

Baptist Basics University
Truth Must Be Preserved For Future Generations

Bible History and Customs
Lecture Notes

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Lesson 1

Outline of Biblical History

It is often difficult to maintain proper perspective of time when studying the Bible. Sometimes we try to put books or people into vastly different times, and then sometimes we compress events into far too small periods. To properly understand your Bible you need a good grasp of the chronology of events and different historical stages.

There are various methods for attempting to calculate the dates of ancient events. One of the simplest methods in the Bible is using the ages of individuals' lives or reigns. By adding these figures (for example: 40 year reign of Saul + 40 year reign of David + 40 year reign of Solomon = 120 year span) we can get an idea of the passage of time. Other methods involve correlating Biblical events with those from secular history that we may be able to date. Sometimes dates can be calculated using regularly occurring phenomenon, such as comets or eclipses.

There is quite a lot of debate surrounding the dates and times of Biblical events. Many people have calculated quite different dates than those shown here. My personal opinion is that it is almost ludicrous to claim to find the exact dates for ancient events. There are too many factors involved, including changes in calendars and different methods of calculating time. These dates are presented as approximate and should not be taken as exact.

Below is a chart of major events, an approximate date, and a Scripture reference when available.

Event	Approx. Date	Reference
Old Testament Period		
Creation	~4004 B.C.	Genesis 1-2
The Flood	2349 B.C.	Genesis 6-9
Tower of Babel	2241 B.C.	Genesis 11
Call of Abraham	1921 B.C.	
Israel Enters Egypt	1706 B.C.	Genesis 47:9-28
The Exodus	1491 B.C.	Exodus 12:40-41
Israel Enters Promised Land	1451 B.C.	Joshua 3
Samson's Judgeship	1137-1117 B.C.	Judges 15:20
Reign of David	1055-1015 B.C.	
First Temple Built	1012 B.C.	1 Kings 6:1
Divided Kingdom Begins	975 B.C.	2 Chronicles 9:30

Event	Approx. Date	Reference
Fall of Samaria to Assyria	721 B.C.	2 Kings 17:1-6
First Temple Destroyed, Babylonian Captivity Begins	588 B.C.	2 Chronicles 36:11-21
End of Babylonian Captivity	537 B.C.	2 Chronicles 36:20-23
Second Temple Built	515 B.C.	Ezra 6:15-18
Daniel's 70 Weeks Begin	454 B.C.	
Inter-testament Period		
Alexander the Great in Judea	332 B.C.	
Maccabean Revolt	167-160 B.C.	
Reign of Herod the Great	37-4 B.C.	
New Testament Period		
Birth of Christ	4 B.C.	Luke 2
Crucifixion of Christ	A.D. 30	Luke 23
Paul's Missionary Journeys	A.D. 44-58	
Death of Paul	A.D. 68	
Second Temple Destroyed	A.D. 70	
Death of John the Apostle	A.D. ~100	

Lesson 2

The Jewish Calendar

The Jews measured time quite differently than we do today. Jewish days last from sundown to sundown. Night and day could be distinguished by whether or not the sun was up or in some cases the appearance of stars signaled night. The daylight time was commonly divided into twelve hours, that depending on the time of year could be equivalent to 45 to 90 minutes today. Each hour can be further divided into 1080 *chelakim*.

Night Hours		
Jewish Time	Roman Military	Approximate Modern Time
First Hour	First Watch	6 p.m. (sunset) to 7 p.m.
Second Hour		7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Third Hour		8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Fourth Hour	Second Watch	9 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Fifth Hour		10 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Sixth Hour		11 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Seventh Hour	Third Watch	12 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Eighth Hour		1 a.m. to 2 a.m.
Ninth Hour		2 a.m. to 3 a.m.
Tenth Hour	Fourth Watch	3 a.m. to 4 a.m.
Eleventh Hour		4 a.m. to 5 a.m.
Twelfth Hour		5 a.m. to 6 a.m. (sunrise)

