

<p>What happens in Sefer Ezra?</p>	<p>Darius found a copy of Cyrus' proclamation and re-issued it, allowing the Jews to return to Israel and rebuild the Beis Hamikdash.</p> <p>After Yeshua and Zerubavel returned to Israel, they built the Altar and celebrated Sukkot and Rosh Chodesh. The Beis Hamikdash was rebuilt. People who had seen the first cried, because this one wasn't as great, but it was time of great celebration.</p> <p>The enemies of the Jews wanted to participate in the rebuilding but the Jews would not allow them. They then wanted it stopped, so they hired people to advise Darius to make the Jews stop. He didn't, so they tried it with Achashverosh when he reigned, and he made the Jews stop.</p> <p>Ezra, a Kohen, had stayed in Babylonia to learn with his teacher, Baruch Ben Neriah. He went up to Israel with other members of the Cheres U'mazgir who hadn't gone up already. Achashverosh appointed him to be a judge and a leader of the Jews, and gave him power over the treasury.</p> <p>He taught Torah, rectifying a huge lack of Torah knowledge. He read it to them and explained it, causing many Jews to do teshuvah.</p> <p>He also stopped the problem of intermarriage, which was terrible. He worked on forcing Jews to divorce their non-Jewish wives.</p>
<p>What happens in Sefer Nechemia?</p>	<p>Nechemia was the cupbearer for Darius, who allowed him to go up from Shushan and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Darius even gave him supplies. The enemies of the Jews tried to stop this, and the Jews davened that their plans would not succeed.</p> <p>Although Jewish aristocrats overtaxed Jewish peasants, forcing them into debt so the aristocrats could have money and luxuries, Nechemia did not act this way at all. He didn't overtax and didn't have personal luxuries. (For example, he had servants to help him rebuild the walls, not to serve him).</p> <p>The Jews asked Nechemia to read the Torah, so he did, on Rosh Hashanah, in front of the Water Gate. The Jews did teshuvah, expressing an interest in Torah, learning and keeping the mitzvot. They celebrated Sukkot from the "first time since Yehoshoua".</p> <p>It was established that Amon and Moav may not convert.</p> <p>The problem of intermarriage was stopped, he yelled at, cried at, cursed and beat Jews to this effect.</p> <p>He also stopped the problem of work of Shabbos by closing the gates to Jerusalem and not allowing any melacha.</p>
<p>Who was Darius I?</p>	<p>After Persia's takeover of Babylonia, Darius I ruled for a year. The incident of Daniel being thrown into the lion's den took place during his reign.</p>
<p>Who was Cyrus?</p>	<p>Cyrus ruled Persia after Darius. He allowed the Jews to return to Israel and rebuild the Beis Hamikdash. This was announced through a proclamation that bears his name.</p> <p>Cyrus also gave the Jews the utensils that had been taken from the Beis Hamikdash. He was impressed by the Jews and kind to them. Daniel held a place of power in his court.</p>
<p>Who was Ahaseureus/Achashverosh?</p>	<p>The son of Darius I. He took the throne after Cyrus died. He was also known as Artaxerxes, who halted the building of the Beis Hamikdash. (As punishment for this, his kingdom was divided and his life was shortened). He married Vashti, Balshazzar's daughter. It was she who told him to halt the building.</p> <p>He threw a party- the first party in Megillas Esther- to display the riches of his kingdom, including the kelim of the Beis Hamikdash and the bigdei kehunah. It also celebrated what he thought was the fact that the "70 year" prophecy wasn't fulfilled and that the building of the Beis Hamikdash was stopped.</p>
<p>Who was Mordechai?</p>	<p>He had been exiled with the Cheres U'mazgir, returned to Israel, and exiled again. He is also known as Malachi. He tried to dissuade the Jews from going to Achashverosh's party, fearing it would lead them to sin. He was a member of the Anshei Kenesses Hagedolah but stayed in Shushan to raise Hadassah (Esther).</p>

Who was Haman?	<p>A huge anti-Semite. There had been a feud between Mordechai and him- when the enemies of Bnai Yisroel wanted the building of the Beis Hamikdash stopped, they sent an emissary to present this case to Achashverosh, Haman. The Jews sent Mordechai to argue on their behalf. On the trip, Haman finished his food quickly while Mordechai rationed his. Haman wanted more, but Mordechai told him that he could only have it if he sold himself as Mordechai's slave. Haman agreed, and they signed a contract on Mordechai's shoe. When Haman received a royal position and wanted everybody to bow before him, not only did Mordechai not bow, he stuck out his shoe at Haman, reminding him he was really his slave.</p> <p>After Haman's death, his wealth was divided up between Mordechai/Esther, Torah scholars, and the Beis Hamikdash.</p>
Who was Darius II?	The son of Esther and Achashverosh. He allowed the Jews to rebuild the Beis Hamikdash.
