

# History of Judaism

## *The Roman Period (63 BCE - 135 CE)*

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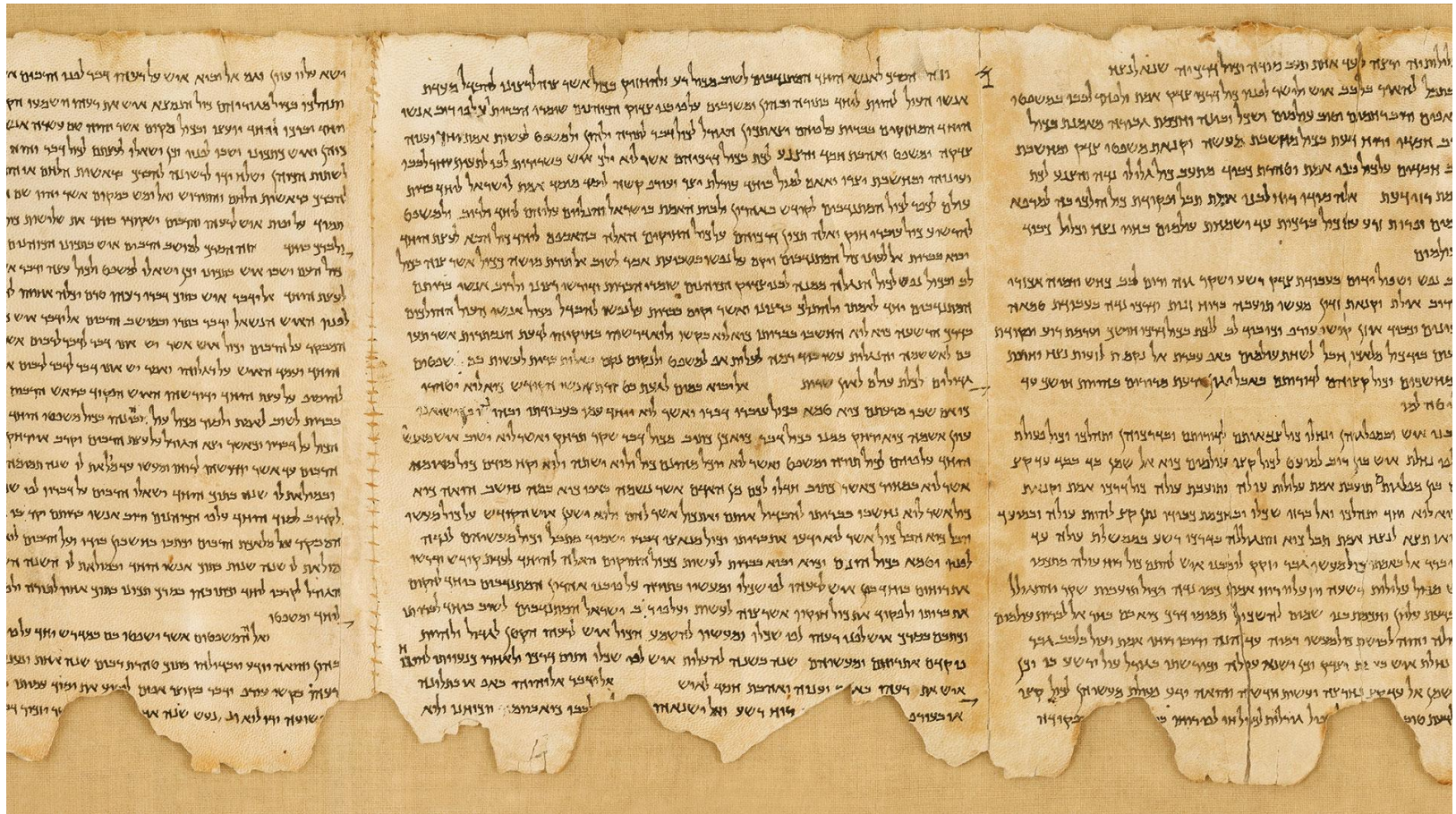
# Developments under Roman Rule

- **New groups**
  - Herodians – believed in Herod as messiah
  - Zealots (c. 6 CE) – war against Rome (66-73 CE)
  - Sicarii (Assassins) (c. 54 CE) – kidnapped or murdered those compromising with Romans; made their fortress at Masada
  - Essenes and Qumran-Dead Sea groups – ascetic lifestyle; eschatology; messianic focus
  - Damascus covenanters - group of Pharisees who added to the Parisaic Halakha; monastic lifestyle and opposed the way sacrifices were made in Temple

# The Qumran Cave Scrolls (1<sup>st</sup> century CE)

- Dead Sea, discovered 1947
  - Reveal the lives and beliefs of sectarian groups living here in 1<sup>st</sup> century CE
  - Esoteric, apocalyptic teachings – some scrolls in cryptographic script and reverse writing
    - Possible connection with John the Baptist and emerging Christian groups
    - Gnostic beliefs appear in apocalyptic works; e.g. dualistic thinking concerning body and soul; renouncing the material world; focus on esoteric knowledge; interest in angels and problems of creation

# Qumran Scrolls



# Tensions between Judaism and Rome

- Pompey (106-48 BCE) conquers Jerusalem in 63 BCE
  - Appoints John Hyrcanus rightful heir of Hasmonean dynasty – Roman period in Jewish history begins
- Civil war between Pompey (106-48 BCE) and Julius Caesar (100-44 BCE)
  - Antipater, an Idumaeen (d. 43 BCE) sided with Caesar – granted Judaea; Jews given privileges later reaffirmed by Augustus (r. 27 BCE-14CE) and others
    - Herod, Antipater's son, built temples to Augustus in non-Jewish cities; opposed by Pharisees
    - Followed by Roman procurators – e.g. Pontius Pilate (died 36 CE) – strong Jewish opposition to building busts of Roman emperor; many were more anti-Jewish than Syrian governors – ultimately led to first war with Rome in 66 CE, ending with destruction of the Temple in 70CE

# Decline of Hasmonean Dynasty and Rise of the Herodian Dynasty



# Herod



# Masada, Caesarea, Antipatris



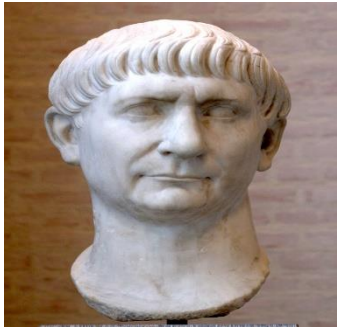
# Pontius Pilate



# Tensions between Judaism and Rome

- War against Trajan (r. 98-117 CE)
  - Jews of Egypt, Cyrenaica, Cyprus, Mesopotamia - under Cyrenian king-messiah Lukuas-Andrea
- Second Jewish Revolt
  - Led by Bar Kokhba – supported by rabbi Akiba ben Joseph (40-c.135 CE)
    - Hadrian (r. 117-138) prohibited circumcision and public instruction of the Torah; later revoked by Antoninus Pius (r. 138-161 CE)

# Jewish Revolts (66-70 CE; 115-117 CE; 132-135 CE)



# Directions in Judaism post-Roman Conflicts

- The rise of rabbinic ideology and practice
  - Followed collapse of Jewish resistance to Roman rule with defeat of Bar Kokhba
    - Non-political rabbis not dependent on Temple, priesthood, or political independence
    - Roman rulers relaxed prohibitions put in place by Hadrian – restrictions lifted on Jewish ordination, public assembly, regulation of the calendar; an academy in Usha (Galilee) established

