

1. Old Testament Geography--The Desert
 - a. # 1 geographical importance
 - b. Greatest impact on people of Israel
 - c. Fertile Crescent
2. Exotic places
 - a. Sea and ocean travel like Jonah
 - b. Bottom of Arabia
 - c. Sea of Galilee
 - d. Jordan River not major feature
 - i. They cross it
 - ii. Not much more mentioned
 - iii. Dead sea very little mentioned also
3. Jesus Born into this Old Testament World
 - a. Wise men came from East
 - b. Mary and Joseph flee to Egypt to escape Herod
 - i. Fulfill prophecy out of Egypt did I call my son
 - c. Life of Jesus fits into this Old T. pattern
 - i. Spends lifetime within David/Solomon kingdom
4. Apostle Paul is Different
 - a. Comes from Tarsus (S. Turkey today)
 - b. Jewish and like so many spread into this part of ancient middle east
 - c. Growth of church different than Old Testament pattern
 - i. Got on ship and travelled around Med. Sea
 - d. World of Traders and Sailing
 - i. He goes west, not east!!!
 - ii. Avoids Egypt, the great missing place in N.T.
 - Yet great Jewish population in Alexandria
 - iii. Goes north and west
 - Not to Africa or Asia
 - Why not?? Can only speculate
5. After Israel Falls
 - a. Empire of Assyria
 - i. Used Aramaic as their language
 - Not understood by Jews at the time at least readily
 - 2 king's defenders of Jerusalem did not understand Aramaic at approx. 700 B.C.
 - Babylonian captivity is when Jews probably learned Aramaic
 - Even Persia kept Aramaic when they conquered Babylon
 - ◊ Persia=Indo-European language
 - By time of Jesus
 - ◊ Aramaic common language for all Jews
 - ◊ Hebrew had died out except in temple by priests in worship etc.
 - ◊ Very similar to Hebrew, Aramaic is
 - b. Alexander conquers Persia and Egypt
 - i. Alexandria is founded
 - ii. He died without any successor
 - c. Divided by four generals

- i. Ptolemy is most famous general
 - Took Egypt and Palestine (initially)
 - Jews under Ptolemy rule from 300 B.C. onwards
 - ◊ Immigrate to Alexandria, the new capital city
 - ◊ 25% of population was Jewish (Like N.Y.C. today)
 - ◊ Their culture and language
 - ⇒ Was left behind in homeland
 - ⇒ Acquired Greek language/culture from all the Greek colonies/cities throughout the world
 - ⇒ They were culturally racist, not ethnically racist
 - 1. if you lived as a Greek in any of their colonies, you were fine and accepted
 - ⇒ Jews were ethnically racist, harsh term by today standards he admits
 - ⇒ Jews could assimilate into Greek society
 - ⇒ Jewish colonies inside Greek colonies/cities kept their own religion
 - ⇒ Mixed/mingled with language/education/culture
 - ⇒ Known as Diaspora = dispersion
 - ⇒ Needed to take Hebrew scriptures into Greek
 - ii. Development of Greek Old Testament
 - 72 scholars = LXX
 - set down and came up with identical translation = the legend
 - probably worked as a translation committee
 - some parts translated at later time period than other
 - by 200 b.C. had the Greek version of O.T. = Septuagint = Latin for 70 (LXX)
 - Even Greeks read it and were converted
 - ◊ God fearers, joined synagogue
 - ◊ Accepted theological beliefs of Israel
 - ◊ Do not become Jews
 - ⇒ Perhaps food laws
 - ⇒ Circumcision
 - ⇒ Jews were not evangelistic, would actually discourage rather than encourage Greeks converting
 - Flourishing
 - Greek speaking Judaism outside Palestine
- d. Greek lasts very long time
- i. Greek colony cities remained an elite separate community
 - Did not take over the native peoples culture totally
 - When the elite disappeared , the language disappeared also
 - ◊ When Arabs/Muslims take over in 700's A.D.
 - ii. Similar to India and Africa today
 - Former colonial power is the language of government administration
 - The official language of the country
 - Common native people
 - ◊ Will speak local native tribal language
 - ◊ Swahili is the trade language today similar to Aramaic of biblical times
 - ◊
 - iii. Seleucid is other real famous one