Why was the Anshei Kenesses Hagedolah created?  (AKG from here on)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There was a lack of Divine Providence- the Shechina was not revealed like it had been in the first Beis Hamikdash</li> <li>● The era of the prophets had ended- Chaggai, Zechariah, and Malachi were the last ones</li> <li>● There was a need for spiritual leadership. The Jews needed somebody to teach, protect, and pass on the mesorah.</li> </ul>
What was the AKG?	<p>A group of prominent members of society who were gathered together by Ezra during the time of the second Beis Hamikdash. They passed judgements (served as a beis din) and taught Judaism and Torah.</p> <p>Their purpose was to “be patient in judgment, rear many disciples, and guard the Torah”.</p>
What (takanos) religious ordinances did they enact?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set up a clear system for the transmission of Oral Torah</li> <li>2. Shemonah esrei, brachos before food, brachos krias shema</li> <li>3. Kiddush/havdalah</li> <li>4. Divided and sealed Tanach into 24 books</li> <li>5. Muktzeh</li> </ol>
What takanos did Ezra enact?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Torah reading on Monday, Thursday, Shabbos</li> <li>2. Beis din on market days</li> <li>3. Ksav Ashuris (lettering system we use today)</li> </ol>
What was Greece like up until the Peloponnesian War?	<p>Mainland Greece and the island of Crete were settled first. Greeks later crossed the Aegean Sea to Asia Minor and established colonies there. They learned language from the Phoenicians, astronomy from Babylonia, and engineering from Egypt.</p> <p>Two of the greatest powers were Athens, a “mind over body” place that favored knowledge and democracy, and Sparta, a militaristic, “body over mind” city state that had two kings.</p> <p>Cyrus of Persia sent his army to stop Greek expansion into Asia Minor, but Athens protected the colonies. He tried to invade Greece, and Artaxerxes/Achashverosh continued this during his reign, continuing north to Athens. The Athenians fled and the Persians burnt down Athens. Sparta attacked Persia, and Persia won a huge victory. Then, the Athenians beat Persia in a surprise attack and rebuilt Athens under Pericles. This was the Greek Golden Age, and they flourished until the Peloponnesian war, Sparta versus Athens. Philip of Macedonia attacked the divided Greece and won.</p>
Who was Alexander the Great?	The son of Philip of Macedonia. He was educated like a Greek and also received a military education. At 16, he was one of the heads of his father's military. When Philip was assassinated, he was 20 and took the throne, crushing any rebellion against him.
How did he conquer Persia?	He convinced the Greeks to ally with him in order to take revenge on Persia and destroy it. He attacked and defeated Darius III, who offered a peace treaty. Alexander

	<p>demanded complete surrender, and took Persia city by city. Darius fled. Darius III, who had fled, was captured near Ninveh. He surrendered then. Alexander marched to Persia, found that Darius had been assassinated, and declared himself king.</p>
How did the Jews treat him, and how did he treat the Jews?	<p>The Jews refused to support him out of loyalty to Persia. The Samaritans and other enemies of the Jews sided with Alexander as he promised to let them destroy the Beis Hamikdash.</p> <p>Alexander removed this agreement when he met Shimon HaTzadik. This was because he recognized Shimon HaTzadik as the person who had been coming to him in his dreams and giving him military advice. Because Alexander recognized this and agreed not to harm the Jews, many of the boys born in the next generation were named Alexander, in his honor.</p> <p>Alexander expanded Israel's border and gave the governor's position to the Kohen Gadol.</p>
What else did Alexander do in his lifetime?	<p>He conquered Egypt and was received well by them, not imposing Greek culture but learning theirs and teaching some, by setting up temples, schools, and libraries. He declared himself an Egyptian god.</p> <p>He also set up new cities and populated them. One such city is Alexandria in Egypt. Alexander conquered all the way to India. However, his system of governors led to much corruption.</p>
What happened when he died?	<p>After his death at 32, Alexander's empire crumbled. His son, born after his death, was obviously too young, so his empire was divided between his generals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Antigonous took Macedonia and Greece</li> <li>● Seleucus took Babylonia and Syria</li> <li>● Ptolemy took Egypt and, eventually, Israel</li> </ul>
Who was Ptolemy I?	<p>He was given Egypt and wanted Israel. When he saw how fortified Jerusalem was, he decided to take the city by deception. He said he wanted to bring a korban, so he entered the city on Shabbos. He then took over, forcibly removing the Jews and making them his soldiers and servants in Egypt.</p>
Who was Ptolemy II?	<p>He released the Jews, who joined the Alexandrian Jewish community. He reigned for 39 years, spreading culture and especially building libraries. He had the Septuagint written.</p>
What was the Septuagint?	<p>Ptolemy II's translation of the Torah into Greek. He had 72 Jewish scholars put into different rooms and asked them to write the same translation. Miraculously, they all made the same five changes from the original Hebrew:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Instead of saying "בראשית ברא אלקים", which would sound like, "A deity named בראשית created G-d" they wrote "אלקים ברא בראשית," so instead of "In the beginning G-d created" it was "G-d created, in the beginning".</li> <li>● Instead of "נעשה אדם בצלמנו" they wrote "אעשה אדם בצלמי" so nobody would misunderstand and think there were multiple gods</li> <li>● They did this same thing with מגדל בבל</li> <li>● They clarified that G-d rested on the seventh day</li> <li>● Instead of "זכר ונקבה ברא אותם" which meant that, originally, man and woman were one being, it was clarified into "זכר ונקבה ברא אותם".</li> </ul> <p>When it was finished, the Jews of Egypt celebrated, but the Jews of Israel mourned, foreseeing that this would be a cause of assimilation.</p>
What was Alexandria's Jewish community like?	<p>Jews had a place in the economy as merchants and artisans. They had a Jewish/Hellenistic culture/religion, rationalizing and sometimes redefining Judaism in order to reconcile it with Hellenism. They used the Septuagint as their basic text. They had a council of 71 elders and a strong connection to the Greek community. They had an enormous shul, where the entire community sat together, divided by</p>

	profession. 120,000 could fit inside it.		
