

<p>Who succeeded Salome Alexandra?</p>	<p>Hyrcanus was her chosen successor; however, after ruling for three months, Aristobulus took over. Civil war ensued. Aristobulus won and they made a peace treaty.</p>
<p>What did Hyrcanus do?</p>	<p>He eventually went to war against Aristobulus. He had help from Antipater, who was the governor of Edom (land taken over by Yannai). He fought against the Sadducees on Hyrcanus' side. So did Aretas, a king from nearby.</p>
<p>What was the war like?</p>	<p>Because of the peace between the brothers, Aristobulus let Hyrcanus into Yerushalayim, thinking that he had good intentions. However, Hyrcanus led these three armies to besiege the city. Aristobulus was stuck on Har Habayis. Aristobulus cut off a crucial bridge, so Hyrcanus stuck in a valley outside.</p>
<p>What happened with the korbanot?</p>	<p>Aristobulus would lower money down the wall, and Hyrcanus would in turn give him animals. However, Hyrcanus was advised that this practice would ensure that Aristobulus could never be conquered. The next day, Hyrcanus sent a pig instead of the regular korban animal. The impact of this “shook all of Israel”.</p>
<p>Who was Choni HaMagel, and what did happen with him?</p>	<p>He had davened to Hashem for rain by drawing a circle around himself and saying that he wouldn't leave unless there was rain. Hashem answered his prayer. Choni was brought before Hyrcanus, who demanded that he pray for Hyrcanus and curse Aristobulus. He refused, and instead begged Hashem not to listen to either of the armies prayers for the other's downfall. Choni represents the Torah Jews, the Pharisees. They were far away from and disinterested in the war.</p>
<p>Why do we fast on 17 תמוז?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The korban tamid was stopped (with Aristobulus and Hyrcanus)</li> <li>2. A Torah was burned</li> <li>3. The walls of Jerusalem were breached</li> <li>4. Idol was put in the Bais Hamikdash</li> <li>5. Moshe broke the luchos</li> </ol>
<p>Who was Pompey, and what did he do?</p>	<p>A Roman general who had been conquering, gaining power in Asia Minor. Both Aristobulus and Hyrcanus approached him for help. Aristobulus was in power at the time, the stronger of the two kings, and had a larger army holding many fortresses; Hyrcanus was the rightful heir but the weaker king, despite the armies supporting him. Pompey chose Hyrcanus, the weaker king, which gave Rome more control. With the Roman army's support, Hyrcanus was restored to the throne and became Kohen Gadol once again. Aristobulus was forced to surrender. As time went out, it became apparent that Rome was looking to exert control over Israel. Despite this threat, the brothers never united.</p>

