loyalty to himself and later to the *Roman* Emperor

Herod the Great (Cont)

- The *Pharisees* and *Essenes* refused this on conscientious grounds
- Due to past favors *Herod* exempted them provided they would stay out of politics
- Although they continued to preach against him, he chose to ignore them
- He then set up a tightly controlled administration throughout *Palestine*
- He restricted traditional Jewish institution including law courts whose power he assumed

Herod the Great (Cont)

- He packed the *Sanhedrin* with his own followers and reduced their role to ceremonial and a rubber stamp of his policies
- He established an army of mainly foreign mercenaries
- He developed a powerful secret police and network of spies from every corner of the realm
- Throughout his reign *Palestine* was racked by dynamic tensions and religious fevers steeped in messianic rumblings
- **37 B.C.** he married ***Mariamne of the Hasmoneans***

Herod the Great (Cont)

- He was a paranoid maniac who executed his:
 - Wife *Mariamne* in **29 B.C.**
 - Mother-in-law *Alexandra the Maccabee*
 - Two brothers-in-law
 - Three sons
- He ruled Judea from **37 B.C.** until his death in **4 B.C.**

Early Christian Time Line

- 37 – 4 AD Herod the Great – roman puppet
 - Archelaus 4BC-6AD Banished by Rome
 - Herod Philip 4BC-34AD - Died
 - Herod Antipas 4 BC-39 AD – Banished
- 0-6 AD Birth of Jesus the Christ
- 6-15 Annas – High Priest appointed by Rome
- 18-37 Caiaphas – High Priest selected by the Jews

Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- 26-36 Pontius Pilate – 5th Prefect of Rome
- 30-33 Christ is crucified, raised and ascends
- 33 Pentecost
- 33 Stephen is martyred
- 33-34 Saul's conversion
- 41-44 Herod Agrippa I

1st Century Definitions

Definitions

- **Sanhedrin** "sitting together," hence "assembly" or "council" was an assembly of twenty-three to seventy-one men appointed in every city in the Land of Israel. At the time of Jesus it was a court of 71 sages (70 plus the High Priest) that met in the "Chamber of the Hewn Stones" in the Jerusalem Temple. It was based on *Numbers 11:16* where Moses selected 71 judges to assist him in governing the people. They met every day except during major feasts and the Sabbath

Definitions (Cont)

- **High Priest** the chief religious functionary in the Temple, whose unique privilege was to enter the Holy of Holies once a year on *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement, to burn incense and sprinkle animal blood to expiate his sins and those of the people. **Caiaphas** was appointed to this post by the Roman prefect who preceded Pontius Pilate. He was the son-in-law of **Annas** (high priest from 6 to 15 A.D.) who was deposed but had five sons who served as high priest after him

Definitions (Cont)

- **Priest** (descendants of *Aaron*, a son of Levi - *Kohen*) occupied an important and mostly well-regarded position in Jewish society; they were trained not only in religious matters but also in Jewish law, literature, and tradition. His chief ritual duties were to assist the high priest during the performance of his sacrifices
- **Levite** descendants of the Tribe of Levi were a patrilineal, (hereditary) order who worked in the temple

Definitions (Cont)

- **Scribe** was a person who served as a professional copyist, especially one who made copies of manuscripts before the invention of automatic printing. They were learned men whose business was to study the Law, transcribe it, and write commentaries on it. They were also hired on occasions when the need for a written document arose or when an interpretation of a legal point was needed.

Definitions (Cont)

- **Doctors of the Law** may be distinguished from scribe as rather teaching orally, than giving written opinions. It implies one learned in the divine law. Doctors of the law were mostly of the sect of the Pharisees

Transition

- This ends our study of the Old Testament Prophets
- We will now begin a study of the Pentateuch