

The Intertestamental Period



An Open Seminar
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Seleucid Fortress at Acra



Artifacts from Acra



Lead sling stones and bronze arrowheads stamped with the symbol of the reign of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, evidence of the attempts to conquer the Acra citadel in Jerusalem's City of David in Maccabean days. (Clara Amit/courtesy the Israel Antiquities Authority)

What Archaeology Can and Cannot Do

- Can provide a glimpse of daily life
- Can reveal details of surrounding cultures
- Cannot “prove” or “disprove” the Bible
- No, this is *not* good archaeology.

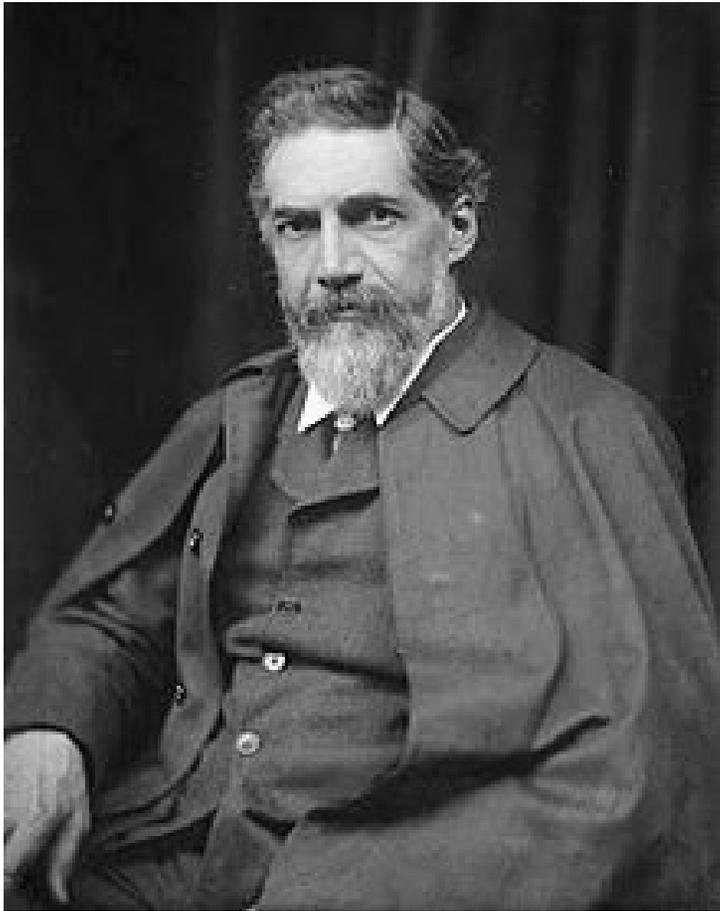


William Foxwell Albright (1891-1971)



- Acknowledged founder of modern Biblical Archaeology
- Authenticated the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1948
- Developed the science of archaeology
- While not a literalist, he did seek to “prove” the Bible.

Sir W. M. Flinders Petrie, FRS (1853 -1942)



- Egyptologist, held the first Chair of Egyptologist in the UK
- Noted for exploring techniques for preserving artifacts
- Developed first pottery dating typology
- Discovered the Merneptah Stele

Pottery Typology (Canaanite 9th Century)



What you usually work with...



Conducting an Excavation

- Begins with a surface survey
- Surface debris fixes last period of occupation
- Site divided into grid squares for recording artifacts
- Archaeology “destroys its own evidence.”



