

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Preface | ix |
| Abbreviations | xi |
| 1 Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1 An explanation | 1 |
| 1.2 Sources | 2 |
| 1.3 The land and the people | 8 |
| 2 The Beginning of the Hellenistic Period | 10 |
| 2.1 Hellenism | 10 |
| 2.2 The general political and economic situation | 11 |
| 2.3 Palestine in 333-323 BC | 13 |
| 3 The Period of the Diadochi (c. 323-301 BC) | 14 |
| 3.1 The general situation after the death of Alexander | 14 |
| 3.2 The struggle for the possession of Palestine | 14 |
| 3.3 Consequences for the land and the people | 18 |
| 3.4 The administrative situation | 19 |
| 4 The First Half-Century of Ptolemaic Rule (301-246 BC) | 22 |
| 4.1 The position of the Ptolemaic king | 22 |
| 4.2 Political developments in c. 301-246 BC | 23 |
| 4.3 Social and economic consequences in Palestine | 24 |
| 4.4 Koheleth (Ecclesiastes) | 27 |
| 5 The Second Half-Century of Ptolemaic Rule (246-198 BC) | 28 |
| 5.1 The Third Syrian War (246-241 BC) | 28 |
| 5.2 Oniads and Tobiads | 30 |
| 5.3 The rise of Joseph the Tobiad | 31 |
| 5.4 The Fourth Syrian War (221-217 BC) | 31 |
| 5.5 The expulsion of the Ptolemies from Palestine | 33 |

| | | |
|------|--|----|
| 6 | The Beginning of Seleucid Rule (198-175 BC) | 36 |
| 6.1 | The general political situation | 36 |
| 6.2 | The measures taken by Antiochus III in favour of Judaea | 37 |
| 6.3 | The high priest Simon II | 39 |
| 6.4 | The conflict within the Tobiad family | 39 |
| 6.5 | The struggle between Onias III and Simon the captain of the temple | 40 |
| 6.6 | The situation in the rest of Palestine | 42 |
| 6.7 | The work and position of Jesus Sirach | 42 |
| 7 | The Prelude to the Revolt | 44 |
| 7.1 | Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 BC) | 44 |
| 7.2 | The dispute over the figure of the high priest | 45 |
| 7.3 | Antiochus IV's actions against Jerusalem | 49 |
| 7.4 | The religious situation | 50 |
| 7.5 | Apocalyptic | 53 |
| 7.6 | The literature from this period | 55 |
| 8 | The Maccabean Struggle | 57 |
| 8.1 | Background to the various groups | 57 |
| 8.2 | The beginning of the revolt | 59 |
| 8.3 | The situation after 162 BC | 62 |
| 8.4 | Jonathan as leader of the Maccabees (161-142 BC) | 64 |
| 9 | The Origin and Development of Some Important Groups | 68 |
| 9.1 | The Sadducees | 68 |
| 9.2 | The Pharisees | 71 |
| 9.3 | The Essenes | 73 |
| 9.4 | The Qumran community | 75 |
| 10 | The Period of the Hasmonaean Priest-Rulers | 79 |
| 10.1 | Simon (143/42-135/34 BC) | 79 |
| 10.2 | John Hyrcanus I (135/34-104 BC) | 82 |
| 10.3 | Some important literature from about 150-100 BC | 85 |
| 11 | The Reigns of the Hasmonaean Priest-Kings | 87 |
| 11.1 | Aristobulus I (104-103 BC) | 87 |
| 11.2 | Alexander Jannaeus (103-76 BC) | 88 |
| 11.3 | The political and economic consequences of the reign of Alexander Jannaeus | 92 |
| 11.4 | Messianism | 93 |

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| 12 | The Downfall of the Hasmonaean Dynasty | 95 |
| 12.1 | The international situation | 95 |
| 12.2 | Salome Alexandra (76-67 BC) | 96 |
| 12.3 | Aristobulus II (67-63 BC) | 97 |
| 12.4 | The intervention of Rome | 98 |
| 12.5 | The reorganization of the Judaeian state | 99 |
| 12.6 | Hyrcanus II (63-40 BC) | 99 |
| 12.7 | Antigonus (40-37 BC) | 101 |
| 12.8 | The Zealots | 102 |
| 13 | The Reign of Herod the Great (37-4 BC) | 105 |
| 13.1 | The situation in the Roman empire in c. 37-4 BC | 105 |
| 13.2 | Herod's position | 106 |
| 13.3 | Building works | 108 |
| 13.4 | The social and economic situation | 109 |
| 13.5 | Herod's religious policy | 111 |
| 13.6 | Herod's action against his family | 112 |
| 13.7 | Herod's end | 113 |
| 13.8 | The Herodians | 113 |
| 13.9 | Literature from the first century BC | 113 |
| 14 | The Period from the Death of Herod the Great to Agrippa I (c. 4 BC-AD 41) | 115 |
| 14.1 | Events after the death of Herod | 115 |
| 14.2 | The government of Palestine after the death of Herod | 116 |
| 14.3 | Social and economic conditions | 119 |
| 14.4 | The religious situation | 121 |
| 14.5 | The ministry of Jesus | 125 |
| 15 | The Period from Agrippa I to the Beginning of the First Jewish War (AD 41-66) | 129 |
| 15.1 | The general political situation | 129 |
| 15.2 | The reign of Agrippa I | 130 |
| 15.3 | The whole of Palestine under direct Roman rule | 131 |
| 15.4 | The social and economic situation between 41-66 | 134 |
| 15.5 | The first Christian church | 135 |
| 16 | The First Jewish War (66-74) | 138 |
| 16.1 | The beginning of the struggle | 138 |
| 16.2 | The battle in Galilee | 140 |
| 16.3 | The course of the war in 68-69 | 142 |
| 16.4 | The flight of Johanan ben Zakkai | 143 |

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| 16.5 | The siege and fall of Jerusalem | 143 |
| 16.6 | The battle for the last fortresses (70-74) | 145 |
| 16.7 | Consequences | 146 |
| 17 | The Period between the Two Wars with Rome (74-132) | 148 |
| 17.1 | Political developments in Rome | 148 |
| 17.2 | The social and economic situation in Palestine | 149 |
| 17.3 | The rabbis and religious developments | 149 |
| 17.4 | The so-called Quietus War (115-117) | 152 |
| 17.5 | The most important literature from Palestine between <i>c.</i> 1 and 135 | 153 |
| 18 | The Bar Kochba Revolt (132-135) | 154 |
| 18.1 | Causes | 154 |
| 18.2 | The figure of Bar Kochba | 156 |
| 18.3 | The role of Rabbi Akiba and other rabbis | 157 |
| 18.4 | The course of the revolt | 158 |
| 18.5 | Consequences of the revolt | 160 |
| | Notes | 162 |
| | Chronological tables | 199 |
| | Index of Modern Scholars | 203 |
| | Index of Names | 208 |
| | Index of Biblical References | 215 |
| | Maps | 219 |