

Antonio J Knox

Week #9B

October 19, 2017

Discuss the following topics in at least one well-developed paragraph.

1. Who were the Maccabean leaders? Explain.

Mattathias was a Jewish priest in the village of Modein. He was ordered by a Syrian officer to make a sacrifice on a Pagan altar. Mattathias killed the officer and a Jew who had capitulated to a similar demand, and fled to the remote hills, together with his five sons. During the Jewish revolt, Mattathias and his sons Judas, John, Simon, Eleazar, and Jonathan came to be known as the Maccabean Leaders.

2. Who was Judas Maccabeus? Explain his role.

Judas Maccabeus, as he was nicknamed from the Maccabean movement, was the first of Mattathias' sons to follow him in opposition to Antiochus's program against the Jews. He led a brilliant campaign against the superior Syrian forces that encouraged more Jews to join him. He was able to recapture Jerusalem in 162 B.C.E., and after removing every remnant of pagan worship from the Temple, he rebuilt the altar and resumed the offering of Jewish sacrifices to God. Judas was killed in battle in 160 B.C.E.

3. What did this group have to do with the establishment of the Pharisee sect of Judaism? Explain.

The seeds of the Pharisaic party were planted during the Babylonian captivity, but emerged as a clearly defined party during the Maccabean Revolt. After the victory over Antiochus, a faction known as the "Perushim", the Pharisees, was

formed out of deep disappointment in the nation's leadership. They rejected the royal establishment and emphasized personal righteousness as the way to salvation.

4. Who was the first Roman Emperor? Discuss.

The Roman Empire began when Augustus Caesar became the first emperor of Rome. Julius Caesar, the third member of the Triumvirate, had been leading Roman legions in conquest and pacification of Gaul. When the political situation turned unfavorable, he marched on the city and Pompey withdrew to the east where Caesar defeated him in northern Greece. Pompey fled to Egypt and was killed there. Caesar returned to Rome and consolidated his political position.

5. Who was the second Roman Emperor? Discuss.

The second Roman emperor came out of the second Triumvirate in 43 B.C.E., composed of Julius Caesar's nephew, Octavian, Marc Antony, and Lepidus. Octavian and Marc Antony were in a heated rivalry that made Lepidus insignificant in the fight to become the next emperor. Octavian's forces defeated Marc Antony in Egypt in 31 B.C.E., which resulted in Marc Antony killing himself. Receiving the title of Augustus, in 27 B.C.E., his rule extended to 14 C.E. and was dedicated to extending and maintaining the peace and prosperity of the Empire.

6. Who was emperor during the time of Jesus? When he was born? When he ministered?

Caesar Augustus (Octavian) was the Roman emperor at the time of Jesus' birth. Octavian was the adopted son of Julius Caesar, who had been assassinated in 44BC. He became the undisputed and sole emperor after defeating Mark Antony. Throughout the life of Jesus Tiberius was the emperor of Rome. It is not known whether Tiberius had heard of Jesus or the crucifixion of Jesus. Word of Jesus and his miracles spread quickly throughout the Roman Empire, even to the Imperial Palace on Palatine Hill, but Tiberius had retired to his palace on the Island of Capri in 26 A.D. while all sorts of corruption was happening in Rome.

7. What roman Prefect was instrumental in the death of Jesus?

Pontius Pilate was the Roman Prefect under the emperor Tiberius, who presided at the trial of Jesus and gave the order for his crucifixion. The New Testament suggests that he had a weak vacillating personality and was torn by the people's decision to free Barabbas instead of Jesus. He is thought of as a coward, for he knew that the charges against Jesus were false, yet, because of his spineless politicism, he delivered the son of God over to the rebellious Jews.

8. How did the Hellenistic culture infiltrate Judaism? Explain.

During the interval of the formation and development of Judaism, the Jewish culture was often challenged by Conquerors attempting to force their beliefs onto the Jews. The conservative Jews tried to resist, but each culture had varying degrees of impact. For example, when the Seleucid Empire annexed the Jewish territory, it aggressively commended the adoption of the Hellenistic culture to consolidate its control. The Roman Empire also promoted the spread of Hellenism as a means of assimilating conquered peoples.

9. List the seven different groups of Judaism. Explain what each group represented and its effect on Jesus' ministry.

The seven different groups of Judaism included the Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, Zealots, Priests, Scribes and Jewish People. The Sadducees were a priestly aristocracy that emerged into prominence following the Maccabean uprising, as the Hasmonean rulers labored to establish a Jewish state. The Pharisees referred to a group of religiously observant Jews who were highly respected and very popular. The Essenes were a religious movement of Jews that is not even mentioned in the New Testament. One of their more prominent contemporaries, Josephus, a first century Hellenistic Jewish military leader and historian, provides information about them in his writings. Zealots were radical political activists who opposed not only subservience to, but even association with any Gentile power or authority. The priesthood played an important role in the religion and the daily life of Judaism. As with the Jewish priests, the scribes were distinguished by their function rather than their allegiance to a particular group or party within Judaism that was committed to promoting a specific religious or political program. The majority of the Jews in first century C.E. Palestine, were mostly of the peasant class, farmers and tenant farmers, herdsmen, merchants, craftsmen, fishermen, laborers, women and slaves.

10. What religion was dominant in the Greco-Roman world? What factors supported the acceptance of Christianity as a religion?

The Greek mystery religions centered around Dionysius, Demeter, Phylas, the Cabiri became fashionably popular. With such an agitation of religious pluralism,

there was an encouraged toleration of disparate beliefs and practices, giving
segway into the religious interests and inquiry into the Christian movement.