Allied Disciplines of Archaeology

- Paleobotanists
- Zooarchaeologists
- Geologists
- Ecologists
- Physical and cultural anthropologists
- Analytical chemists
- Dentists and physicians

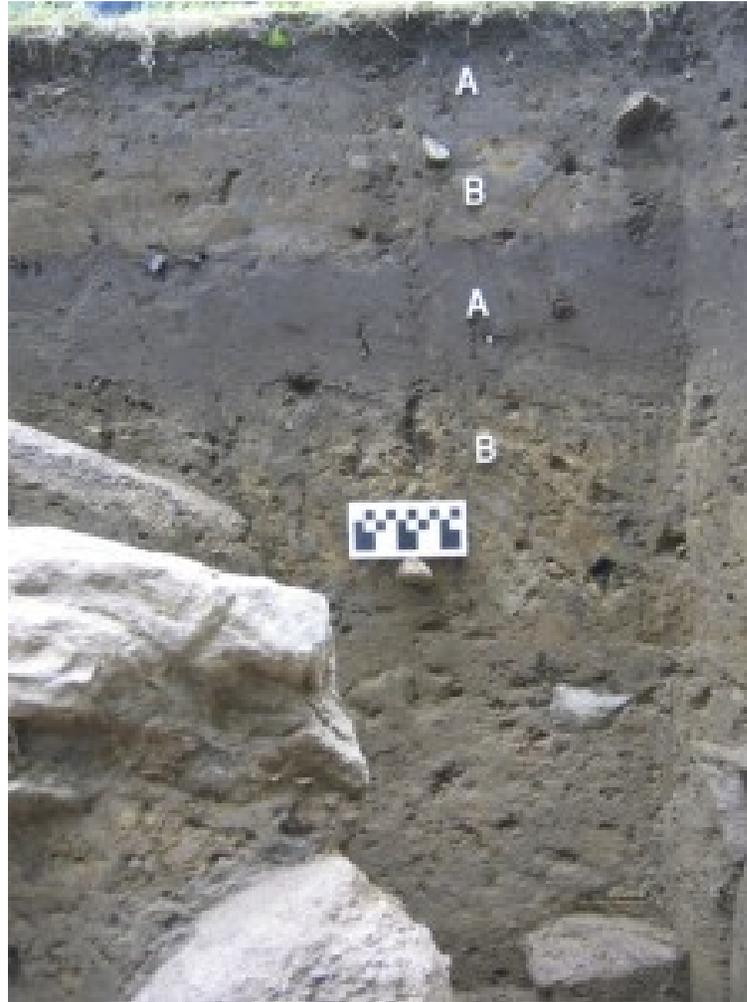
What is a “Tell”?