What are the differences between Hellenism and Judaism?		<b>Judaism</b>	<b>Hellenism</b>
	<b>Belief in Higher Authority</b>	Monotheism (one G-d)	Polytheism (many gods)
	<b>Source of the Good</b>	Heteronomous (“external law”) G-ds torah teaches us to lead good lives	Autonomous (self law) Knowledge of how to live must come from man because the gods are uninterested in man
	<b>Virtue and Values</b>	Virtue is taught by the Torah	Virtue is found in knowledge Valued material things, body
	<b>Government</b>	Theocracy: The ideal society serves G-d through Torah observance	Democracy: The majority of society determines what is best for itself
	<b>Reward and Punishment</b>	G-d is interested in human behavior and rewards and punishes accordingly	Gods are uninterested in the affairs of man and does not act concerning his actions
	<b>Fate and Human Action</b>	Human deeds and human relationships with G-d are related and affect life	Determinism (humans cannot change events) Fatalism (all events are because of fate) The fate of humans is already decided
	<b>Afterlife</b>	Olam Habba	Active Intellect- knowledge will unite deceased. By learning, one connects oneself to the “active intellect”.
How did Hellenism start in Israel?	Greek style cities were built, and Jews began to involve themselves in Greek culture-privately, in these cities, because the AKG held power, but some. Hellenism began to manifest itself in Israel.		
Who was Antigonus Ish Socho, and what happened with his students?	Antigonus Ish Socho said that Jews should serve Hashem for His sake and for the sake of doing the Mitzvot, not for the sake of reward, regardless of the fact that reward exists. His students, Tzadok and Bytus, misused this teaching to say: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There is no reward or punishment</li> <li>● There is no Olam Habba</li> <li>● Oral Torah doesn't matter</li> </ul> Their students became the Tzidukim and Bytusim.		
Who was Ptolemy III? Who was Chonoyo? Who was Joseph ben Tuviah?	He shifted power from the Kohen Gadol, who had been the tax collector, to a tax collector who collected money for the king. Chonoyo/Onious II, who was the Kohen Gadol at the time, refused to give up this power. His uncle, Joseph ben Tuviah/Tobian, a Hellenist, gave Ptolemy gifts and asked to be tax collector. Ptolemy let him, and he became corrupt, overtaxing so he could make money off the taxes. The people of Ashkelon refused to pay taxes, so he killed 20 community leaders. Eventually, many, even Kohanim, joined this corruption. the Hellenists were empowered.		
Who was in power after this?	Antigonus Ish Socho was the head of the AKG.		

	After this came the period of the Zugot, where there were always two in power. Yossi ben Yonatan was the Av Beis Din, the Halachic leader, and Yossi ben Yotzer was the Nassi, the political leader.
How did Egypt lose to Syria?	There had been a rivalry between the Ptolemys, leaders of Egypt and Israel, and the Seleucids, leaders of Syria. The control of Israel changed hands many times, until it was permanently taken over by Antiochous III. He treated the Jews well, allowing them to not pay taxes for three years to repair the damages of war and contributing to the Beis Hamikdash. After he lost to Rome and owed them money, though, he was forced to initiate a tax.
