

Comparison Chart of Week 5

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Items	2 Maccabees	Judith		
Setting vs. Location of Writing?	Israel, Jerusalem	Persian Empire		
Author?	Anonymous	Palestinian Jew		
Recipients?	Jews and Non-Jews	Jews		
Purpose?	The reverence and concerns for the Temple and its sanctity.	To call Jews to resist hellenizing power and to observe the Torah with minute and steadfast obedience.		
Most important info author wanted to convey	It is not for the gaining of political independence but most important for the cleansing and rededication of the Temple.	God will intervene and defend his people if they observe the law faithfully.		
Tone?	There is sadness and fear.	Sadness and fear, their towns were reduced to rubble.		
Point of View of author?	The author believes that Israel and its leaders have forsaken the covenant and violated the laws. It is the reason that disaster befalls the people.	The author believes that one needs to beware of deception even if it comes in a form a of beautiful words. Judith's words or phrases had a double meaning. Beware of wolves in sheep's clothing.		
Beliefs about God?	God may permit the desecration of the Temple because of the sins of the people but He will intervene to protect the sanctity of the of Jewish people' also.	The mighty army of Nebuchadnezzar that reduced the mighty kingdom to rubble was foiled by the hands of God in this thematic verse" (Judith 16:5).		
About Jews?	An Athenian was sent to suppress the jewish worship causing the daily sacrifice to cease.The Temple was	Nebuchadnezzar commissioned Holofernes to invade the nations.The Jews cried out to God, God		

	polluted with alien cult. The God of Israel rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked in accordance with their evil deeds.	sent aid in the form of a pious widow who seduced Holofernes into a drunken state and cut off his head. She held on to the religious ideal, concerns and theology of a group identified as the Pharisees.		
About non-Jews? Rulers over them?	The Maccabee-brothers won enough victories against the Seleucids to take back the Temple and purify it. This resulted in Antiochus rescinding the decree over religious suppression and the Jews had the Temple and the right to worship as they chose.	The non-Jews refused to help Nebuchadnezzar to defeat the king of the Medes and to invade western nations.		
About Torah?	Obedience to the Torah leads to blessings but disobedience leads God's people to punishment.	They must read the Torah and obey the law.		
About morality and natural law?	Divine blessing returned to Israel. Antiochus was struck down and forced to confess to God and repented. The Temple was purified and rededicated, the people sang praises, God will undo the violent unjust deaths of martyrs by raising them to everlasting life.	There is a saying "All is fair in love and war" for many commentators and modern readers regardless of religious commitment believe in this saying. The author stated that Judith's Deed is reprehensible. After reading some of the stories in the Bible, Judith's sexual excitement in the service of murder appears to be unique, the author stated.		
Remind of any biblical event, character, book?	Apostle Paul was sent to preach to the Gentiles he was beaten, arrested and placed in prison and was executed.	The story of Esther and Haman.		

<p>ANY SUMMARY OBSERVATIONS about 2nd Temple period?</p>	<p>There were five great events that shaped the 2nd Temple period.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The invasion of Judah by the Babylonian forces of Nebuchadnezzar. 2. The collapse of the Persian Empire during the invasion of Alexander the Great. 3. Persecution by Antiochus IV Epiphanes. 4. Occupation of the Middle East by the Roman Empire. 5. The destruction of the Jewish State and Temple by the Romans. 	<p>Life for the Jews has changed. The rabbis transformed the Levitical purity laws. The home became the heart of the second Temple. These are two of the changes that were made.</p>		
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CONCLUSION

There were five great events that shaped the 2nd Temple period. They are: The invasion of Judah by the Babylonian forces of Nebuchadnezzar, the collapse of the Persian Empire during the invasion of Alexander the Great, persecution by Antiochus IV Epiphanes, occupation of the Middle East by the Roman Empire, and the destruction of the Jewish State and Temple by the Romans. According to Helyer, in *Exploring Jewish Literature of the Second Temple Period*, from 167BC to 36 BC the Hasmoneans led struggles against the Jews for religious and political independence and to exercise national leadership. In this process, they changed Jewish life and culture. Their influence and culture extend beyond traditional boundaries. Some Jews were unenthusiastic or hostile against the Hasmoneans, many joined when their religious rights were at stake. The Hasmoneans were against Hellenizing the Jews who supported the Seleucid agenda to turn Judea into a 'Greek temple state. Revolt and Rise, Antiochus IV Epiphanes unleashed a religious persecution. He received reports of an armed revolt in Jerusalem, he wreaked havoc on the city and launched an unprecedented anti-Judaism campaign decreeing that the Jews of Judea cease to practice their religion and become fully Hellenistic citizens of the Seleucid Empire. The Jews regained control of the Temple Mount, Judas cleansed, rededicated the Temple Mount and reinstated proper worship. There was a great celebration called Hanukkah meaning "dedication" was

instituted on the day the Gentile had performed the Temple.

Judas realized that it was insufficient to ensure religious liberty and viability of the Jewish people due to the intense hostility of their gentile neighbors who may be forced to rescue them. Antiochus V opted for negotiations; he said " Let us agree to let them live by their laws as they did before. (Green, pg. 43) " As stated in Judith, Life for the Jews changed. The rabbis transformed the Levitical purity laws. The home became the heart of the second temple. These are two of the changes that were made. In 153/52 B C Alexander Bales claimed to be the son of Antiochus IV occupied Ptolemais and prepared to overthrow the incumbent Demetris. Many others tried to overthrow the Jews but were unsuccessful ``. If God is for you who can be against you" . (Green, pg. 43) The Jews are God's chosen people as long as they read the Torah and pray to their God they will be blessed. Divine blessing returned to Israel. Antiochus was struck down and forced to confess to God and repented. The Temple was purified and rededicated, the people sang praises, God will undo the violent unjust deaths of martyrs by raising them to everlasting life. (Heyler, pg. 39)