



Judaism after the Babylonian captivity 538 B.C.E. to 70 C.E.

Crisis of destruction

The end of the people was a real possibility

Enlarged perspective; Isaiah 45 and real monotheism

Persian Empire- destruction of Babylon, return to Israel under Cyrus

Ezra and Nehemiah undertake to organize the community, including the texts of holy scriptures.

Concern with lineage and who is a Jew. Ezra takes a stern line on this.

Alternate views from the authors of Ruth, Esther, and Jonah.

Restored temple, but no King. A Kingdom without a King, or the Temple RULES!

333 B.C.E.- Alexander conquers the ANE

Judah ends up as part of the Seleucid kingdom

Maccabean rebellion and the Chanukkah story

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Increasing Roman control

Jews have sects- Pharisees, Saducees, Essenes, and others

Messianic movements abound

Beginnings of Christianity

Increasing tension with the Romans

The Jewish War- Judea is captured, the Temple is destroyed in 70 C.E.

Further reading:

The History of the Jews by Paul Johnson

Zealot by Reza Aslan