

What Did the Romans Ever do for us?

#FirstCenturyProblems in Palestine

This is teaching in **two parts**.

If you attended the **Zoom session on 8th Nov** you will be familiar with most of **Part 1** so can **start at Slide 6**.

If you **missed the Zoom session** start at the **beginning**.

What Did the Romans Ever do for us?

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Part 1: The Coming of the Romans into the Holy Land



What did the Romans ever do for us?

Ice Breaker

Monty Python: What have the Romans ever done for us?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7tvauOJMHo>



Questions : Romans occupied the Holy Land for 63BC and stayed for about 377 yrs.

1. Can you list 2 or 3 **positive** things that the Romans did for the Jewish community
2. AND 2 or 3 **not so good** things.

Four Major First Century Jewish Groups



Watch the clip and consider:

1. Who were each group?
2. Why were they important to the stories and our understanding of the NT?

Video clip:
Four Major First Century Jewish Groups.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Un1ZHVmENmE>

How and why did they Romans come to the Holy Land ?

Questions:

1. Were they invited?
2. Did they invade?



When did the Romans Conquer the Holy Land?

– Watch up to 5m40s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysgbi5sGFiy>

Political Structures in the Time of Jesus

Reflection

Link: Open link below and look at Page 7 to 9

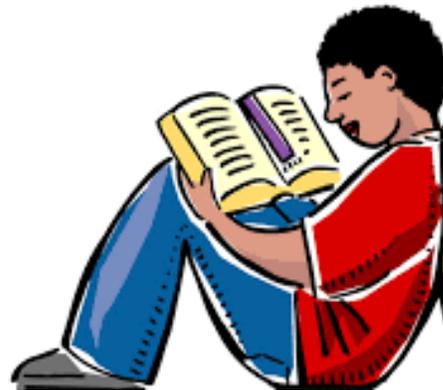
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/public/reresources/uploads/sites/2110/2016/02/Palestine-Religion-and-Romans.pdf>

Questions:

How do you think the political and religious structures might have impacted upon (affected) Jesus as he was growing up?

Read

Matthew 22: 15-22



Statue of **Julius Caesar** Rome

So...

What did the Romans do for the People of
First Century in Palestine – the Holy Land ?



SO... Impact of Rome on Palestine ?

Negative Impact:

1. Imposing a 'non- Jewish puppet king', Herod the Great – ambitious & brutal.
2. Introduction of military governors such as *Pontius Pilate*, to oversee the political activities of the state.
3. Provoking in-fighting and bitter power struggle between various Zealots and aristocratic leaders so weakening their ability to fend off the Romans as they advanced into Judea.
4. Paying taxes to Rome for the upkeep of the Roman army based in Palestine.
5. The influence of more and more of the pagan Roman culture.
6. The siege and burning of Jerusalem, destruction of the Temple AD 70.

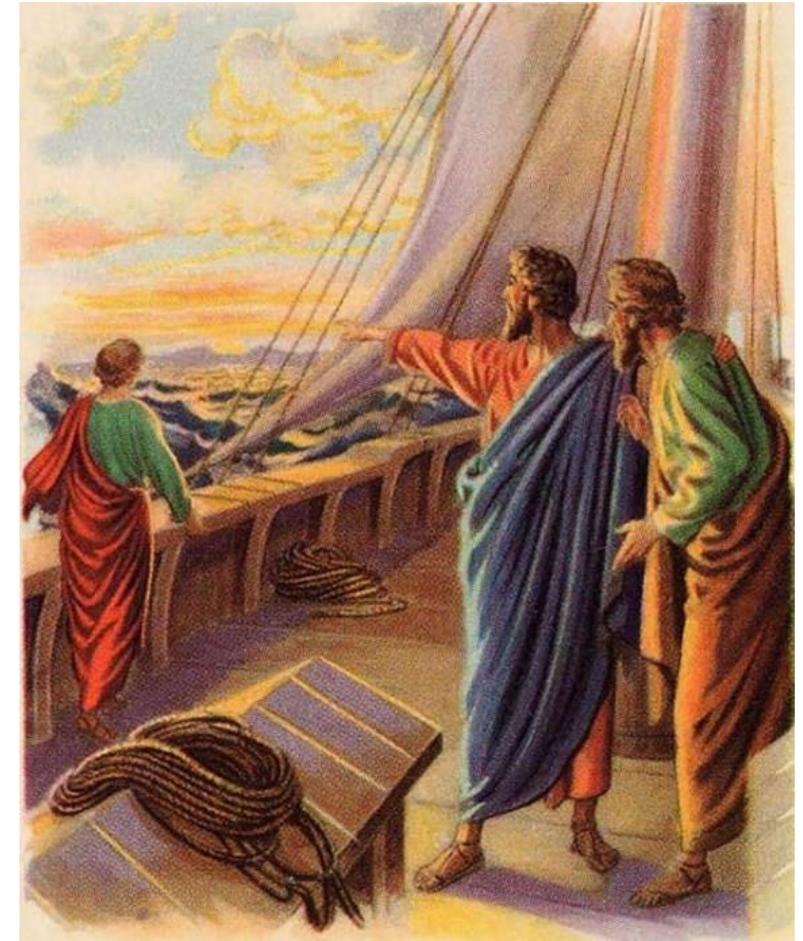
SO... Impact of Rome on Palestine ?

