JUDEA UNDER ROMAN DOMINATION



EARLY JUDAISM AND ITS LITERATURE

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Number 46



JUDEA UNDER ROMAN DOMINATION

The First Generation of Statelessness and Its Legacy

Naday Sharon





Atlanta

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Sharon, Naday, author.

Title: Judea under Roman domination : the first generation of statelessness and its legacy / by Nadav Sharon.

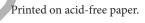
Description: Atlanta: SBL Press, [2017] | Series: Early Judaism and its literature; no. 46 | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017009196 (print) | LCCN 2017010118 (ebook) | ISBN 9781628371765 (pbk.: alk. paper) | ISBN 9780884142225 (hardcover: alk. paper) | ISBN 9780884142218 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Palestine—History—To 70 A.D. | Maccabees—History. | Jews—History—168 B.C.-135 A.D. | Palestine—History—70-638.

Classification: LCC DS122 .S523 2017 (print) | LCC DS122 (ebook) | DDC 933/.405—dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2017009196





For Naama

"There will be an answer, Let it be"

— The Beatles

שמעו אלי ידעי צדק, עם תורתי בלבם: אל-תיראו חרפת אנוש, ומגדפתם אל-תחתו — Isa 51:7



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Preface

Two thousand and seventy-eight years and a few months ago, possibly on Yom Kippur—the holiest day of the Jewish year—the renowned Roman general Pompey the Great seized the Jewish temple in Jerusalem in a violent conquest and infiltrated its inner sanctum. Yet in this act, Pompey not only took the temple itself, violated it, and killed many Judean fighters and priests. He also brought about the end of the Hasmonean state, the last sovereign Jewish state in the land of Israel until the mid-twentieth century. It is that state and its establishment, approximately eighty years earlier, as a result of the successful struggle of the Maccabees-Hasmoneans against Seleucid rule, that I had been celebrating every year of my life on Hanukkah, and about which every Jew hears so much from early childhood. Thus, the end of that state and the subsequent period of the beginning of Roman domination over Judea—which was also a momentous period in Mediterranean history in general, with the expansion of the Roman Empire and the Roman civil wars—seems, a priori, to have been quite significant in, and for, Jewish history.

Yet as I was contemplating, nearly a decade ago, what area of the history of Second Temple Judaism should be the focus of my doctoral dissertation—which I found to be quite a difficult task given that that period has been so extensively studied in modern scholarship—it suddenly struck me that I could not recall seeing studies devoted to this specific period. While I had encountered much scholarship about Judaism and Hellenism, the Antiochean persecution and the Maccabean Revolt, the early Hasmoneans, Herod, the first century CE and the Great Revolt, and the background of Jesus and his movement in Judea, I was unaware of scholarship devoted to the period between the Hasmoneans King Jannaeus and Queen Alexandra and King Herod and the impact of this period. Could it be that the end of that sovereign Jewish state had been ignored? So, I turned to search various printed and online bibliographies expecting to find that I had been very wrong and that it had been extensively dealt with in scholarship. To

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my surprise, I discovered that indeed this period had not been nearly as studied as other, earlier and later, eras of the Second Temple period. While I did find several article-length studies devoted to this or that persona, event, or other specific aspects of this period and its literary accounts—and, as the bibliography to this book can attest, as my work took shape I found many more, including some important monographs—I did not find any monograph devoted to the study of this period as such, let alone to its impact. I saw this as an exciting opportunity.

I originally assumed that the reason for that absence was that the historical events and developments of this period are quite clear because it is extensively reported in both of Flavius Josephus's historical works, the Jewish War and Jewish Antiquities, which are indeed recounted in various general surveys of the Second Temple period. Not wanting to simply offer another paraphrase of Josephus, my initial research question focused on the period's impact. Namely, I was interested to examine how the end of the independent Hasmonean state and the beginning of Roman rule over Judea—while the temple was still standing—impacted Judean society and religion. Although scholarship has often pointed to the destruction of the temple, over a century later, as well as to the rise of Christianity as significant causes or factors in the evolution of Judaism, it seemed to me—perhaps as a citizen of the modern counterpart of the Hasmonean state—that the end of sovereignty and beginning of subjugation had to have had a significant impact as well. So, I wanted to test whether my hypothesis was correct.