Daylight Hours	
Jewish Time	Approximate Modern Time
First Hour	6 a.m. (sunrise) to 7 a.m.
Second Hour	7 a.m. to 8 a.m.
Third Hour	8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Daylight Hours	
Jewish Time	Approximate Modern Time
Fourth Hour	9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Fifth Hour	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Sixth Hour	11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Seventh Hour	12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
Eighth Hour	1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Ninth Hour	2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Tenth Hour	3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Eleventh Hour	4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Twelfth Hour	5 p.m. to 6 p.m. (sunset)

The Hebrew week will seem much more familiar to the modern person. It is based on the seven days of Creation with every seventh day given to a Sabbath rest. The other six days are simply known in the order they arrive.

The Hebrew Week		
Hebrew	Literally Translated	English
Yom Rishon	First Day	Sunday
Yom Sheini	Second Day	Monday
Yom Shlishi	Third Day	Tuesday
Yom R'vi'i	Fourth Day	Wednesday
Yom Chamishi	Fifth Day	Thursday
Yom Shishi	Sixth Day	Friday
Yom Shabbat	Sabbath Day	Saturday

The Hebrew calendar differs greatly from the modern Gregorian calendar in use in most of the world. First, months are based on lunar cycles. Lunar cycles are about 29 1/2 solar days long, which creates problems with the 365 1/4 solar year. To compensate for the 12.4

lunar cycles per solar year a system of “leap months” is used. A nineteen year pattern is used. The early Jews based the months on observing the first light of a new moon. The modern calendar dated back to the 4th century and is based on astronomical and mathematical formulas.

Another feature of the Hebrew calendar is how years are numbered. The years are dated from Creation, so that the Jewish year 5773 corresponds to September 17, 2012 to September 5, 2013. The shortcut for converting Gregorian years to Jewish years is to subtract 1,240 from the year and then add 5,000. Instead of B.C. or A.D., Jewish years are often designated A.M. (Latin, *Anno Mundi*, meaning “in the year of the world”).

The Hebrew Calendar		
Month	Length	Corresponds To:
Nisan	30 days	March-April
Iyar	29 days	April-May
Sivan	30 days	May-June
Tammuz	29 days	June-July
Av	30 days	July-August
Elul	29 days	August-September
Tishri	30 days	September-October
Cheshvan	29 or 30 days	October-November
Kislev	29 or 30 days	November-December
Tevet	29 days	December-January
Shevat	30 days	January-February
Adar I (leap month)	30 days	February-March
Adar (Adar II in leap years)	29 days	February-March

Major Jewish Holy Days		
Name	Date	Description
Rosh Hashanah	1 Tishrei	Jewish New Year

Major Jewish Holy Days		
Name	Date	Description
Yom Kippur	10 Tishrei	Day of Atonement
Sukkot	14 Tishrei	Feast of Tabernacles
Hanukkah	25 Kislev to 2 or 3 Tevet	Festival of Lights
Purim	14 Adar	Festival of Lots
New Year for Kings	1 Nisan	Hebrew New Year
Pesach	15 Nisan	Passover
Shavout	6 Sivan	Pentecost, Feast of Weeks

Helpful Links:

- <http://www.jewfaq.org/calendar.htm>
- <http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Holidays/Calendar/calendar.html>
- <http://www.scribd.com/doc/19849234/Hebrew-Time-Chart>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_holiday

Lesson 3

Temple Sacrifices and Services

One area that we Christians often fail to understand and study is the Jewish rituals in the Tabernacle or Temple. Understanding the Jewish religion during Bible times will increase your understanding of the Bible. Also, the many allusions to Christ and His sacrifice become evident as you understand the imagery. For this lesson, we will focus mainly on how things were done at the Time of Christ.