- Syria and Mesopotamia and Persia
- iv. You as outsider are never sure how well you are or are not communicating with the locals
 - When you are able to speak the official administrative language
- e. Greek—how commonly used?
 - i. Did Jesus know Greek, the disciples?
 - Hard to answer this debatable question
 - Widespread but uneven use of Greek in the East
 - ii. Big change around 200 B.C.
 - Ptolemies were defeated by Seleucids
 - Palestine became part of Syria
 - Greeks of Syria less friendly than Greeks of Egypt
 - Tried to make Jews of Palestine become Greek
 - Many revolts
 - For 100 years, Israel was oddly independent
 - The high priests served as kings of Israel at this time from 100 B.C. onwards
 - Will change when Romans take over!!!
- 6. Rome takes over Palestine
 - a. Kind of like USA today
 - i. Up to our neck in some part of world we would have never thought
 - ii. Hard to figure out but once we are in, hard to get out
 - iii. This is how Rome spread into middle east
 - b. General Pompey of Rome
 - i. Conquers Syria
 - ii. Absorb Palestine and Judea
 - iii. Allow high priest to serve as king for awhile
 - iv. Romans tried to separate Church and State
 - Said high priest could be religious leader
 - Herod in 49 B.C. appointed political king by Rome
 - c. Herod the great
 - i. So many buildings
 - ii. He dies in 4 B.C.
 - iii. His son takes over
 - Romans get rid of him
 - d. Rome absorbs most of Israel
 - i. Some of Herod's family gets certain parts of Palestine
 - ii. Romans constantly play games with family members to control
 - Swap them around
 - Divide and conquer to keep Herod family leaders to build a base of support
 - e. Rome early history and development into Roman Empire (44 min)
 - i. 753 B.C. kings rule Rome
 - ii. 509 B.C.
 - Becomes a republic
 - Full of checks and balances
 - For 400 years rules reasonably well
 - ◊ No civil war in Rome unlike the USA in our 200 year lifetime
 - iii. It was a city-state
 - Roman Empire
 - Not a territorial state nor a federation

- Was a city which expanded taking over one outlying area after another
 - **Was a series of treaties*****
 - ◊ Each locality ruled differently by Rome
 - ⇒Depended on the treaty and arrangements that each local area made with Rome and visa versa
 - ◊ Between Rome and the area it took over
 - ◊ I.e. Naples then Athens and Sparta
 - ◊ Then eventually great kingdoms of east
 - Many different treaties meant great variety/differences
 - ◊ Similar to British empire
 - ⇒Not like U.S. empire
 - ◊ Who should try Jesus in trial—good example in gospels
 - ⇒Good example to see how the treaties impacted the judicial and political process
 - ⇒He is from Galile or Judea makes a “treaty “ difference
 - ◊ See this in Acts of Apostle
 - ⇒Local independent units with treaty arrangement
 - Indirect rule using local governments in East. Med.
 - ◊ So Latin language never really took over to degree as Greek had
 - ◊ Among roman govt. communiquéés, would be Latin, yes
 - ◊ Common language was Greek though
 - ◊ Latin was last one put on the titulus or placard on Cross
- iv. In West Med.—Roman Colonization was different than in the E. Med. (53:30-)
- Greek colonization less profound influential in West
 - ◊ Egyptians and Persians colonization and/or conquest likewise had been less profound in the west as well
 - Roman empire first to take over/occupy these areas of the west
 - ◊ Like S./ N. Europe
 - Much more like a colonization than a **straight** conquest
 - ◊ like England conquest over N. America
 - ◊ and then the U.S. conquest over native Americans
 - ◊ not a centralized/organized civilization as India was as Britain took over India (55:50)
 - Latin rules in W. Europe
 - ◊ It will become the language
 - ⇒Spanish/French/Portuguese/Italian
 - ◊ A cultural identity was established by Rome with Latin flavors
 - ◊ Will not find this in Middle East or Africa
- v. Apostle Paul
- will spend most of his time in East!! See this in the New Testament record
- f. What kept Roman Empire going (59:00)
- i. # 1 was the Roman Army
 - ii. It preserved the unity of the empire
 - iii. Army holds together even when the central govt. in Rome fall apart
 - iv. Will be the army generals who survive and not civilian politicians
 - v. Will U.S. go this route, with military running the show and not the civilian politicians???
 - Dr. Bray as British citizen challenges U.S. audience to watch out following the militaristic route that Rome did
 - vi. By time of Jesus and early Church

- Head of army is leader of the govt.
 - Emperor in Latin is commander in chief of armed forces
 - Was not a hereditary office, elected by the Senate (and in practice, by the army who always intimidated the senators)
- vii. Rome empire lasts as long as it did because the army ran the empire and ran it well
- This was not a democracy
- viii. The roman state supports the army
- The roman roads for moving the army around
 - North to Rhine-Danube frontier
 - It stopped here cause wine and oil region is the south
 - North is the “Beer and Butter Belt”
 - ◊ Climate greatly impacts this!!
 - ◊ Alabama should be wine and oil, but settled by folks from the beer and butter-fat belt
 - Army travels on its stomach
 - ◊ And went as far as wine/oil would grow/reign
 - ◊ Wine and oil have sacred meaning once Christianity move out of wine/oil region and take wine/oil with them
 - ⇒ Has to now be imported and becomes real sacred