Nevertheless, as I started studying the period more intensively, I realized that it is much more complex than I initially thought and that a comprehensive analysis of the sources and the events they describe is necessary before any attempt to answer the initial question related to the period's impact. Consequently, my dissertation consisted of two equally significant parts. The first part is an attempt to responsibly reconstruct what actually happened, obviously not with mathematical certainty, but—as much of the work of historians of antiquity—as reasonable conclusions based on critical analysis of the available evidence. The second part is an attempt to point to crucial issues in which this period and its developments shaped contemporaneous and subsequent Judean society and religion.

The current publication is a revision of that study. In addition to the task of transforming a dissertation into a book, I have made significant changes to the content. I have integrated corrections and suggestions and responded to critical comments by readers of that earlier work. I have also

PREFACE xi

taken into account some important scholarship that has been published in the interim. I have also added material to this project from my subsequent research, which has analyzed the Romans and the Roman conquest in the Dead Sea Scrolls (ch. 3 and app. G). Finally, I have elaborated in appendices some points that were made more briefly in the original dissertation (app. A, D, and H).

An endeavor such as this often feels endless, like an insurmountable mountain. Nevertheless, as I reach this current mountain peak, I would like to acknowledge those individuals and institutions that have helped me up the slope.

First and foremost, I am grateful to my PhD supervisor, Professor Daniel R. Schwartz. Schwartz's classes during my bachelor's degree introduced me to the excitement of the Second Temple period and the exhilaration one can experience in the research of the Hellenistic-Jewish texts and in making new discoveries therein. I have since been truly lucky to have had Schwartz as my supervisor for my masters studies and thesis as well. He has continued to serve as an advisor and an author of numerous recommendation letters, even well after I completed the dissertation. He has been a true mentor, one who has helped me pursue my own scholarly interests, on the one hand, while being a guide in the stormy waters of scholarship, on the other hand. Yet, beyond being a very committed teacher and true scholar, Schwartz has been a great model of modesty, morality, humanity, and general T. It is a great honor to be his student.

Dr. Esther G. Chazon has constantly shown an interest in my work and greatly supported and encouraged me. She was also a member of my dissertation committee, along with Professor Alexander Yacobson and Dr. Gideon Aran. They all devoted valuable time to meetings and were always willing to provide advice and their suggestions certainly improved my work, and I am grateful to them. In this revision, I greatly benefitted from the comments and suggestions of the referees of the dissertation, Professors Israel Shatzman and Joseph Sievers, who offered additional advice even after the dissertation was approved; I am greatly indebted to both. I am likewise grateful to the anonymous readers on behalf of SBL Press for their helpful comments and suggestions.

I have learned a great deal about ancient Judaism and the ancient world in general, as well as the study of religion, from Professor Michael E. Stone. He has constantly shown interest in my work and has encouraged and advised me whenever I needed. I am truly grateful for all of his support. Professor Jonathan J. Price has met with me to discuss my work and

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read portions of it. I am indebted and grateful for all of the time and effort he devoted and for his consistent support. I also owe a special thanks to Professor Albert I. Baumgarten who has always been a great adviser and has read various versions of this work, as well as numerous other works; his comments and suggestions are always enlightening and insightful. Professor Michael Satlow also read the entire dissertation and offered helpful suggestions. Professor Menahem Kister, Professor Michael Segal, and Dr. Shani Tzoref read versions of chapter 3 and appendix G, and they offered invaluable suggestions and insights. Professors Vered Noam and Tal Ilan read and commented on appendices A and D, respectively. Several other scholars and friends have offered suggestions regarding various parts and aspects, large or small, and they are acknowledged throughout; here I would like to specifically mention my friends Dr. Gaia Lembi, Dr. Michael Tuval, and Drs. Michael and Elitzur Bar-Asher Siegal, who have always been helpful and willing to offer advice and suggestions.

Earlier versions of some sections of this book were previously presented and published in various scholarly forums and publications, and they are all noted throughout. I thank all of those venues, the various audiences that afforded helpful comments and suggestions, and the multiple anonymous readers, as well as the different presses for the permissions to republish these sections.

This endeavor would never have been possible without much generous financial support. From the fall of 2006 until the fall of 2009, I was fortunate to be a member of the research group, "From Religion of Place to Religion of Community," at the Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center in Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University. Scholion was, and is, a haven of true scholarship and the love of learning. As I was just beginning my doctoral studies, the Center, especially the research group with its great collegial and scholarly environment of a joint venture of senior scholars together with doctoral students, provided the best venue and conditions to begin formulating my ideas. Our group's international conference in January 2009 provided a first opportunity to present some of my research. I am grateful to Scholion and to its head at that time, Professor Israel Yuval, who readily accepted me into the Center at that early stage and who has consistently shown an interest in my work.

