

# The World Jesus Lived In

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 4*.

❖ Jesus chose to live in Palestine over 2,000 years ago. At the time, Palestine was made up of Galilee, Samaria, and Judea. Jesus was born and killed in Judea, but he grew up in Galilee, in the town of Nazareth. Samaria was the middle part of Palestine. Jewish people considered Samaritans heretics because they married foreigners and did not worship at the Temple. Judea was the southern part of Palestine, where the Temple and the holy city of Jerusalem were located.

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❖ The Palestinian kings lived in Jerusalem. It was a holy city because the Temple was there. Everyone who was able traveled to the Temple for the three major feasts. Jerusalem today is sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

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❖ Rome conquered Palestine, but the Romans let the Jews practice their religion. Jewish men did not have to mix with Gentiles in the army, for example.

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❖ People who were not Jews were called Gentiles. Jews were forbidden by their religion to mix with Gentiles.

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❖ The Pharisees were middle-class Jews who strictly interpreted the Law and added regulations to it. They also believed in our resurrection. They sought holiness through the Law, but Jesus scolded them for stressing external observances instead of a spirit of love.

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❖ The Sanhedrin was 71 Jewish men in Judea who served as a supreme council. The chief high priest was treated almost like a king. Caiaphas was the chief high priest when Jesus was arrested.

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❖ Zealots were freedom fighters who were willing to use violence to get Rome out of their country.

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❖ Jesus was a devoted Jew who prayed the important Jewish prayers. Christian faith, through Jesus, grows out of the Jewish faith.

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❖ The most important prayer of the Jewish people is the Shema, which is prayed every morning and evening. It reminds Jewish people to love God. The Shema is in Deuteronomy 6:4–5.

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❖ The Jews of Jesus' time were very strict about resting on the Sabbath. They had services at local synagogues and did not allow most kinds of work.

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❖ Jewish people gathered on the Sabbath to worship at synagogues. The Torah, the first five books of the Bible, was read and preached there.

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❖ In Jesus' time, wives and children were considered the property of the head of the family. Women were not allowed to learn to read or write. Marriages were arranged for children.

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