

Dějiny a duchovní dějiny Židů II. (334 př.n.l. - 1038 n.l.)

1. Hellenistic Period (334-63 př.n.l.)

- The Early Hellenistic Period. Political events in Judea 334-167 BCE. Ptolemaic and Seleucid administration. Simeon the High Priest (Shimeon ha-Tsaddiq). The Tobiad family. Religious literature: Torah, Jubilees, Ben Sira, the Septuagint.

- The Maccabean Revolt. "Hellenists" in Jerusalem, Antiochus IV's persecution: the theory of Bickermann. The "Hassidim." The Maccabean (Hasmonean) family: Mattatya and Judah. Liberating Jerusalem. Alkimos the High Priest. Political and military struggle. Jonathan the High Priest. The fate of the Zaddokite line (Onias IV in Leontopolis). The stabilization of Hasmonean rule. The feast of Hannuka. The Book of Daniel.

- Judea under the Hasmoneans. Political events 167-63 BCE. Dynasties, sects, and schisms: the Samaritan schism, the Jewish shrine in Leontopolis, the Hassidim and the Maccabean revolt, Pharisees and Sadducees under Hasmonean rule.

2. Roman Period (63 př.n.l. - 638 n.l.)

- Jewish world in Roman times: Political events 63 BCE - 66 CE. The Sanctuary, the High Priest, the priesthood (maamadot-system) the Sanhedrin, the Roman governor and occupation, resisting groups (Zealots, Sicarii), sectarian movements. Hellenistic centers. The Septuagint. Jews and anti-Semitism in the Empire. Conflicts in Alexandria. The Jews in Babylonia.

- The Revolts against Rome. The first revolt 66-70. The siege of Jerusalem and the hurban. Massada, Josephus' account and archeological finds. Josephus Flavius. Johanan ben Zakkay. The Sanhedrin of Yavne (Jamnia). Reforms by Rabban Gamliel II. Uprising in the Diaspora. The Bar-Kokhba revolt. Rabbi Akiva's role. The Bar-Kokhba-letters. The consequences of the revolts.

- Intellectual History during Second Temple Times. The Dead Sea Scrolls. History of the discoveries. Josephus' description of the Essenes and the Scrolls. Biblical texts, Apocrypha, sectarian literature. The significance of the Scrolls for textual and religious history. Josephus' report on other Jewish sects. Hellenistic Judaism: Philo of Alexandria. The beginnings of Christianity.

- The Rabbinic Movement: Judah ha-Nasi and the Antonius Caracalla. The Patriarchate in Palestine. The calendar. The formation of the rabbinic movement: teaching centers, religious ideas, hermeneutic methods. The Mishnah: its structure and content. The spread of the rabbinic movement: Rav in Babylonia.

- Judaism in Late Antiquity. Synagogues: archeological evidence. Christianization of the empire. The Palestinian Talmud. The end of Patriarchate (cc. 429 CE.). The Babylonian schools. Persecution under the Sassanian-dynasty. The Babylonian Talmud. Two versions of Rabbinic Judaism: Erets Yisrael versus Bavel.

3. Early Middle Ages (638-1038)

- The Jewish World in early Islamic Times. The status of the Jews in Muslim lands. The geonim and the resh galuta. Yeshivot in Baghdad. The Palestinian Yeshiva and Gaon. The Karaites. The first philosophers: Isaac Israeli and his students. Piyyutim. The first prayer books (Amram gaon, Saadya gaon). The Cairo Genizah.

- Saadyah Gaon and after: A New Synthesis of Rabbinic Judaism. Poetry, Hebrew grammar, biblical exegesis (peshat), theology (The book of Beliefs and Opinions). Polemics against the Karaites. The Masorettes and the Masoretic text of the Hebrew Bible. Saadyah's followers. Rav Sherira gaon's epistle on the history of rabbinic literature. Hay gaon.

- The Beginnings of Ashkenaz. The status of the Jews in Christian lands. Migrations to the North. Jewish merchants in Kenaan. The Khazarian theory. Mainz, Speyer, Worms. The Kalonymus-family. Rabbenu Gershom and his takkanot. The role of minhagim and piyyutim in forming the "Ashkenazi mentality."

Literature:

A. Primary Sources (obligatory):

From the Bible: Daniel, Ester

Josephus Flavius: Válka židovská (Praha: Academica, 2004)

Josephus Flavius: O starobylosti Židů. Můj život (Praha:Arista, 2006)

Selections from Hellenistic Jewish Literature and Rabbinic Literature (in English, downloadable here)

B. Secondary Sources:

Schäfer, Peter: Dějiny Židů v antice. Praha: Vyšehrad, 2003.

Stemberger, Günter: Talmud a midraš. Praha: Vyšehrad, 1999.

Brody, Robert: The Geonim of Babylonia and the Shaping of Medieval Jewish Culture. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1998.

Beinart, Haim: Geschichte der Juden (n.p.: Bechtermünz Verlag, 1992), 13-33.

Encyclopedia Judaica - to be consulted if necessary.