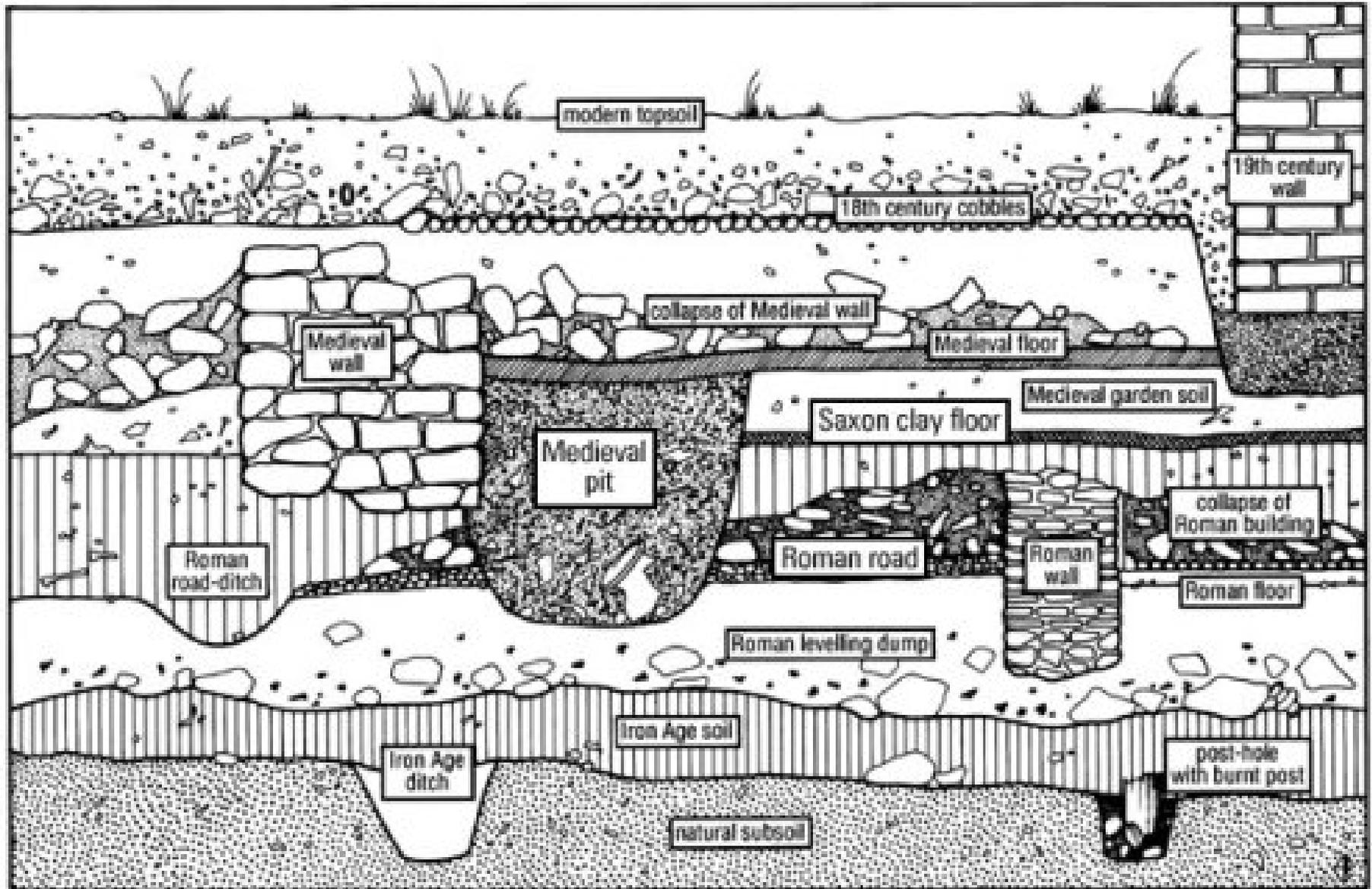
Tell Qarqur in northwest Syria was occupied for nearly 10,000 years.

Layer Upon Layer...

- Tells accumulate as a result of human occupation
- Discarded items, deteriorating mud brick build up the tell
- Archaeologist use vertical shafts to determine stratigraphy



Stratigraphy: Deeper = Older (mostly)



