

I. Study Questions

1. After conquering the Persian Empire and taking control of Judea, what were the early policies of Alexander the Great regarding Hellenism, universalism, and freedom of religion, and what was one thing he reportedly did with his leadership to promote his ideals?
2. From what we have studied, how did Alexander relate to the Jewish culture and religion, and how did they feel about him in this early period? What do the two Jewish legends about him tell us about the relationship between him and the Judeans at this stage?
3. What happened to the empire after Alexander died, and how did it affect the Judeans? What was one main difference between the rulers that took over?
4. What was a polis, and what did things did it require? What were some of the factors that led many priestly and wealthy families in Jerusalem to become Hellenized within a few generations? (remember to include key words and events in your answer)
5. What is “syncretism,” and what did some Jewish Hellenists do that was syncretistic? What are some modern-day examples of syncretism, both good and not so good, among Jews today?
6. List at least 5 similarities and 5 differences between Jewish and Hellenistic culture in the areas listed below:
Arts, Music, Literature;
Athletics and the Body;
Religion and Ritual;
Politics, philosophy, law;
Ethics, Human purpose, View of World
7. In teaching about Hanukkah, why did later Talmudic Rabbis in the Roman period emphasize the miracle of the oil lamps in the Temple instead of the Hasmonean revolt?

Part II. Matching. *Match these dates with their events, according to this class:*

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1. 586 BCE | a. Romans take over Judea |
| 2. 444 BCE | b. Hasmonean Revolt Begins |
| 3. 333 BCE | c. First Temple destroyed by Babylonia |
| 4. 168 BCE | d. Ezra returns from Babylonia with a Torah scroll |
| 5. 165 BCE | e. Second Temple is dedicated after return from Babylonia |
| 6. 63 BCE | f. Alexander the Great conquers Persia |

Match the word with the phrase or concept that BEST defines it or associates with it.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 7. Shimon | a. "we must not fight on Shabbat..." |
| 8. Yehudah | b. became a Greek <i>polis</i> in 175 BCE |
| 9. Mattityahu | c. "great fighters...not the greatest rulers" |
| 10. Mod'in | d. Hellenist rulers of Egypt and the Western Empire |
| 11. Jerusalem | e. died in a suicide mission under an armored elephant |
| 12. Hellenists | f. "god manifest" |
| 13. Elazar | g. Hellenist rulers of Syria and Judea |
| 14. Epiphanes | h. Hasmonean brother named as "High Priest-and-King" |
| 15. Hasidim | i. the sleepy little town that started it all... |
| 16. Ptolemies | j. "who is for the Torah....come with me!" |
| 17. Seleucids | k. a motto...a prayer....an athletic event....a beer?!! |
| 18. Hasmoneans | l. "eat, drink, and be merry...be cool, don't go to shul!" |
| 19. Maccabi | m. "that guy in the helmet fights like a hammer!" |
| 20. Apikoros | n. "Now doesn't this toga look nicer than that tallit!" |

III. True/False (Remember, if part of the statement is false, it's all false)

21. Hanukkah is a minor holiday based on entirely fictional events that cannot be proven, like the so-called "miracle" of the oil lamps in the Temple.
22. The Syrians not only had problems fighting against Judeans who knew their own land and enjoyed popular support; they also were fighting battles elsewhere in the empire.
23. The Hellenized Syrians sometimes ridiculed Jewish young men who wanted to play in the Greek-style Gymnasia because they had big noses and spoke Greek badly.
24. At least in the beginning of the Hasmonean Revolt, it was far more likely for rural people to support the Maccabees than wealthy folks from Jerusalem and other city-states.
25. Antiochus IV was known as Antiochus Epiphanes, but some people called him "Antiochus Epimanes" - meaning "Antiochus the Fat."
26. One of the most important issues for the Syrians was the need to develop allies in the conquered countries so they could get their hands on money in the religious institutions.
27. In the Greek model of the city-state, the Boule or "town council" was usually run by the people who were considered to be the most learned, religious and ethical.
28. Although the custom of giving children Hanukkah "gelt" (not the chocolate ones!) began in the Middle Ages, such a custom may have existed earlier to remind people of the Hasmonean period, when the independent Judean state minted their own coins.
29. The period of Jewish independence under the Hasmonean rulers lasted approximately 70 years, until the Romans took over and destroyed the Temple.
30. King Herod, the most feared and despised Jewish ruler in the Roman period, was descended from Edomites who were defeated and forced to convert by the Hasmoneans.