**High Priests in Jerusalem from Herod the Great to 70 A.D.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 37–36 BC | Ananelus the Babylonian (Egyptian?) | Originally from Babylonia (said Josephus) or Egypt (said the Mishnah) and not related to the Hasmoneans, he was made high priest by Herod the Great after Herod  | He was temporarily replaced by Aristobulus ben Alexander |
| 36 BC | Aristobulus ben Alexander | Served as high priest of Israel for only 1 year, before being drowned. The last high priest of the Hasmoneans (grandson of Hyrkanos). | After his death, Herod the Great restored Ananelus to the high priesthood |
| 35 BC | Ananelus the Babylonian(Egyptian?) | Reinstated to his post as high priest by Herod the Great | Succeeded by Jesus ben Phabet, perhaps after the death of Ananelus. |
| 35-22 BC | Jesus ben Phabet | Made high priest by Herod the Great. Contemporary with Pollio (Abtalion) the teacher, and his disciple Sameas (Shamiah) | Deprived of the high priesthood around the 13th year of Herod's reign, at which time, the office was conferred on Simon ben Boethus |
| 22 BC–5 BC | Simon ben Boethus | Simon ben Boethus had originally come from Alexandria in Egypt. Made high priest by Herod the Great since Herod married Simon's daughter; making Simon ben Boethus Herod's father-in-law. Later, she was divorced by Herod. | Upon divorcing the high priest's daughter, Herod deprived his father-in-law of the high priesthood, conferring the title upon Matthias ben Theophilus |
| 5 BC | Mattathias ben Theophilus | Made high priest by Herod the Great. Matthias the high priest was born in Jerusalem. | Unable to officiate in his duties for one day on Yom Kippur, due being “unclean” after a dream of his wife. Conferred the office to Joseph ben Ellemus for one day. |
| 4 BC | Joseph ben Ellemu | Made high priest for one day, because of a ritual defilement that had befallen Matthias ben Theophilus | After serving as high priest on the fast of the Day of Atonement, the high priesthood was restored to Matthias  |
| 4 BC | Matthias ben Theophilus | Reinstated as high priest after recusing himself from his duties on the fast of the Day of Atonement | Herod the Great deprived him of the priesthood. Accused of sedition after Roman Eagle pulled down from Temple Gate. Office given to Matthias' brother-in-law, Joazar ben Boethus. |
| 4 BC | Joazar ben Boethus | Made high priest by Herod the Great, shortly before Herod's death. Contemporary with Caesar Augustus | Archelaus deprived Jozar of the high priesthood when he became ethnarch of Judea. |
| 4 BC | Eleazar ben Boethus | Eleazar was appointed high priest by Archelaus, instead of his brother Joazar who held the post before him | Eleazar did not long endure in his role as high priest, as he was soon replaced by Jesus ben Sie. |
| 3 AD | Jesus ben Sie | Jesus ben Sie replaced Eleazar during Eleazar's lifetime, but even so, his tenure as high priest was short-lived. | Josephus gives no indication as to how long Jesus ben Sie remained as high priest, but only that Joazar had been reconfirmed in the office of high priest. |
| 3 AD | Joazar ben Boethus | Joazar may have been restored to officiate as high priest after the 9th year of Archelaus' government, when Archelaus was banished by Caesar Augustus to Gaul. | Cyrenius, Governor of Syria, deprived Joazar of the high priesthood.(Note: This is the governor at the time of the Census mentioned in the Gospels) |
| 3 AD–15 AD | Ananus ben Seth | Appointed the high priest of Israel by Cyrenius, the governor of Greater Syria, thirty-seven years after Caesar's victory over Antony at Actium. | When Tiberius Caesar ascended to the imperial throne, he sent Valerius Gratus as procurator of Judea, who removed Ananus from the high priesthood and appointed Ismael ben Phabi in his stead. |
| 15–16 AD | Ismael ben Phabi | Ismael had been appointed high priest by Gratus, the Roman procurator of Judea. After a short time, Gratus removed him from his post. | Ismael was succeeded in the high priesthood by Eleazar ben Ananus (Ananias). |
| 16–17 AD | Eleazar ben Ananus (Ananias) | Eleazar was appointed high priest by Gratus, the Roman procurator of Judea. Eleazar had earlier served as high priest. | After serving as high priest of Israel for one year, he was removed from his post and replaced by Simon ben Camithus. |