From the fall of 2009 until the fall of 2012, I was fortunate to receive the Rotenstreich Fellowship of the Israeli Council for Higher Education. During the last few months of writing the dissertation, I benefitted from the Jacob Katz doctoral grant of the Zalman Shazar Center in Jerusalem, PREFACE xiii

which was graciously donated by Fred and Edith Horowitz. It was a great joy and a pleasure to meet them and discuss my work with them a few days after the ceremony. Subsequent to my dissertation, the research for chapter 3 was made possible by the Jean Matlow research grant of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls (2013)—where I also had a chance to present it—and later by a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Haifa (2013/2014). Lastly, much of the work of this revision was carried out when I was fortunate to be an Anne Tanenbaum Postdoctoral fellow at the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto (2014/2015) and a Harry Starr fellow at Harvard University's Center for Jewish Studies in the spring of 2016. The Center and the young scholars it chose for its group that year provided a very stimulating work and scholarly atmosphere, a great venue to complete much of the final work of the revision.

An additional thanks is due to Dr. Esther Chazon for recommending that I submit my work to the Early Judaism and Its Literature series. As a first-time book author, working with SBL Press and especially with the series editor, Dr. Rodney A. Werline, has been an enriching experience every step of the way. Werline provided invaluable advice and suggestions, and he has been very patient with me. I am truly grateful to him. Other people at SBL Press are also a significant part of this production, and I am grateful to them all. I would like to specifically mention Nicole Tilford who has been in constant contact with me and has helped immensely with various technical issues.

I was fortunate to grow up in a home that truly exemplified the parental advice of the book of Proverbs, קנינך קניג חבמה קנה חבמה קנה ובכל-קנינך (4:7). Learning was common and curiosity was constantly encouraged. I am grateful to my parents, Nili and Eli Sharon, for encouraging in my siblings and me curiosity and critical free-thinking in all elements of life, for instilling in us a love of learning for the sake of learning, and for supporting us in in all of our independent endeavors. I am also thankful to my in-laws, Rita and Al Baumgarten, for their constant support and willingness to help, whether in proofreading or advice or otherwise.

I started climbing this mountain, nearly a decade ago, shortly after the birth of our first son, Aviv; our sons Yuval and Yair were born close to other significant junctures of my work on the dissertation. It is the joy and wonder of watching them grow and only further develop their natural pure curiosities and learn so much as only young children do that provides the best inspiration. Lastly, this project would never have been possible xiv PREFACE

were it not for my partner in life, Naama. She has read the entire manuscript, parts of it more than once, proofreading and editing and providing her insightful words of wisdom. More important, though, has been her constant care and encouragement, and words alone cannot express my thanks to her. You have truly been the engine that pulled me up the slope.

Jerusalem Hanukkah 2016



ABBREVIATIONS

Primary Sources

1 Apol. Justin Martyr, First Apology

1 En.1 Enoch1QMWar Scroll

1QpHab Pesher Habakkuk
4Q161 Pesher Isaiah^a
4Q162 Pesher Isaiah^b
4Q166 Pesher Hosea
4Q171 Pesher Psalms
4Q285 Sefer Hamilhamah
4QpNah Pesher Nahum

Ab urbe cond. Livy, Ab urbe condita

Ag. Ap. Flavius Josephus, Against Apion

Agr. Cicero, De lege agraria

Ann. Granius Licinianus, Annales; Tacitus, Annales

Ant. Flavius Josephus, Jewish Antiquities; Plutarch, Antonius

Ant. rom. Dionysius of Halicarnassus, Antiquitates romanae

Arch. Cicero, Pro Archia
As. Mos. Assumption of Moses

Att. Cicero, Epistulae ad Atticum Aug. Suetonius, Divus Augustus

Avot Avot

Avot R. Nat. Avot de Rabbi Nathan b. Babylonian Talmud

B. Bat. Baba BatraB. Qam. Baba Qamma

Bell. alex. Bellum alexandrinum

Bell. civ Appian, Bella civilian; Caesar, Bellum civile

Bell. gall. Caesar, Bellum gallicum

Ber. Berakot

Bib. hist. Diodorus Siculus, Bibliotheca historica

Bik. Bikkurim

Brev. hist. rom. Eutropius, Breviarium historiae romanae

Brut. Plutarch, Brutus
BT Babylonian Talmud
Caes. Plutarch, Caesar
Cat. Cicero, In Catalinam

