

Glossary of Intertestamental Terms

Intertestamental Period: The roughly 400-year span between the Old and New Testaments marked by significant political, cultural, and religious developments in Judaism.

- Deuteronomistic History: The narrative from Deuteronomy through to Kings, interpreted by a theological perspective that explains Israel's history in terms of covenant faithfulness or unfaithfulness to God.
- Hellenisation: The spread of Greek language and culture after the conquests of Alexander the Great.
- Diaspora: The scattering of Jewish people living outside the land of Israel.
- Torah: The Law of God, centrally important to Jewish life and identity. Suppression of its observance by [Antiochus IV](#) was a major catalyst for the Maccabean revolt.
- [Zadokites](#): The legitimate priestly line. The [Hasmoneans](#) were criticised because they were not Zadokites.
- [Hasmoneans](#): A Jewish priestly family who led the Maccabean revolt and established an independent Judean kingdom in the 2nd–1st centuries BCE.
- [Septuagint](#): The Greek translation of the Torah (and later other Scriptures) done in Egypt, which became the authoritative text for many Diaspora Jews.
- Abomination of Desolation: A phrase used to describe the profound desecration of the Temple, specifically by [Antiochus IV](#) Epiphanes in 167 BCE.
- Hanukkah: The Jewish festival celebrating the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple after the Maccabean revolt and the victory over Seleucid oppression.

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