

d. The Gr. emphasis on aesthetics and standards of perfection had engendered an interest in the "good life"

3. Looking at Judaism from a detached view point it is seen as a strange and peculiar people known throughout the R. world.

a. Altho' the R. usually granted defeated nations a freedom to worship their own gods, the conquerors did insist that Jupiter be given preeminence. The Jews, however, refused to admit Jupiter to their temple, and were granted special privilege of not worshipping Ju.

b. The Jews refused to work on the Sabbath.

c. The Jews spread throughout the R. world setting up little racial groups in every city, thus giving to the apostles a starting point in their missionary efforts.

d. Factions among the Jews

(1) Sadducees - These were the hereditary secular and religious rulers of the Jews, descendants of the high priest in David's time. They were rationalists, interested in maintaining their own position, and amenable to compromise with R. power and Gr. culture.

(2) Pharisees - These men were the actual religious leaders of the Jews. They were exact in their external observance of the law having taken the law of God, which is given for sanctification, and made of it a way of salvation.

(3) Essenes - These men retired from contact with the political organization of the Jews and lived in primitive separate communities.

(4) Leadership in the movement to put Christ to death is seen as coming not from the Pharisees but from the Sadducees, who feared a futile nationalist movement against the Romans which would jeopardize their own political position.

e. High spots of the history of Judaism.

(1) From 334-323 B.C. the Jews were ruled by Alexander the Great. They were among his favorites, his advisors, and in his army.

(2) With the death of Alexander, Palestine became a part of the Egyptian Empire under the Ptolemys.

(3) Antiochus the Great wrested Palestine from Ptolomey Epiphanes (5<sup>1/2</sup> years) around 200 B.C. and the Jews came under the vicious control of the Syrian Empire of the Seleucids.

(4) Under the Maccabees the Jews successfully revolted and enjoyed a century of internal strife.