CD Cairo Genizah copy of the Damascus Document

Cic. Plutarch, Cicero

Civ. Augustine, De civitate Dei

Coll. Solinus, Collectanea rerum memorabilium

Crass. Plutarch, Crassus

Dial. Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho

Demetr. Plutarch, Demetrius

Ep. Afr. Origen, Epistula ad Africanum
Ep. Brut. Cicero, Epistulae ad Brutum
Epigr. Martial, Epigrammata

Fact. Valerius Maximus, Factorum et dictorum memorabilium

Fam. Cicero, Epistulae ad familiares

Flac. Cicero, Pro Flacco
Flacc. Philo, In Flaccum
Frag. Petronius, Fragmenta
Geogr. Strabo, Geographica

Git. Gittin

Her. Philo, Quis rerum divinarum heres sit
Hist. Polybius, Historiae; Tacitus, Historiae
Hist. adv. pag. Orosius, Historiarum adversum paganos

Hist. eccl. Eusebius, Historia eccleciastica
Hist. phil. Justinus, Historiarum philippicarum
Hist. plant. Theophrastus, Historia plantarum

Hist. rom. Cassius Dio, Historiae romanae; Velleius Paterculus,

Historia romana

Hor. Horayot Jub. Jubliees

Jul. Suetonius, Divus Julius
J. W. Flavius Josephus, Jewish War
Legat. Philo, Legatio ad Gaium

Leg. man. Cicero, Pro Lege manilia (De imperio Cn. Pompeii)

Let. Aris. Letter of Aristeas

Life Josephus, The Life

m. Mishnah Mak. Makkot

Ma'as. Sh. Ma'aser Sheni Meg. Megillah Menah. Menahot

Mithr. Appian, Mithridateios
Mos. Philo, De vita Mosis
Mur. Cicero, Pro Murena

Nat. Pliny the Elder, Naturalis historia Noct. att. Aulus Gellius, Noctes atticae

Pesah. Pesahim

Phil. Cicero, Orationes philippicae

Pomp. Plutarch, Pompeius

Princ. Origen, De principiis (Peri archōn)

Pss. Sol. Psalms of Solomon *Pis.* Cicero, *In Pisonem*

Prov. cons. Cicero, De provinciis consularibus

PT Palestinian Talmud

QE Philo, Quaestiones et solutiones in Exodum

Qidd. Qiddušin

Quint. fratr. Cicero, Epistulae ad Quintum fratrem
Quaest. Conv. Plutarch, Quaestionum convivialum libri IX

Sanh. Sanhedrin

Sel. Ps. Origen, Selecta in Psalmos

Sheqal. Sheqalim

Sest. Cicero, Pro Sestio

Spec. Philo, De specialibus legibus Superst. Plutarch, De superstitione

Sus Susanna

Syr. Appian, Syrian Wars

t. Tosefta

T. Iss. Testament of Issachar
T. Jud. Testament of Judah
T. Rue. Testament of Rueben
T. Sim. Testament of Simeon

Ta'an. Ta'anit

Tg. Onq. Targum Onquelos

Ti. C. Gracch. Plutach, Tiberius et Caius Gracchus

Vat. Cicero, In Vatinium

Vesp. Suetonius, Vespasianus

Vit. Apoll. Philostratus, Vita Apollonii

Vit. Caes. Nicolaus of Damascus, Vita Caesaris

y. Jerusalem Talmud

Secondary Sources

AB Anchor Bible

AGJU Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und

Urchristentums

AJEC Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity

AJP American Journal of Philology

ALGHJ Arbeiten zur Literatur und Geschichte des hellenist-

ischen Judentums

ANRW Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt: Geschichte

und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung. Part 2, Principat. Edited by Hildegard Temporini and Wolf-

gang Haase. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1972-.

APOT The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Tes-

tament. Edited by R. H. Charles. 2 vols. Oxford:

Clarendon, 1913.

BDB Brown, F., S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs. A Hebrew and

English Lexicon of the Old Testament. Oxford: Oxford

University Press, 1907.