What happened with Heliodorus?	Seleucus IV, the next leader, increased the taxes. In order to gain his favor, Hellenists told him of the great wealth in the Beis Hamikdash's treasury. He sent his general, Heliodorus, to take this money. The Kohen Gadol asked him not to, saying that it was for widows and orphans, but Heliodorus didn't listen. The Jews cried and davened, and Heliodorus saw a vision of a man on a horse. Somehow, this vision actually injured him and he went back empty-handed. The Jews saw this as a sign that their prayers had been accepted, but the Hellenists told Seleucus it was a lie. Chonoyo went to him to plead on the Jews' behalf. He saw that Seleucus had been murdered, and Antiochous IV Epiphanies took the throne.
Who was Antiochous IV Epiphanies?	He was called Epiphanies (illustrious) to his face but Epipmanies (madman) behind his back. He believed that he was divine, putting statues of himself in temples and forcing people to bow to these and worship him. He imposed Hellenism on all the lands and peoples he ruled.
Who was Jason? Who was Menelaus?	Chonoyo's brother, a Kohen, wanted to power. He was a Hellenist, though, and the Beis Hamikdash was run by observant Jews. He bribed Antiochous to become Kohen Gadol. With his power, he built a gymnasium in Jerusalem. It involved nudeness and sacrifices to Hercules. Many followed him. Menelaus was an extreme Hellenist. Not even a Kohen, he bribed Antiochous to be appointed Kohen Gadol three years later. He and his brother Tysinacus stole the utensils from the Beis Hamikdash and used them to pay this bribe. Chonoyo protested and was murdered. Antiochous went to fight in Egypt, and there were rumors that he had been killed. Jason seized this opportunity and took 1000 fighters to reclaim his position, massacring Jews. Antiochous, who did not die, found out. He killed 40,000 and took as many captive. Jason died in hiding.
What type of decrees did Antiochous enact against the Jews as he tightened control?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Entered Beis Hamikdash and took Menorah, utensils, Table, Curtain, and Gold Altar</li> <li>● Appointed Menelaus as Kohen Gadol again</li> <li>● Sent Apollonious, his general, to attack Jerusalem, taking captives and breaking down the walls</li> <li>● Declared nobody may practice religion and must conform to Hellenism or die</li> <li>● Stopped Korbanot, set up idols and made unclean sacrifices</li> <li>● Outlawed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shabbos/Chagim</li> <li>○ Kashrus</li> <li>○ Bris</li> <li>○ Taharat Hamispacha</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Burned Torahs</li> <li>● On the 15<sup>th</sup> of Kislev 168 BCE, he put an idol in the Holy of Holies</li> <li>● On the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev 168 BCE, he sacrificed a pig on the altar</li> </ul>
What type of religious resistance was there?	During a time of religious persecution, Jews should die על קדוש השם rather than break any mitzvah.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Eliezer, a man who was asked to eat unkosher food in front of other Jews, refused. Even when he was offered kosher food- he just had to eat it with the appearance of eating unkosher- he refused.</li> <li>● Channah let her seven sons die instead of bowing to an idol.</li> </ul> <p>So many, many Jews died this way.</p>
Who was Matityahu?	<p>The Greeks asked him to, as a community leader, break Jewish law in a public example. He refused, fled, and started a small resistance group in Modyin. He told his sons, the would-be Maccabees, to guard the Mitzvot and that Hashem would always be with them when they did, just as he was with so many different people in Jewish history.</p>
What type of physical resistance was there?	<p>The Chanukah Revolt.</p> <p>Matityahu's sons started the Maccabees (מי כמנך באלים ה). Before his death, he had appointed his son, Shimon, to be the “father figure” and his son Yehudah to be the military leader.</p> <p>They were not seen as a threat, untrained and unarmed. However, they fought Apollonious and were victorious against him, battle after battle. The army commander of Syria tried to beat them as well, but lost. Yehudah reminded them that there is no difference to Hashem in saving a small army or a large army, against a small one or a large one. He is the source of all strength. This was why the Maccabees won, again and again.</p> <p>Their fame reached Antiochous, and he sent his entire army against them. They brought their bikurim, maaser, and the clothes of the Kohanim onto the hill of Shmuel HaNavi and davened to Hashem that they'd be able to have the Beis Hamikdash and use these again.</p> <p>Then, Yehudah divided his army of 4,000 into four units of 1,000 men each. He put his brothers Yonatan, Yochanan, and Shimon in charge of them. They attacked Antiochous's army and set it on fire. They won and Antiochous fled.</p> <p>They went back to the Beis Hamikdash, first mourning and then cleaning it up. They made a tin Menorah (which was later replaced by a silver one, then a gold one), and found the remaining loyal Kohanim. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev 165 BCE, exactly 3 years after Antiochous desecrated the Beis Hamikdash, they re-dedicated it. It was at this point that the miracle of the oil took place.</p> <p>The Book of the Maccabees was written about them, in their praise.</p>
What happened after the Chanukah Revolt?	<p>There was another revolt for political self rule. This led to the reign of the Hasmonean monarchs. Queen Salome Alexandra was the last one.</p>