- I. Types of offerings
 - A. Burnt offering - Leviticus 1
 1. Was to be burned completely
 - a) Could be a bull, lamb, goat, pigeon, or turtledove
 - b) Male, without blemish
 2. The sacrifice
 - a) Worshipper placed hands on head of animal
 - b) Sacrifice killed
 - c) Blood sprinkled around the Altar
 - d) Entrails and legs washed with water
 - e) Body burned on the altar
 3. Significance
 - a) Speaks of death of Christ
 - B. Meat (meal or grain) Offering - Leviticus 2
 1. A cereal or vegetable offering
 - a) Dough from wheat flour
 - (1) baked in an oven
 - (2) cooked on a griddle
 - (3) fried in a pan
 - (4) roasted to make bread
 - b) Must have oil and salt
 - c) Could not have honey or leaven
 - d) Accompanied by frankincense
 2. The Sacrifice
 - a) Part was cast on the Altar
 - b) Part was consumed by priest
 - c) If offered for the priest himself, all was burned
 3. Significance
 - a) Offered for sin of the offender
 - b) Large portion went to priest
 - c) Perfection or sinlessness of Christ
 - C. Peace Offering - Leviticus 3
 1. Offering
 - a) Male or female ox, sheep, or goat
 - b) Included unleavened cakes
 2. The Sacrifice
 - a) Very similar to burnt offering
 - b) Only fat and some entrails were burned
 - c) Priests and the worshipper ate the rest
 - d) Cakes were treated like meat-offering
 3. Significance
 - a) Signifies communion with God
 - D. Sin Offering - Leviticus 4

1. Different classes had different rules
 - a) For High Priest
 - (1) Offered bull
 - (2) Blood sprinkled seven times on altar but not poured
 - (3) Fat burned on the altar
 - (4) Body burned outside the camp where ashes were poured out
 - b) For leaders
 - (1) Offered male goat
 - (2) Blood sprinkled only once on altar and rest poured around altar
 - c) For common people
 - (1) Offered female goats, lambs, turtledoves, or pigeons
 - (2) Very poor could offer grain as a meal offering
 2. Significance
 - a) Dealt with unintentional sins
 - b) Christ as the Sin Bearer
- E. Trespass (Guilt) Offering - Leviticus 5:1-6:7
1. Required if:
 - a) Failing to be a truthful witness, or in being a false witness.
 - b) Ceremonial uncleanness.
 - c) Swearing a false oath.
 2. The Sacrifice
 - a) Female goat or lamb, turtledoves, pigeons
 - b) Very poor could bring 1/10 ephah of flour, roughly two dry quarts
 3. Additional restitution
 - a) If damaging a Holy thing
 - (1) Trespass offering, plus:
 - (2) Financial Repayment
 - (a) Equal to amount taken
 - (b) Add additional 20% for priest
 - b) When ignorantly committing fraud
 - (1) Trespass offering, plus:
 - (2) Financial Repayment
 - (a) Equal to amount taken
 - (b) Add additional 20% for priest
 - (c) Add additional 20% for the offended
 4. Significance
 - a) Speaks of Christ taking care of the sins of the Believer
- F. Heave Offering
1. "lifted apart" from a larger quantity
 2. Gift or tax given
 - a) Redemption of firstborn
 - b) Tithe of First Fruits
 3. Allocation for priests
 - a) General Tithes
 - b) Portion of sacrifices for priests
- G. Drink Offering - Numbers 15
1. Strong, or pure, wine
 2. Accompanied the daily burnt offerings
 3. Poured out with the offering
 4. Significance
 - a) Speaks of joy, rest
- H. Wave Offering
1. Accompanied peace offerings
 2. Presented to God