<p>How did Pompey take Jerusalem/Israel?</p>	<p>The northern valley provided easy access to Jerusalem; however, it was heavily fortified. With the Roman army's technology (ramps, siege machines, battering rams) they were able to breach the walls in two months.                  Pompey's army was brutal—they killed 12,000 Kohanim in one day—as they took charge. The walls were torn down.                  Hyrcanus was again installed as Kohen Gadol.                  Aristobulus and his family were taken captive to Rome, where they were paraded around as Rome celebrated their defeat.                  This was the end of Jewish self-rule: a Roman proconsul was put in charge and taxes were collected by the Roman government.</p>
<p>Who was Gabinius?</p>	<p>The Roman proconsuls had been okay as rulers, until Gabinius. He rebuilt the Greek cities in Israel and brought non-Jews to populate them. Aristobulus' son Alexander escaped Rome and started a revolt against Gabinius, but it failed.                  Antipater then convinced Gabinius that Jewish strength came from the Sanhedrin. Gabinius then abolished the Sanhedrin, a tremendous tragedy. Gabinius also divided Jerusalem into five provinces, each with a Sadducee governor.</p>
<p>Who was Crassius?</p>	<p>A Roman ruler—governor in Syria. He became rich by stealing from the Beis Hamikdash. He was killed in battle a year later.</p>
<p>Who was Caesar?</p>	<p>A ruler who went to war against Pompey. He won Rome and Italy, and Pompey kept Israel.                  Caesar continued the conquest. He was besieged by Pompey in Alexandria, but Antipater and Hyrcanus brought 3,000 troops to help Caesar. Caesar eventually won. He made Hyrcanus Kohen Gadol and Nassi as a reward and put Antipater in charge of Israel as a reward.                  Caesar was good to the Jews, allowing them to rebuild their walls, rescinding the decrees against them, and allowing them a small degree of self-rule.                  Later, Brutus and Cassius, who had fought with Pompey, killed Caesar. Antipater and Herod became the rulers/tax collectors of Israel.</p>
<p>What happened to Aristobulus?</p>	<p>Caesar released him to lead soldiers against Pompey. When Aristobulus arrived in Israel, he was poisoned by an assassin sent by Pompey.</p>
<p>Who was Herod?</p>	<p>Antipater's son. Antipater made him governor of the Galilee. There was a patriotic/nationalist revolt going on there, and Herod executed all of the conspirators without trial.                  When he and Antipater were tax collectors, they were absolutely ruthless. People who couldn't afford to pay taxes were sold into slavery.</p>
<p>How did Antipater die?</p>	<p>Hyrcanus poisoned him—as second in power to him, he felt his life was in danger.</p>

Who was Mark Anthony?	He ruled after Caesar. He supported Herod as governor, refusing the complaints and killing those who wanted Herod removed.
What did Herod build?	Cities, palaces, pagan temples, and gymnasiums, all paid for with heavy taxes that were collected ruthlessly. These destroyed the economic situation. His construction was to impress foreigners.
What palaces did Herod build?	<p>He built a palace in Jerusalem, west of the city. It had major fortifications and three towers, one for the memory of his wife, one for his brother Phasel, and one for his friend Hippicus. (One tower remains today—it is part of the Migdal David complex.)</p> <p>Herod renovated and fortified Hyrcanus I's palace, named Antonia. He also built palaces/fortresses for refuge: Massada (by the Dead Sea), Herodium (Beit Lechem), Sebastia (Samaria), and Antipatrius (Rosh Haan).</p>
What was Caseria?	A port city that Herod built and named for Augustus Caesar. It took 12 years to complete and had a port, buildings, theaters, and pagan temples. It was populated mostly by non-Jews. He wanted it to be the capital, but the Jews among themselves didn't accept this, as they didn't want the capital to be a reflection of Herod's values and non-Jewish rule.
What else did Herod build?	Two gladiator theaters in Jerusalem.
<p>Why did he renovate the Beis Hamikdash?</p> <p>What were the renovations like?</p>	<p>The Jews wouldn't accept Herod because he wasn't Jewish (he was descended from a forced conversion and a non-Jewish mother). Herod decided that he would solve that by killing all of the Torah scholars (them being the ones, in his opinion, that did not accept him). He did, except for Baba ben Buta, whom he blinded. Herod then went to Baba ben Buta disguised and tried to get him to say something treasonous about Herod to incriminate the Rabbis (since Herod had really killed them without any evidence, since none existed). Baba would not, however, and eventually Herod gave up, revealed himself, and asked Baba how to make amends. Baba told him to renovate the Beis Hamikdash, which had been built 330 years earlier and was never as good as the first, especially after the Maccabean revolt.</p> <p>To show the Jews that he wasn't using the renovations as a pretense to destroy it, Herod gathered all of the building materials and only then did the 10,000 workers start the 3 year project.</p> <p>The renovated Beis Hamikdash was made of yellow, white, and blue marble and gold. It is described as “a truly grand building” in the Gemara.</p> <p>Herod offended the Jews, though, by putting a Roman eagle on the gates to remind them that they were still Roman subjects.</p>
What happened with the eagle?	Two sages ripped it down and smashed it. They and 40+ of their students were tried, said they were safeguarding Torah, and were burnt alive.

