Key Dates in Catholic History
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332 BC
Alexander the Great
Macedonian Empire
Dividing the Empire

Leaving no will, upon the death of Alexander in 323 BC, his empire was divided among his generals.
There were about 25 kings of the Seleucid Empire over its lifetime from about 320 to 80 BC, but one king in particular is most infamous to the history of the people of Judah (as well as to the later people of true Christianity, as we will read), when he, as emperor, was king of Judea and Jerusalem. His official name was Antiochus IV, or Antiochus Epiphanes (lived 215-164 BC, reigned 175-164 BC). **Hanukkah**
Maccabean Revolt and Hasmonean Dynasty

Hanukkah

Herod’s Temple
Pharisees
Sadducees
Zealots
Essenes
Captured Greece took captive her savage conqueror and brought civilization to rustic Latium – Horace

1. Macedon and Greece became Roman Protectorates in 146 BC

1. After Revolt, they were conquered by Pompey in 65 BC
Pompey conquers Jerusalem in 63 BC
What Language did Jesus Speak?

Titulus Crucis – INRI in Hebrew, Greek and Latin

Septuagint – 6 translators for each of the 12 tribes translated to Greek by Ptolemy

Language of Galilee and Commerce

Aramaic Words found in the Bible

Talitha kum - "Little girl, I say to you, get up."
Ephphatha - 'be opened'
Abba – “Father”
Mammon – “Riches”
Rabbuni – “Rabbi”
Eli Eli lema sabachthani - “My God, my God, for what have you forsaken me?”
A *targum* is a translation of the Hebrew Bible into Aramaic. After being in captivity in Babylon for 70 years the Jews, with the exception of the priests, forgot the Hebrew language and were now fluent in Aramaic. As a result a paraphrase and commentary on the *Torah* was written in Aramaic so the people could be instructed. The two major *Targums* were the *Targum of Jonathan* and the *Targum of Onkelos* both written by Jonathan ben Uziel.
What Made Israel under Roman Rule an optimal time for the faith?

1. Pax Romana
2. Language
3. Roman Road
4. Moral Aspects of Judaism/Christianity
5. Diaspora of the Jews
6. Tongues and Other miracles
Roman Empire
Roman Road System

Pompeii

Principal Trade Routes
Decline of Major Polytheistic Religions

• Greek Gods
  Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus, Stoics

• Romans adopted the Gods of all conquered lands

• Rejection of the Quid Quo Pro and adoption of moral monotheism

• Religion as a tool of the State
Questions?

• Was there a better time for Christ to reveal Himself in the Incarnation?

• How did the Roman accommodation to the Hebrew religion help Christianity get started? In what way did this hurt?

• How did the Jewish Diaspora help Christianity? What was the wedge that was driven between them?