3. Literally waved in the air
 4. Given to priests
- II. Temple Layout
- A. The Temple was part of a vast complex on top of Mount Moriah in Jerusalem
 - B. Entering the Temple itself, from the east:
 1. The "Beautiful" Gate
 2. The Court of the Women and Temple Treasury
 3. The Nicanor Gate
 4. The Court of Israel
 5. The Court of Priests
 - a) Slaughter Tables
 - b) The Brazen Altar of Sacrifice
 - c) The Laver
 6. The Holy Place
 - a) The Golden Candlesticks
 - b) The Table of Shewbread
 - c) The Golden Altar of Incense
 7. The Veil
 8. The Holy of Holies
 - a) No Ark of the Covenant
 - b) The "Foundation Stone"
- III. Daily Services in the Temple
- A. Morning Sacrifice
 1. First lot cast - to prepare altar
 - a) Ashes removed
 - b) New wood
 2. Second lot cast - offer sacrifice, cleanse candlestick and incense
 - a) Three blasts from silver trumpet
 - b) Temple gates open
 - c) Lamb offered at Altar
 - (1) Blood caught in bowl
 - (2) Blood sprinkled on Altar
 - d) Ashes removed from altar of incense
 - e) Trim and refill lamps
 3. Third lot cast - offer incense
 4. Fourth lot cast - offer sacrifices
 5. Offering incense
 - a) Coals taken from Altar in golden bowl
 - b) Incense in golden censor
 - c) Priests and Levites stop to worship and sing
 - d) Two assistants spread coals on altar of incense and arrange incense
 - e) Left alone, priest offers incense as crowd outside is silent
 6. The sacrificial lamb is offered on the Altar
 7. Blessing is given by priest - Numbers 6:24-26
 8. Meat and Drink offerings made
 9. Choir of Levites sing Psalm of the day
 - B. Evening sacrifice - about 3 p.m.
 1. Similar in most regards to Morning service
 2. Only one lot was cast
 - a) To offer incense
 - b) Those others chosen in the morning continued their duties
 3. Other differences
 - a) Incense was burned after the sacrifice was laid on the Altar
 - b) Priestly blessing generally omitted

C. Sabbath

1. In most regard the same as other days
2. Preparing on Friday
 - a) Trumpets blew during evening sacrifice to signal Sabbath's approach
 - b) Altar cleansed from blood stains after evening sacrifice
3. Fresh shewbread replaced the old at start of Sabbath
4. Differences
 - a) Two additional lambs offered in the morning
 - b) Songs were a bit different

Main Sources:

Wikipedia

Temple - Its Ministry and Services - Alfred Edersheim

Lesson 4

Nations and Empires

The nation of Israel was not alone in the world of the Bible. They were constantly in contact with various nations and tribes. In this lesson we will look at some of the more common of these groups.

Egypt

Situated along the Nile River in northern Africa, Egypt is one of the most frequently mentioned nations in the Old Testament. This is in part due to the fact that it held position as a world power for a tremendously long time. Even when not that powerful politically in the nearing the New Testament Age the nation still had a huge cultural and historical influence.

- First mention in Bible - Genesis 12:10
- Mentioned in 500+ verses
- Settled shortly after the Flood, one of the oldest powers in the world
- Time Divisions - dates from Wikipedia
 - Old Kingdom (2686–2181 BC)
 - Sphinx and Giza pyramids built
 - First Intermediate Period (2181–1991 BC)
 - Severe drought and decentralized government
 - Middle Kingdom (2134–1690 BC)
 - Possibly when Israel settled in Egypt
 - Second Intermediate Period (1674–1549 BC)
 - Invasion and rule of the Hyksos
 - Semitic, foreign rulers
 - Introduced composite bow and chariot
 - New Kingdom (1549–1069 BC)
 - Rameses II (ruled 1279-1213 BC)
 - Possible time of Exodus
 - Third Intermediate Period (1069 – 653 BC)
 - Invaders and foreign control
 - Late Period (672 – 332 BC)
 - Under Assyrian control at first
 - Nebuchadnezzar invades in 567 BC
 - Persia invades in 525 BC
 - Ptolemaic dynasty (332 - 30 BC)
 - Alexander the Great conquers in 332 BC
 - Ptolemy gains control after Alexander's death
 - Cleopatra VII (reigned 51-30 BC with co-rulers)
 - Roman Period (30 BC - AD 646)
 - Became Roman province after Battle of Actium
 - Christianity arrived mid-first century
 - Arab Muslims finally conquered in 646

Hittites

The Hittites are a group that only in the last 100 years has been given appreciation by the historical community. They were originally from Anatolia (modern Turkey) and were at the height of their power in the 14th century BC.