Who was Antigonus Matthew?	Aristobulus' son. He overthrew Herod and became the king of Israel and the Kohen Gadol, while Herod fled to Rome. To ensure that Hyrcanus couldn't take the kehunah gedolah, he cut Hyrcanus' ears off (a blemish that would disqualify him as a kohen).
What did Herod do?	Returned to Israel with the Roman army and laid siege to Jerusalem. He won and sent Antigonus to Syria in chains and beheaded him there. Herod also killed the 45 people who were closest to Antigonus. Upset that he wasn't accepted as a Jewish ruler, Herod oppressed the Jews. He married Miriam, from the Hasmonean dynasty, to be accepted, but it didn't work.
Who was Aristobulus III?	Miriam's sister, Alexander and Alexandra's son. He was appointed to be Kohen Gadol by Herod. At his Sukkot debut, he was received very well—so well, in fact, that Herod grew jealous. Herod invited the Hasmoneans to his palace and drowned Aristobulus in his swimming pool.
What happened after that?	Alexandra (Aristobulus' mother) realized that Herod was faking mourning and really had killed her son, so she went to Mark Anthony and complained. He tried Herod, who bribed Mark Anthony and was acquitted. At this time, Herod decreed that, if he died, his wife should be killed (so that she couldn't remarry).
What happened to Alexandra?	She revolt and Herod killed her.
Who was Augustus Caesar/Octavian?	A ruler who deposed Mark Anthony. Herod won his support so that he wouldn't punish him for being loyal to Mark Anthony.
How did Hyrcanus II die?	He was killed by Herod so he couldn't take power in the case of Herod's death.
How did Miriam die?	She was angry about Hyrcanus' death. Then, rumors started by Edomites surfaced—they said she was plotting to kill Herod. Paranoid, Herod tried and executed her. He then regretted it, becoming depressed, so he executed the judges who sentenced her to death.
Did Herod kill anybody else?	Of course, According to the Gemara, the one (nameless) Hasmonean girl who was left knew that Herod would want to marry her so she killed herself.
What happened to Herod's sons?	He had planned for his sons Aristobulus IV and Alexander to succeed him, so he sent them to Rome to learn how to rule. They returned and were very well received. Herod became jealous. His son Antipater (from an Edomite wife) spread a rumor that they were planning to poison him. Herod believed this and sentenced them to death. Antipater then planned to kill Herod, and Herod discovered this and killed him. Herod's sons from another wife, Archaleus, Antipas, and Philipus

	succeed him. His lands were divided between them; Archaleus got Israel.
Was Herod ever accepted?	No. Actually, he made everybody, Jews and non-Jews, swear loyalty to him. 6,000 Torah leaders refused and he killed them, only sparing Hillel and Shammai out of respect. He also, like Yannai, imprisoned sages that should be killed the day he died, but his sister Salome released them.
Who was Hillel?	A descendent of David Hamelch who was the Nassi during Herod's time. Born in Babylonia, he learned in the yeshivot of the Cheres U'mazgir. He then came to learn in Israel. He was extremely poor but very devoted to learning. He lived 120 years and was the Nassi for 40. Herod respected him so much that he didn't kill him.
Who was Shammai?	An Israeli native, he was Av Beis Din. He was revered by the people and, like Hillel, respected by Herod so much that he wouldn't kill him. He also lived under Archaleus—a ruler worse than Herod. He was stricter than Hillel.
What were their main debates?	(These were not personal at all, strictly <i>l'sehm shamiyam</i> .) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Torah study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hillel-everybody should learn and thus improve themselves</li> <li>○ Shammai-only perfect tzadikim should learn</li> </ul> </li> <li>● White lies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hillel-when necessary to be polite (compliment the bride)</li> <li>○ Lying is always lying</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
What were their students like?	They have 316 recorded disputes, which were not fundamental but in regard to details (and there was no Sanhedrin to resolve them until the time of Yochanan ben Zakkai in Yavneh). They never united as one yeshiva because they were afraid of Herod. force