Bib Biblica

BIES Bulletin of the Israel Exploration Society

BJS Brown Judaic Studies

BSJS Brill's Series in Jewish Studies CAH Cambridge Ancient History

CBET Contributions to Biblical Exegesis and Theology

CBQ Catholic Biblical Quarterly

CBQMS Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series

CHJ Cambridge History of Judaism

CIL Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum. Berlin, 1862-

CPJ	Tcherikover, V. A., A Fuks, and M. Stern, eds. Corpus
,	Papyrorum Judaicarum. 3 vols. Cambridge, MA: Har-
	vard University Press, 1957–1964.
CQ	Classical Quarterly
CRINT	Compendia Rerum Iudaicarum ad Novum Testamen-
	tum
DJD	Discoveries in the Judaean Desert
DSD	Dead Sea Discoveries
DSSR	Parry, Donald W., and Emanuel Tov, eds. <i>The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader</i> . 6 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2004–2005.
EDSS	Schiffman, Lawrence H., and James C. VanderKam,
	eds. Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls. 2 vols. Oxford:
	Oxford University Press, 2000.
EJL	Early Judaism and Its Literature
FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
FGH	Jacoby, Felix, ed. Die Fragmente der griechischen Histor-
	iker. Leiden: Brill, 1954–1964.
FJTC	Flavius Josephus: Translation and Commentary
GLA	Stern, Menahem, ed. Greek and Latin Authors on Jews
	and Judaism. 3 vols. Jerusalem: Israel Academy of Sci-
	ences and Humanities, 1976–1984.
HCS	Hellenistic Culture and Society
HSCP	Harvard Studies in Classical Philology
HTR	Harvard Theological Review
HUCA	Hebrew Union College Annual
IDB	Buttrick, George A., ed. The Interpreter's Dictionary of
	the Bible. 4 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1962.
IEJ	Israel Exploration Journal
IJS	Institute of Jewish Studies
JAJ	Journal of Ancient Judaism
JAJSup	Journal of Ancient Judaism Supplements
JBL	Journal of Biblical Literature
JEA	Journal of Egyptian Archaeology
JJS	Journal of Jewish Studies
JQR	Jewish Quarterly Review
JPS	Jewish Publication Society
JR	Journal of Religion
JRS	Journal of Roman Studies
	7

JSJ Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenis-

tic and Roman Periods

JSJSup Journal for the Study of Judaism: Supplement Series

JSNT Journal for the Study of the New Testament

JSNTSup Journal for the Study of the New Testament: Supple-

ment Series

JSPSup Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha: Supple-

ment Series

JSQ Jewish Studies Quarterly
JSS Journal of Semitic Studies
JTS Journal of Theological Studies

KJV King James Version

Klio Klio: Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte

LCL Loeb Classical Library

LSJ Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart

Jones. A Greek-English Lexicon. 9th ed. with revised

supplement. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996.

LSTS Library of Second Temple Studies

NETS Pietersma, Albert, and Benjamin G. Wright, eds. A New

English Translation of the Septuagint. New York: Oxford

University Press, 2007.

NovT Novum Testamentum

NovTSup Supplements to Novum Testamentum NTOA Novum Testamentum et Orbis Antiquus

NTS New Testament Studies

OCD Hornblower, Simon, and Antony Spawforth, eds. Oxford

Classical Dictionary. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University

Press, 2003.

OGIS Dittenberger, Wilhelm, ed. Orientis Graeci Inscriptiones

Selectae. 2 vols. Leipzig: Hirzel, 1903–1905.

OLA Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta

OTP Charlesworth, James H., ed. Old Testament Pseudepigra-

pha. 2 vols. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1983–1985.

PEQ Palestine Exploration Quarterly

PG Migne, Jacques-Paul, ed. Patrogia Graeca [= Patrologiae

Cursus Completus: Series Greca]. 162 vols. Paris, 1857-

1886.

RB Revue biblique RevQ Revue de Qumrân SBLSP Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers

SCI Scripta Classica Israelica ScrHier Scripta Hierosolymitana

SFSHJ South Florida Studies in the History of Judaism

SJ Studia Judaica

SJLA Studies in Judaism in Late Antiquity
STDJ Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah

StPB Studia postbiblical SubBi Subsidia Biblica

SUNT Studien zur Umwelt des Neuen Testaments
SVTP Studia in Veteris Testamenti pseudepigraphica
TAPA Transactions of the American Philological Association

TBN Themes in Biblical Narrative

TDNT Kittel, Gerhard, and Gerhard Friedrich, eds. Theological

Dictionary of the New Testament. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. 10 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964–

1976.

TSAJ Texte und Studien zum antiken Judentum

TZ Theologische Zeitschrift VT Vetus Testamentum

VTSup Vetus Testamentum Supplements WBC Word Biblical Commentary

WUNT Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testa-

ment

ZDPV Zeitschrift des deutschen Palästina-Vereins ZPE Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik

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