- First mention in Bible - Genesis 15:20
- Mentioned in 40+ verses
- Time Divisions
 - Old Kingdom (1750 - 1500 BC)

- Sacked Babylon - 1531BC
- Middle Kingdom (1500 - 1430 BC)
 - Weak kingdom and under constant threat
- New Kingdom (1430 - 1180 BC)
 - Battle of Kadesh - 1274 BC
- Neo-Hittite Kingdoms - (1160-700 BC)
 - States under Assyrian rule

Assyria

The Assyrian empire was based along the Upper Tigris River in what is today northern Iraq. It took its name from its original capital, Assur.

- First mention in Bible - Genesis 2:14
- Mentioned in 130+ verses
- Time Divisions
 - Old Assyrian Period - (2284? - 1391 BC)
 - Sargon of Akkad had first standing army (ruled 2270-2215 BC)
 - Middle Assyrian Period - (1390 - 912 BC)
 - Military conquests and growing power
 - Neo-Assyrian Empire - (911 - 605 BC)
 - Strongest period
 - Capital was Nineveh
 - Tiglath-Pileser III invades Northern Kingdom of Israel - 734 BC
 - Sennacherib besieges Jerusalem - 701 BC
 - Defeated by Babylon at Battle of Carchemish - 605 BC

Babylon

The Babylonian empire sprung up on the banks of the Euphrates River in modern Iraq. The Jewish captivity at their hands is a major event in the Bible.

- First mention in Bible - II Kings 17:24
- Mentioned in 260+ verses
- Time Divisions
 - Old Babylonian Period - (1894 - 911 BC)
 - First dynasty founded by Amorite chieftain named Sumu-abum
 - Hammurabi - (reigned 1792-1750 BC)
 - Assyrian Period - (911 - 608 BC)
 - Constantly revolted against Assyria rule
 - Walls, temples, and palaces razed - 689 BC
 - Neo-Babylonian Chaldean Empire - (612 -539 BC)
 - Nebuchadnezzar II - (604-561 BC)
 - Destroys Jerusalem and Temple - 587 BC
 - Persian Period - (539 - 331 BC)
 - Cyrus the Great conquers Babylon - 539 BC
 - Hellenistic Period - (331- 141 BC)
 - Alexander the Great - 331 BC
 - City falls into ruin and is desolate by 141 BC

Greece

The Greeks produces three major forces in the ancient world whose forces are still felt today: the Greek language, Greek philosophy, and Alexander the Great.

- First mention in Bible - Daniel 10:20
- Time Divisions
 - Minoan civilization on Crete - (2700–1500 BC)
 - Mycenaean civilization on mainland - (1900–1100 BC)

- Dark Ages - (1200 - 800 BC)
 - Homer - ~850 BC
- City-States - (800 - 323 BC)
 - Battle of Marathon - 490 BC
 - Xerxes invades Greece - 480 BC
 - Peloponnesian War - 431-404 BC
 - Alexander the Great - (reigned 336-323 BC)
- Hellenistic Period - (323 - 146 BC)
 - Sharp decline in power and influence
- Roman Period - (146 BC - 330 AD)
 - Battle of Corinth - 146 BC

Rome

The most longest lasting and arguable strongest empire of the ancient world was that of Rome. It ruled the Mediterranean world at the time of Christ and eventually became a “Christian” empire. It all sprang from an insignificant village of outcasts on the banks of the Tiber river in Italy.

- First mention in Bible - Acts 2:10
- Time Divisions
 - Monarchy - (753 - 509 BC)
 - Last king Tarquin the Proud is deposed - 509 BC
 - Republic - (509 - 27 BC)
 - Punic Wars - 264-146 BC
 - Julius Caesar (100-44 BC)
 - Pompey the Great conquers Jerusalem - 63 BC
 - Empire - (27 BC - AD 1453)
 - Octavian (Augustus) becomes first emperor - 27 BC
 - Jewish Revolt - 66-70 AD

Main Sources:
Wikipedia

Lesson 5

Languages and Literature

One of the most vital aspects in the transmission of the Bible and history is the use of language. In this lesson we will look at the different languages used by the Jews and in creation of the Bible. We'll also look at some of the other works of literature from Biblical times.