Positive impact:

1. Building programmes for towns and cities: public building erected, water systems installed and roads laid.
2. The third rebuilding of the Temple by Herod the Great in 20BC.
3. Legal protection by Rome to the Jews. They were, initially, allowed to continue their religious teaching and practices.
4. Stability throughout the Roman Empire.
5. Trade, travel, spreading of ideas including the Christian message; Palestine was a Roman province with excellent links to Europe, Africa and Asia. *Remember Paul's 3 missionary journeys!*
6. Rome was a main source of both the trade and wealth.

Part 2: The Spread of the Christian Message during Roman Occupation of Palestine

Paul's Missionary Journeys



Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Paul's missionary journeys illustrate the ability of people to move safely from the Holy land to other parts of the Roman Empire. This, no doubt, significantly helped the spreading of the Gospel.

Tasks for You:

- **Look at** the interactive map and summary of the main events given on the next two slides.
- Focus on Paul's second journey.
- **Read** the passages from **Acts 15:36 – 18:22** to increase your own understanding.
- Perhaps spread the reading over a couple of days.
- Why not *Google* suitable commentaries to help you – or use biblegateway.com for different translations.
- For the keen ones amongst you go even further in your understanding by looking up the link "*A Portrait of Jesus World*" on the last slide.

Map of Paul's First and Second Missionary Journeys

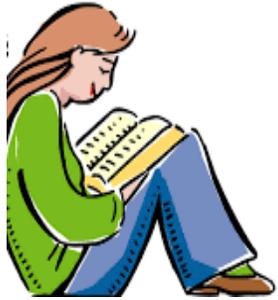
Click onto the link below and explore the interactive map.

Hover your mouse over each number to find out more information on each stage of the journey.

<https://www.understandchristianity.com/timelines/paul-first-second-missionary-journeys/>



Summary of the Main Events on Paul's Journey



Read

Acts 15:36

– 18: 22

Second Missionary Journey, 49 A.D.- 52 A.D.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | |
| <p>Paul and <u>Barnabas</u> separate into two teams after a sharp disagreement.</p> | <p>Paul and Silas go to Syria then to cities throughout Asia Minor (western Turkey) to strengthen and encourage the churches.</p> | <p>In a vision Paul receives a call from a man in Macedonia to help them. Paul and Silas go to Philippi, its major city.</p> | <p>Paul preaches to Lydia, (a businesswoman) and her whole household is saved. Paul casts a demon out of a slave girl and is locked up and chained in a dungeon.</p> |
| | | | |
| <p>An earthquake frees all the prisoners. The Jailer and his family are converted.</p> | <p>Paul goes to Thessalonica and Berea. An angry Jewish mob follow him.</p> | <p>Paul leaves Thessalonica and goes to Athens, leaving Silas and Timothy.</p> | <p>At Athens, Paul reasons with Jews, Greeks and Philosophers.</p> |

A Portrait of Jesus' World During the Roman Occupation of Palestine

Going Further...

Take a look at this website which explores and talks about:

- The tension between the Jews and **Rome**.
- The **influence** and impact of Rome on the history, culture and Jewish people at the time of Jesus.
- Historical and archaeological evidence for the journey



[A Portrait Of Jesus' World - Jews And The Roman Empire](#)