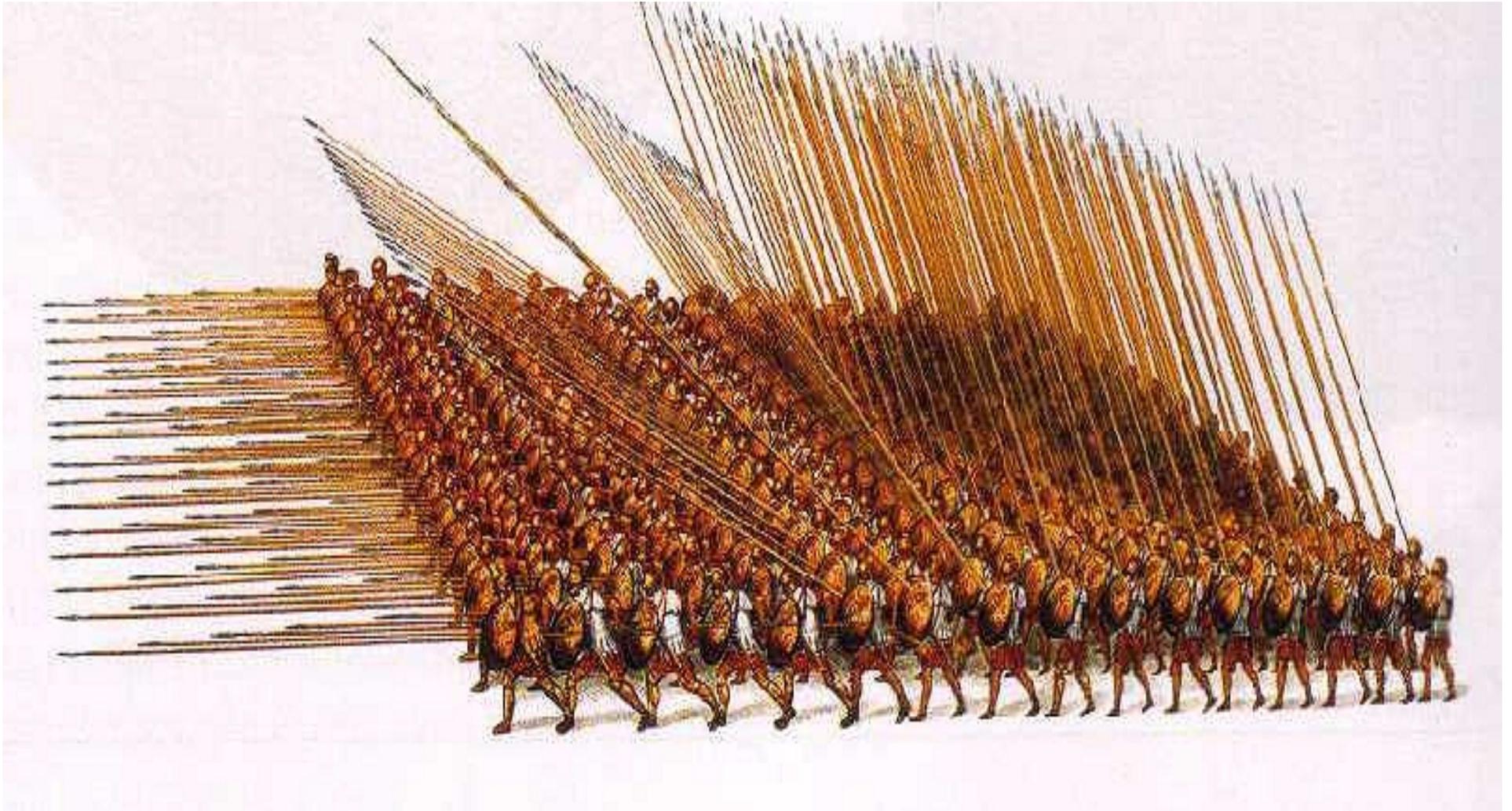
Diadochi Kingdoms



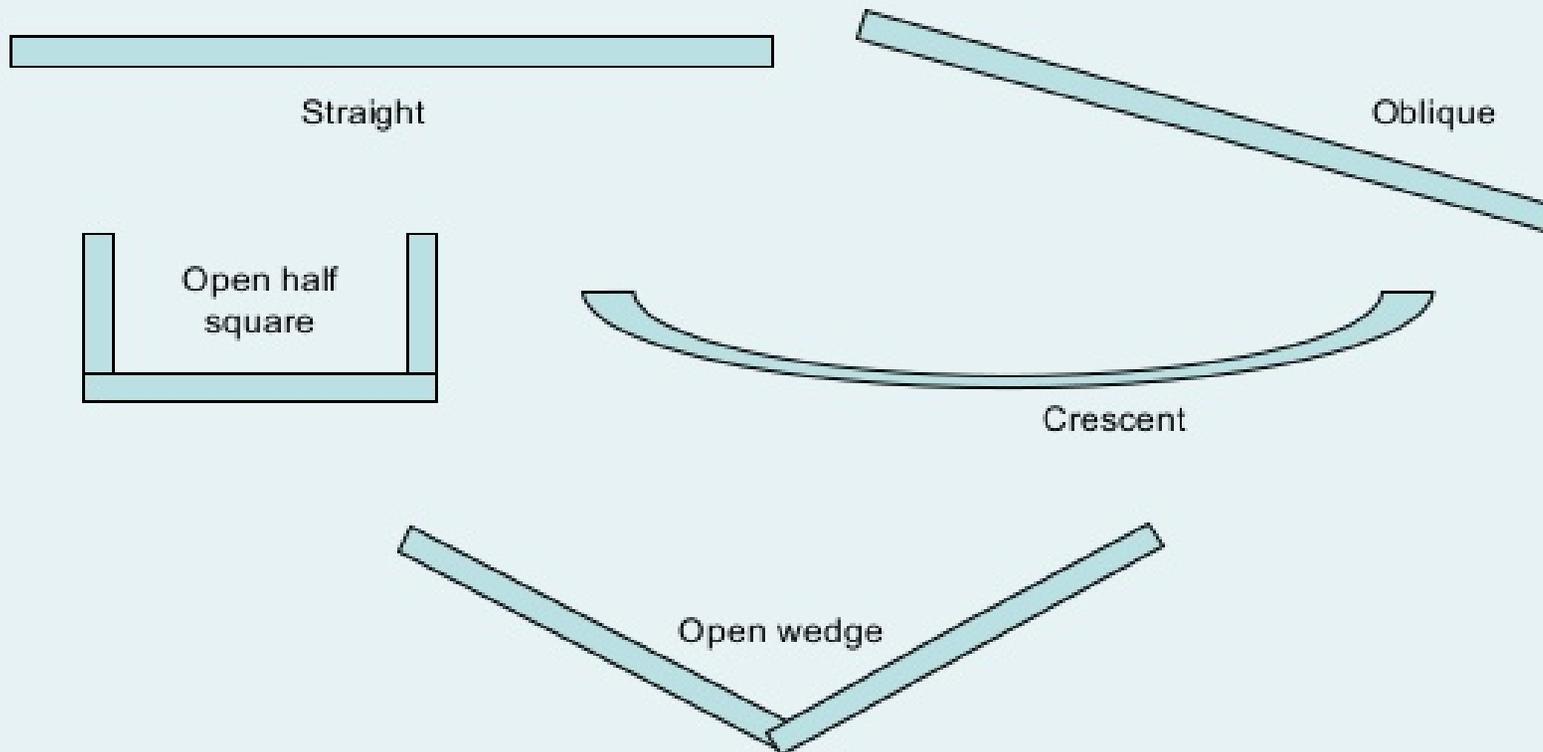
Macedonians and Romans at Pydna (168 BCE)



The Macedonian Phalanx



- The Macedonian phalanx was made up of 64 battalions of 256 men. (16,384 men)
- The phalanx could manoeuvre into many different formations, but the most common were:



Macedonian Phylangite

- Loss of tactical flexibility by 2nd Century
- Formation fragments on broken ground
- Smaller shield, some units equipped only with linen armor at this point
- Not well-trained in close combat or small unit tactics



The Roman Legionary at Pydna

- Fought in smaller, highly disciplined units
- Large shield (*scutum*)
- Iron armor vs. linen
- Superior training in close-quarter fighting.