Hebrew

- Language Notes
 - Almost all the Old Testament written in Hebrew
 - Belongs to the Canaanite group of Semitic languages
- Use
 - Widespread during times of the Jewish Kingdom
 - Extent of use after the Babylonian exile is debated
 - Almost extinct as spoken language by around 200 AD
 - Oldest discovered writing is about 3000 years old.
- Modern Revival
 - Tied to Zionist movements
 - Eliezer Ben-Yehuda (1858-1922)
 - “Reviver of the Hebrew Language”
 - Authored first modern Hebrew Dictionary
 - Official language of Israel along with Arabic
- Writing System
 - 22 Letters
 - 5 have different forms if at beginning or end of word
 - Written and read from right to left
 - Originally had only consonants
 - Letters also have numeric values

Greek

- Language Notes
 - The particular type of Greek in New Testament is *Koine* (or “common”) Greek
 - Was the universal trade language
 - Latin may have been the official language of Rome, but Greek was the lingua franca the eastern regions.
 - In use for over 3,400 years, the longest documented of any Indo-European language
- Use
 - Widespread throughout Roman Empire and beyond at time of Christ
 - Alexander the Great
 - Language of philosophy
- Writing System
 - 24 letters
 - First alphabet with full representation of vowels and consonants
 - Read from left to right

Aramaic

- Language Notes

- A few passages in the Old Testament were written in Aramaic
- Very similar to Hebrew
- Use
 - Came into use during Assyrian period in diplomacy
 - During Persian period it was the predominant language in Israel
 - Probably most common regional language in New Testament times
 - References to the Hebrew language in the N.T. possibly refer to Aramaic
- Writing System
 - Very Similar to Hebrew
 - Based on Phoenician alphabet
 - 22 letters
 - Written and read from right to left
 - Originally had only consonants

Latin

- Language Notes
 - Considered a dead language today
 - Used by Rome and its government
 - Not used by the common people outside of Italy
- Use
 - Began in the Roman Kingdom (700's BC)
 - Became the language of higher learning in the Middle Ages
- Writing System
 - Had no punctuation, letter case, or inter-word spacing
 - Read from left-to-right
 - Had 23 letters in the Classical period

What Language(s) Did Christ Speak?

- Aramaic
 - It's use was widespread in the region and by Jews
 - Christ speaks in Aramaic in:
 - Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34
 - Mark 5:41
- Hebrew
 - Was used by religious leaders
 - Jesus reads a Hebrew scroll in Luke 4
 - Jesus probably used it when dealing with Jewish leaders
- Greek
 - No concrete evidence of it
 - It was used throughout the Roman Empire
 - Possibly could have spoken it with Pilate
- Latin
 - Very doubtful, but may have been exposed to it

Literature

- The Mishna
 - Written around 200 AD
 - Codification of laws derived from Torah
 - Written in Hebrew
- The Gemara

- Commentary on the Mishna
- Written in Aramaic
- Philo
 - Jewish philosopher from Alexandria
 - Tried to harmonize Greek and Jewish philosophy
- Josephus
 - Jewish historian under Rome's Flavian dynasty
 - Provides valuable information on Jewish history

Main Sources:

Wikipedia

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/series/what-language-did-jesus-speak-why-does-it-matter/>

