

EXCAVATING JESUS: BENEATH THE STONES, BEHIND THE TEXTS.
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How small place is – local cities are going influence you!

In generation before Jesus

Jewish Settlement under Hasmonean rulers (Maccabees) Forts built to protect Galilee from surrounding gentile armies.

Galilee sparsely populated, plenty farm land.

Herod Gt

Senate bestowed title: “King of the Jews” to rule Idumea, Judea, Samaria and Galilee as client of Rome. Had to fight Hasmoneans for it. Violently in winter in Galilee – took three years to secure kingdom..

Built magnificently in style of Hasmoneans, Hellenism and Rome.

Jm by expanding Temple Mount.

Caesarea Maritima: and port Sebastos. world class port, aqueduct, palace, theatre
“Nothing tells so clearly that Romanization equalled urbanisation equalled commercialisation as the great storehouses and giant break-waters of that all-weather harbour.” xviii.

In far-northern Caesarea Philippi, Herod build pagan temples to Roma & divine Augustus but hardly touched Galilee.

Data destroyed after Jewish revolt put down by Romans.

Data are accumulating:: dead sea scrolls, nag hammadi codices, gospel of thomas, etc.

Antipas : The localisation of the Kingdom of Rome among the peasants.

Antipas began intensive urbanisation & commercialisation & Romanization of Galilee once Tiberias took over from Augustus, with Sepphoris as first capital in 4 BCE and

Tiberias as its replacement in 19 CE. Rome struck Galilee for first time really forcibly by the 20s.

Antipas remarried Herodias, granddaughter of executed Hasmonean Mariamne. Yet the Galileans sought to live old distinct village ways. Jewish self-expression in domestic life.

Torah said Land belongs to Me. So Herodian client kings?

Towns and villages simple architecture, well-fired pottery, trade and luxury items only in the wealthy houses in towns, or cities.

Farming:

Galilee not on coast so even more strain on fields, vineyard and olive orchards.

Farmers dispossessed and farms amalgamated into larger holdings, freeholders became tenants or day labourers. Blesses are the destitute. (Luke 6:20)

Speaks of labourers, food, taxes.

Intensive labour, polycropping and less staples and more cash crops.

Polycropping to safeguard vs. crop failure. Trade dangerous and impractical.

Extended family main bearer of tradition.

Synagogue not a building – none found except Gamla.

Nazareth for Jesus, c. 400. Hasmonean. Coins.

Road from Tiberias to Mediterranean via Beit Netofah Valley, just north of

Sepphoris. Josephus called it the ornament of Galilee.

4BCE revolt against foreign influence. Crushed by Syrian-based Roman legate Varus.

After rebuild, was a Jewish occupancy.

Was Jesus' family originally from there before destruction? This would account for his ability to work within that culture – at table etc. Sawicki..

Money:

Tax from trade not as basic as land as a measure of wealth. Under Antipas were about 25-40% of everything. Produce and income.

Peasant labour was the real key not trade so much.

“The kingdom was commercialised, not in the sense of a mercantile state, but in efficiently moving goods and money from the land to the city. Luxury increasing at

one end of society made labor and poverty increase at the other. Expensive architecture in the city meant intensive agriculture in the country.” Page 62.

Lev.25:35-37 –

Pledges limited, remitting debt, release of slaves, reversion of land rights.

Jesus associates his Kingdom with neither Sepphoris or Tiberias, but **Capernaum. But even then he does not let it be a dominant controlling centre, but goes out from there. A geographical hierarchy.**

Fish & agriculture. 1000 inhabitants. Cities had 12K. passageways rather than streets with no building for meetings of the synagogue. Houses were clusters of rooms round courtyard.

Stone vessels and *miqwaoth* for purity.

Speaks & acts against purity codes

Opposition:

4BCE. Two thousand rebels crucified in Jerusalem.

Sicarii: inventors of urban terrorism. Killed high placed fellow Jews amidst urban crowds.

Jesus clearly did not take that option of violence or else more would have been crucified with him.

Less strict school of Hillel.

Passover was related to story of liberation from foreign oppression, Egypt.

66-74BCE. revolt was against Rome but more against internal aristocratic power.

Revolt was always covenantal as well as eschatological.

Temple: Den of robbers – where thieves retreat to safety.

Sawicki:

Relationship of Jesus with globalisation people. Across the quarters of cosmopolitanism: Zaccheaus. Worked out their survival strategies in Global.

Woman with issue had spent money!

Wealthy Syropehonian women. (Mark 7) and Herodian women.