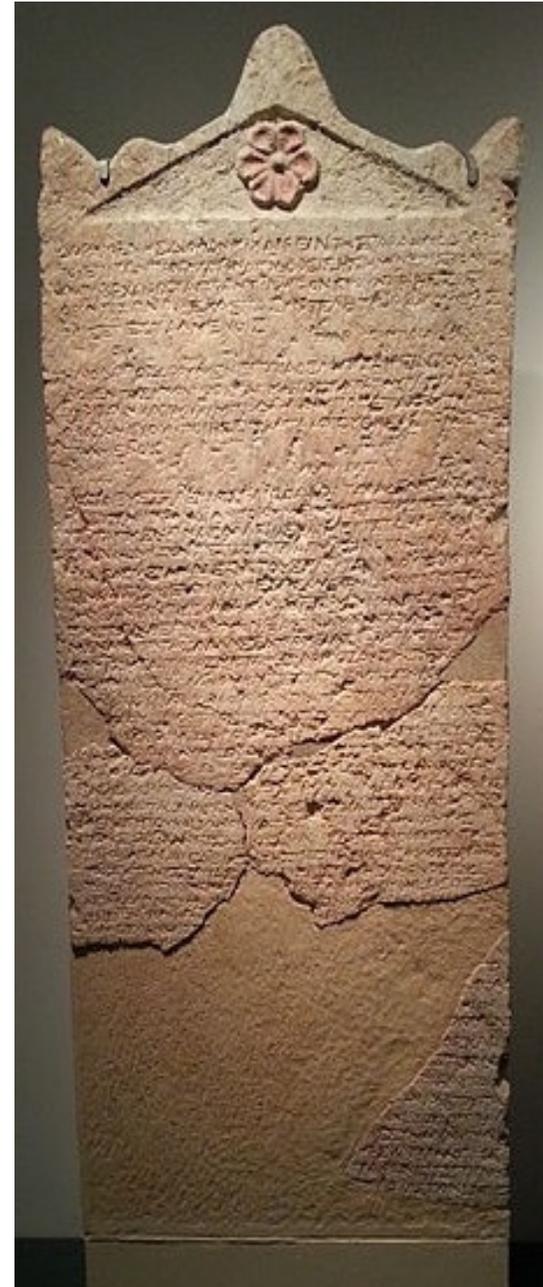


Aftermath of Pydna

- ❖ 25-30,000 Macedonians killed, wounded, or captured, vs. about 1,000 Roman deaths.
- ❖ Punitive killing of 500 prominent Macedonians known to oppose Rome
- ❖ Many captives, including the historian Polybius, taken to Rome
- ❖ Other cities, villages destroyed and land handed over to Roman veterans
- ❖ Some 300,000 Macedonians enslaved

The Heliodorus Stele

- ❖ Dates to 178 BCE
- ❖ Expresses concern that gods are not properly honored
- ❖ Implications for Maccabean Revolt



Heliodorus Stele

“Taking the utmost consideration for the safety of our subjects, and thinking it to be of the greatest good for the affairs in our realm when those living in our kingdom manage their lives without fear, and at the same time realising that nothing can enjoy its fitting prosperity without the good will of the gods, from the outset we have made it our concern to ensure that the sanctuaries founded in the other satrapies receive the traditional honors with the care befitting them.”

Judea Under Seleucid Rule

- **200 BCE** – Seleucids (Syrian Greeks) take control of Judea
- **Jason** purchases his position of high priest; Hellenization increasingly corrupts Jerusalem
- **175 BCE** – Antiochus IV Epiphanes takes power
 - New priest, **Menelaus**, replaces Jason and steals Temple funds
- **168 BCE** – revolt is led by Jason, but it is crushed by Antiochus; greater Greek scrutiny and encroachment on autonomy; extreme outlawing of Jewish observance and practice

Antiochus IV Epiphanes

- ❖ Sought to strengthen Seleucid empire
- ❖ Hyper-hellenization a personal matter
- ❖ Attacked Jerusalem on rumors or revolt on return from failed Egyptian campaign
- ❖ Built Acra fortress as part of siege of Jerusalem



A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Alexandria

- ❖ Antiochus invades Egypt for a second time
- ❖ Meets Gaius Popillius Laenas
- ❖ Experiences Roman diplomacy



▫ Gaius Popilius Laenas' Ultimatum

“...about four miles from Alexandria, he was met by the Roman commissioners, to whom he gave a friendly greeting and held out his hand to Popilius. Popilius, however, placed in his hand the tablets on which was written the decree of the senate and told him first of all to read it. After reading it through, he said he would call his friends into council and consider what he ought to do. Popilius, stern and imperious as ever, drew a circle round the king with the stick he was carrying and said, "Before you step out of that circle give me a reply to lay before the senate." For a few moments he hesitated, astounded at such a peremptory order, and at last replied, "I will do what the senate thinks right.”