Lesson 6

Food and Raiment

The Jewish Diet

- Types of Food
 - Basics dietary staples
 - Bread
 - 50-70% of daily calories
 - Barley mostly in time of kingdom
 - Didn't require leaven
 - Also cheaper!
 - Eventually became used only as animal fodder
 - Wheat was more common in New Testament times
 - Often was dipped into:
 - vinegar
 - olive oil
 - sesame oil
 - Wine
 - Grapes
 - Oil
 - Olives
 - Olive oil was said to be about 11% of daily calories
 - The "Seven Species" - Deut. 8:8
 - Wheat
 - Barley
 - Figs
 - Grapes
 - Olives
 - Pomegranates
 - Dates
 - Meats
 - Usually reserved for special occasions
 - Often eaten in a stew, sometimes roasted
 - Kosher meats - Leviticus 11:3-8, Deuteronomy 14:4-8
 - Goat
 - Mutton
 - Beef
 - Poultry
 - Eggs were a delicacy, very rare
 - Pigeons, turtledoves, ducks, geese
 - Maybe chickens by Roman times
 - Fish
 - Freshwater
 - From rivers and sea of Galilee
 - St. Peter's fish and mouthbreeders
 - Saltwater
 - Preserved by smoking, drying, salting
 - Expensive, so only wealthy probably ate consistently away from sources
 - Legumes
 - lentils, broad or fava beans, chickpeas, peas

- Estimated to be 17% of daily calories
 - Often cooked into a soup or stew
- Vegetables
 - Rarely used
 - Squash, leeks, garlic, onions, radishes, melons
- Fruit
 - Grapes, olives, figs, pomegranates
 - Nuts such as almonds, walnuts, pistachios
- Drinks
 - Water
 - Milk
 - Fresh juices
 - Alcoholic beverages
 - Wine
 - From grapes mostly
 - Rarely from pomegranates and dates
 - Sometimes added to water
 - to improve taste
 - killed bacteria
 - Often diluted with water after Greek influence
 - 5-20% alcohol content?
 - Thomas Bramwell Welch created first method for preserving grape juice without fermentation in 1869
 - Beer, maybe but rarely if so
 - 5-6% alcoholic content?
- Dairy Foods
 - Goat milk, cheese, and butter
 - Sheep milk, cheese, and butter
- Honey
 - Sometimes refers to a syrup made from grapes, figs, or dates
- Seasonings
 - Salt
 - Vinegar
 - Herbs and Spices
 - cumin, coriander, hyssop, mint, mustard, thyme, etc.
 - Imports such as cinnamon, myrrh, etc.
- Food Preservation
 - Underground granaries
 - Jars in houses
 - Collect water in cisterns, use wells and springs
 - Fermentation
 - Oil Extraction
 - Drying
- Daily Diets
 - Main
 - Bread
 - Cooked grains
 - Cooked legumes
 - Dairy products
 - Fruits and vegetables
 - *usually seasonal, but some were preserved
 - Drink
- A Dietary Example - I Samuel 25:18
 - bread

- wine
- roasted grain
- raisins
- fig cakes

The Jewish Dress

- Descriptions
 - Didn't change drastically in Bible times
 - Often colorful
 - made of:
 - linen (mostly), made from flax
 - wool
- General Dress
 - Inner garment
 - shirt or tunic
 - leather, haircloth, wool, or linen
 - Outer tunic or robe
 - leather, haircloth, wool, or linen
 - Girdle
 - leather, linen, silk
 - used as a pouch or "pockets"
 - Headdress
 - linen turbans
 - veils
 - Loincloth
 - Cloth wrapped around legs and waste
- Difference between sexes
 - Inner garment
 - different style or pattern
 - Men's went to knees, fastened by girdle at waist
 - Ladies' went to ankles
 - Outer tunic or robe
 - different style or pattern
 - men's went to middle of calf
 - Ladies' went to ankles, often had a hood
 - Headdress
 - Ladies often wore veils or shawls
 - Men more often wore turbans
- Jewelry
 - necklace
 - bracelet
 - rings
 - earrings

Lesson 7

Coins and Money

It is difficult for the modern mind to understand a world with money, especially one that is so varied and regional as it existed in the ancient world. Coinage appeared around 700 BC and before long became the standard for trade. In this lesson, we will look at the history of coins and the types of coins used by Jews in Biblical times.

