

Lesson 3 Rome and Judea

MAIN IDEAS

Government Jews fought against foreign control and regained self-rule.

Government Jewish resistance to Roman control resulted in Jews being driven out of their homeland.

Belief Systems Living outside their homeland, many Jews remained loyal to their beliefs.

Ruled by Foreigners

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What was the relationship of Judah to Syria?

Syria Controls Judah

- Judah in path of invading armies crossing eastern Mediterranean shores
 - Judah controlled by Syrians, Greeks, Romans, others over the years
- Syrians took over in 198 B.C., introduced Greek culture to Jews
 - Jews allowed to keep religion, but some adopted Greek culture, gods
- In 175 B.C., Syrians insisted Jews worship Greek gods; Jews refused
 - Jewish religion was outlawed; some fled to hills, prepared to fight

Rebels Fight Syria

- Jewish priest and five sons led fight to drive out Syrians
 - son Judah Maccabeus led revolt with his force, the Maccabees
- Tiny Jewish force faced larger, better equipped Syrian army
 - rebels knew countryside and defeated Syrians in many battles
- Maccabees regained Jerusalem by 164 B.C.

REVIEW QUESTION

Why did the Jews rebel against their Syrian rulers?

Roman Control

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What was the result of Jewish resistance to Roman rule?

Rome Conquers Judea

- Romans conquered Judah (Judea) in 63 B.C.
- Roman rulers kept strict control over Judea
- Jewish kings, religious leaders appointed by Rome

Resistance to Roman Rule

- The Zealots, a Jewish group, led rebellion against Rome in A.D. 66
- Roman General Vespasian sent to stop uprising
 - Yohanan ben Zaccai wanted a school to keep Jewish traditions alive
- In A.D. 70, Titus stopped rebellion in Judea, burned second Temple
 - some Jews fought on at Masada fortress, but it was taken

The Diaspora

- Loss of Temple and Jerusalem caused many Jews to leave Judea
 - movement of Jews into rest of world—the **Diaspora**; means “scattered”
- Romans sent many Jews to Rome as slaves
- Some Jews remained in Jerusalem

REVIEW QUESTION

What was the lasting effect of Jewish resistance to Roman rule?

Judaism—An Ongoing Faith

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What happened to Jewish beliefs when the Jews were in exile?

Teachers and the Law

- Though scattered, many Jews kept belief in righteousness, justice
- **Rabbis**—religious teachers, leaders—kept Jewish identity as a people
 - built **synagogues**, places of worship and prayer, wherever Jews settled
 - read Torah and its interpretations to the Jews
- Jews kept their faith, followed laws, observed customs, studied Torah

REVIEW QUESTION

How did Jews keep their culture alive?

Lesson Summary

- The Jews overthrew their Syrian rulers.
- The Romans harshly put down a Jewish revolt.
- The Jews held onto their faith.

Why It Matters Now . . .

The laws, rituals, and writings from this period are an important part of how Jews practice their religion today.