--Livy, *Ab Urbe Condita*, xlv.12



Maccabean Revolt

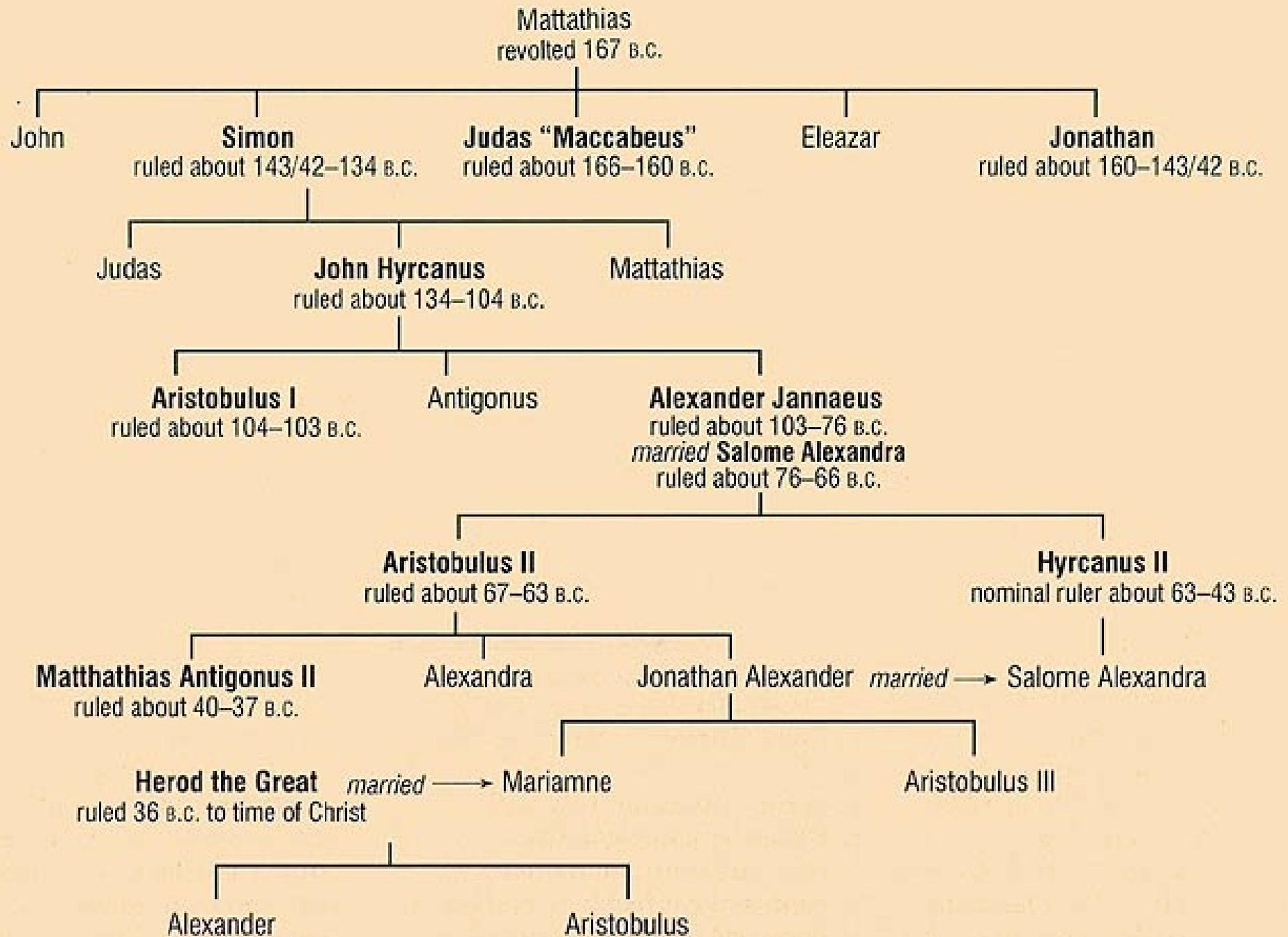


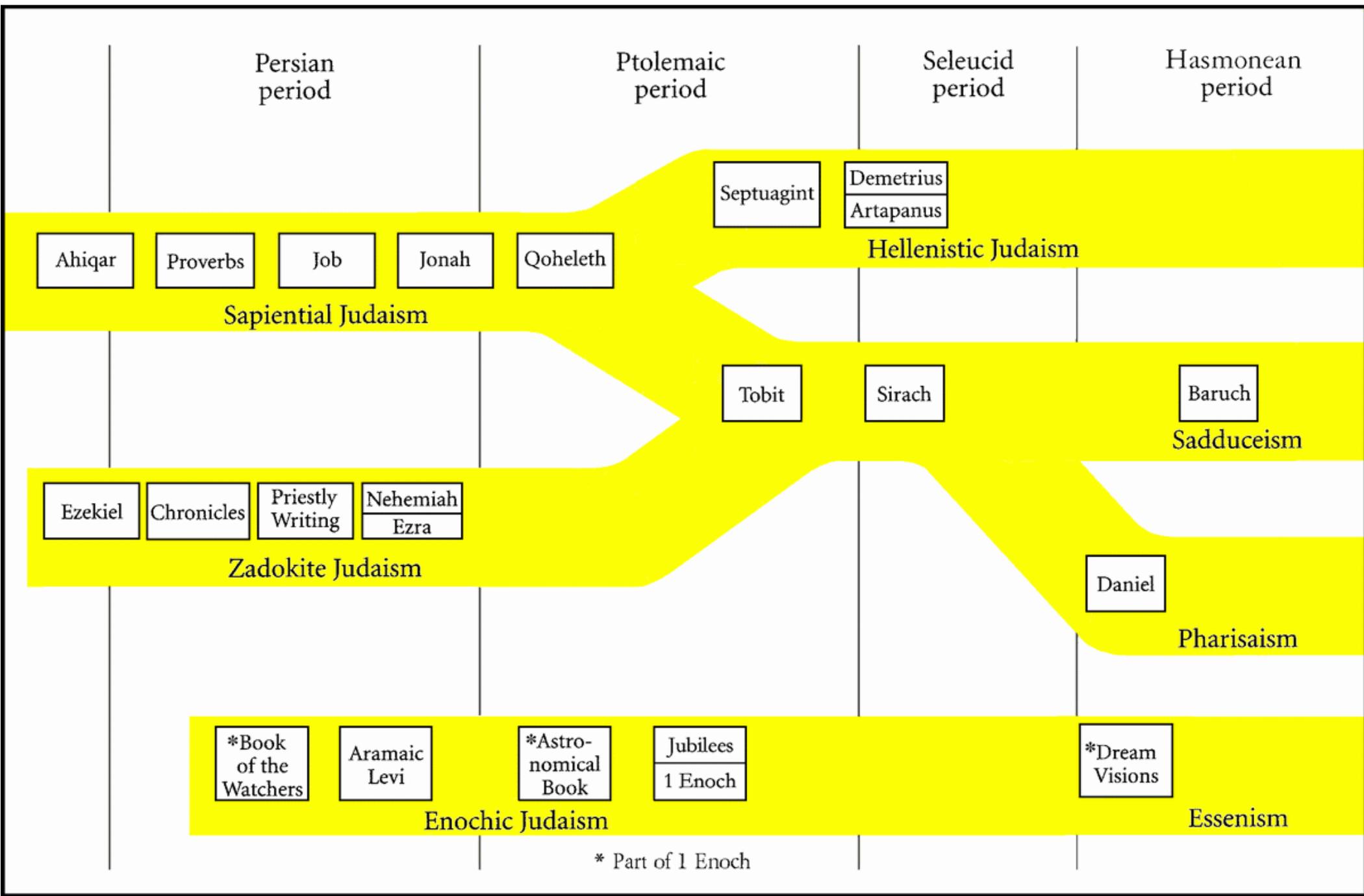
Maccabean Endgame

- ❖ Civil war and foreign rebellions hamper Seleucid efforts to suppress Maccabees
- ❖ Seleucid factions turn to Maccabees for support
- ❖ Judah finally gains independence in 142 BCE
- ❖ Rise of Hasmonean priesthood, Zadokites removed as Temple priests



THE MACCABEAN FAMILY TREE





The Book of I, II Maccabees

- ❖ Traces course of war and its impact on Judaism
- ❖ Mirrored by Josephus in *Antiquities of the Jews*.