

## AR 342/742      QUESTION SET 3

### THE PERSIAN AND HELLENISTIC PERIODS: CULTURES COLLIDING

Using information from course readings and information from lectures, answer the following questions. Be careful to interpret the archaeological evidence on its own terms. Support factual information with full & specific citations. Your paper should be about 8-10 pages long.

1. Identify **five sites** with Persian and/or Hellenistic-period remains that reflect Greek culture. For each site, describe & date the remains and explain what their character, find-spot(s), and quantity suggest about the inhabitants' cultural attitudes and lifestyles (3 points each).
2. Identify **four sites** with Persian and/or Hellenistic-period remains that may be categorized as religious. For each site, describe & date the remains and explain what their character, find-spot(s), and quantity suggest about the inhabitants' ideas or behaviors (3 points each).
3. In his *JBL* article, Steve Weitzman provides a literary context and background for the religious persecution of Antiochus IV recounted by the author of 1 Maccabees. Describe **three** aspects of this event that are explicitly paralleled in Babylonian literary sources (1 point each).
4. Schwartz and Weitzman both consider the Maccabees' actual background and compare that to their portrayal in 1 Maccabees. Describe the Maccabees' real social location and **two** items of supporting evidence (5 points). Describe their created literary persona (2 points).
5. 1 Maccabees was written in the later 2nd/early 1st centuries BCE. Excavations at Jericho have uncovered a view of Hasmonean palatial life from this time. In light of the Maccabees' likely social background as well as their literary persona, describe **one** specific discovery or aspect from those excavations that you find most interesting or surprising, and explain why (3 points).

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#### ***culture wars***

The Hellenistic dynasty had its origins in the time of Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian. This Alexander marched out from the land of Chetiim ... and smote Darius, king of the Persians and the Medes, and became king in his place ... Alexander died after a reign of twelve years. His officers then took power, each in his own territory. They all assumed royal diadems after his death, and their descendants continued to succeed them for many years and brought much evil upon the world ... At that time lawless men arose in Israel and seduced many with their plea, "Come let us make a covenant with the gentiles around us, because ever since we have kept ourselves separated from them we have suffered many evils." The plea got [a] favorable reception ... [and] the king granted them liberty to follow the practices of the gentiles. Thereupon they built a gymnasium in Jerusalem according to the customs of the gentiles and underwent operations to disguise their circumcision, rebelling against the sacred covenant. They joined themselves to the gentiles and became willing slaves to evil-doing.

*1 Maccabees* 1.1-9, 11-15.