

# THE KING IS COMING

Survey of Judah Alone, Captivity, Return, and Years of Silence

LESSON 22: THE HASMONEAN DYNASTY . . . *HISTORY*

**MEMORY.** Memorize the names of the first leaders of the Hasmonean Dynasty: John Hyrcanus (135–104 BC), Aristobulus I (104–103 BC), and Alexander Jannaeus (103–76 BC). (In preparation for the next lesson, you may want to remember that a daughter of this line, Mariamne, married Herod the Great. Herod the Great in paranoia, however, eventually killed most of the Hasmoneans.)

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DISCUSSION.

1. *Hasmoneans.*



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## DISCUSSION.

2. *Chaos.* Why should the Jews during the Years of Silence have known that none of the Hasmoneans were the Messiah? (Cf. Dan 2:31-45; 7:2-27; 9:24-27.)

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## DISCUSSION.

3. *Sects.* Which of these Jewish sects does the NT mention, and what can we learn from the NT about the beliefs and activities of the sects that it mentions?

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## DISCUSSION.

4. *Rome*. Why is the Roman conquest of Judea (and the Greek kingdoms) significant for the story of the Bible? (Cf. Dan 2:31-45; 7:2-27; 9:24-27.)

# The Roman Empire



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**CONNECTION.** Having considered the history of the Hasmonean dynasty, why would faithful Jews of the time have still be waiting for the King (Messiah) to come, and how does Jesus differ from the Hasmonean king-priests?



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**APPLICATION.** The Maccabees (Hasmoneans) had fought against the Greeks to protect themselves from religious compromise, but they were in many ways blind to the ways that Hellenistic culture was affecting them and ended up compromising in some pretty big ways. We must be watchful. We are no better than they if we avoid doctrinal or moral compromise in certain areas but permit it in others. "Stand up, stand up for Jesus!" ...

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... To do so we need to meditate on and proclaim the whole counsel of God. Ask God to grant you (and all of his people) a heart of courage to stand firm against the temptation to compromise the faith.