Life Before Currency

- Barter system
- Precious metals were used in trade
 - Could be in bars, jewelry, weights, etc.
 - Sometimes bore stamp of authority for weight

The Beginnings of Coinage

- Some debate on exactly when and who began using coins
- First may have come from island of Aegina in 700's BC
- May have come from Lydia (per Herodotus)
 - made of electrum (gold/silver alloy)
 - perhaps under King Alyattes (ruled 610-550 BC)
 - Alyattes' son Croesus paid for building of Temple of Artemis at Ephesus
 - Coins ranged from a 1/3 stater (4.7 grams) to a 1/96 stater (.15 grams)

Ancient Coinage used by the Jews

- NOTE - All ancient coinage systems changed over time. Names, but more importantly weight and purity, continually shift throughout history. In some cases I estimate a general weight because I could find no reliable source for a general weight. Many coins of fractional or multiple weight and value also existed.
- Persian
 - Credited to Darius I (522-486 BC) and the Achaemenid Empire
 - *Daric*
 - Gold
 - 8.4 grams
 - *Siglos*
 - Silver
 - 5.5 grams
 - 20 siglos = 1 daric
- Greek
 - Thank you Alexander the Great
 - Drachm
 - Silver
 - 4.3 grams
 - Obol
 - Silver
 - .7 grams
 - 6 obols = 1 drachm
 - Chalkoi
 - copper
 - 8 chalkoi = 1 obol
- Roman

- For simplicity's sake, we'll look at the coins used in early New Testament times
- Aureus
 - Gold
 - 7.7 grams
- Denarius
 - Silver
 - 3.8 grams
 - 25 Denarii = 1 Aureus
- Sestertius
 - Brass (pre-Augustus was silver)
 - 22 grams
 - 4 sestertii = 1 denarius
- Dupondius
 - Brass
 - 11 grams
 - 2 Dupondii = 1 Sestertius
- As
 - Bronze
 - 10 grams
 - 2 As = 1 Dupondius
 - 16 As = 1 Denarius
- Quadrans
 - Bronze
 - 2.5 grams
 - 4 Quadrans = 1 As

Ancient Jewish Coinage

- "YEHUD" coins
 - Most likely the earliest "Jewish" coins
 - 4th century BC
 - small fractional coins
 - minted under Persian/Greek authority
 - There is still a lot of mystery and debate about these coins
- Hasmonean Coinage
 - Minted by the rulers of the independent Jewish state following the Maccabean revolt
 - 164 to 35 BC
 - Prutah (*prutot* plural)
 - copper
 - 2 grams
 - Lepton
 - copper
 - 1 gram
 - 2 lepta = 1 prutah
 - NOTE - the size and poor quality of Hasmonean coins make them difficult to classify. Value eventually came to be based on weight and not denominations.
- Herodian Coinage
 - minted under authority of Rome by local rulers of Herodian line
 - followed same weights and classifications of Hasmonean coins until shifting to a new standard more in line with Rome
 - Prutah (Roman standard)
 - equal to Roman quadrans
- Procurator Coinage

- minted under authority of Rome by Roman rulers
- Issued by: Coponius, Macus Ambivulus, Valerius Gratus, Pontius Pilate, Antonius Felix, and Porcius Festus
- Only minted prutah (on the heavier Roman standard)
- Tyrian Shekels
 - Only official payment used for Temple tax in Jerusalem
 - Equal to four drachma (called a *tetradrachm*)
 - Had picture of Phoenician God Melqart on front, eagle on back
 - Silver
 - 14 grams
 - Half-shekels are also common
 - Some theorize that these were produced in Jerusalem between 18 BC and AD 65.
- First Revolt coinage
 - Jews produced their own coins during the revolt from 66-70 AD
 - Many of these were made from other coins being melted down or “restamped”
 - Prutahs, half-shekels, shekels
- Bar Kochba coinage
 - Last “Jewish” coins produced until modern times
 - Similar to the first revolt coins

Sources:

Wikipedia

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Lesson 8

Family Life

structure
education
Marriage

Lesson 9
Occupations

Lesson 10

Pharisees, Sadducees, etc.

Lesson 11
Travel

Lesson 12
Laws

Lesson 13
Warfare

OTHER IDEAS

health, medicine, and diseases
architecture