| 17–18 AD | Simon ben Camithus | Simon was appointed high priest by Gratus, the Roman procurator of Judea. | After serving in the high priesthood for no longer than a year, he was removed from his post and replaced by Joseph Caiaphas. |
| 18–36 AD | Joseph ben Caiaphas | Contemporary with Tiberius Caesar (and the adult life of Jesus). He was son-in-law of Eleazr ben Ananus (Ananias) | Joseph ben Caiaphas was removed from the high priesthood by Vitellius the President of Syria |
| 36-37 AD | Jonathan ben Ananus  | Appointed high priest by Vitellius towards the end of Tiberius Caesar's reign | Herod the Tetrarch deprived Jonathan ben Ananus of the high priest and conferred the title on his brother, Theophilus ben Ananus. |
| 37-41 AD | Theophilus ben Ananus | Appointed high priest by Herod the Tetrarch during same year in which Tiberius Caesar died. | King Agrippa I removed Theophilus ben Ananus from his position as high priest and conferred the title upon Simon ben Boethus in his stead. |
| 41-43 AD | Simon ben Boethus (called Cantherus) | He had already been high priest before and is the father of one of Herod's wives who was later divorced by him. | King Agrippa I removes Simon ben Boethus, called Cantherus, from the office of high priest and confers the title upon Jonathan ben Ananus, who then declines the honor (having already been high priest before), at which time the title is conferred upon his brother, Matthias ben Ananus. |
| 43 AD | Jonathan ben Ananus | Appointed high priest but declines the honor | Jonathan ben Ananus was succeeded in the high priesthood by Matthias ben Ananus. Later, during the reign of Nero, Jonathan was killed by the Sicarii. |
| 43 AD | Matthias ben Ananus | Appointed by King Agrippa I. Matthias was Brother of Jonathan ben Ananus | Matthias ben Ananus ben Ananus was succeeded in the high priesthood by Elioneus ben Cantheras |
| 44-45 AD | Elioneus ben Cantheras (called Cantherus) | During the first eight years of Claudius Caesar's reign, there were 3 Jewish high priests: Cantheras, Joseph Camydus and Ananias ben Nebedeus. Elioneus, called Cantherus, was appointed high priest by King Agrippa I | Elioneus, called Cantherus, was succeeded in the high priesthood by Joseph ben Camus |
| 45-47 AD | Joseph ben Camus (Camydus) | During the first eight years of Claudius Caesar's reign, there were 3 Jewish high priests: Cantheras, Joseph Camydus and Ananias ben Nebedeus. Joseph ben Camus was appointed high priest by Herod of Chalcis after the death of Agrippa I. | Joseph ben Camus was succeeded in the high priesthood by Ananias ben Nebedeus |
| 47-55 AD | Ananias ben Nebedeus | During the first eight years of Claudius Caesar's reign, there were 3 Jewish high priests: Cantheras, Joseph Camydus and Ananias ben Nebedeus. Ananias ben Nebedeus was appointed high priest by Herod of Chalcis | Ananias ben Nebedeus was succeeded in the high priesthood by Ismael ben Phabi. Ananias, although no longer officiating as high priest, was killed in the internecine strife raging in Jerusalem in the month *Gorpieus* (lunar month Elul), in the year 64 AD. |
| 55-61 AD | Ismael ben Phabi | Presumed to have been appointed high priest by King Agrippa II | Ismael ben Phabi the high priest was detained in Rome by Nero, and replaced with Joseph ben Simon |
| 61-62 AD | Joseph ben Simon | Appointed high priest by King Agrippa II, after having earlier served as high priest | Removed from office by King Agrippa, who then appointed Ananus ben Ananus in his stead |
| 62 AD | Ananus ben Ananus | Appointed high priest by King Agrippa II, but held the office for only 3 months. Ananus belonged to the sect of the Sadducees. | Removed from office by King Agrippa II, and the office given to Jesus ben Damneus |
| 63 AD | Jesus ben Damneus | Appointed high priest by King Agrippa II, during the tenure of Albinus the procurator | Removed from office by King Agrippa II, and was eventually replaced by Jesus ben Gamla. |
| 63-65 AD | Jesus ben (Gamliel) [Gamla] | Made high priest by King Agrippa II during the reign of Claudius Caesar. He is mentioned in Mishnah *Yoma* 3:9 and *Yebamot* 6:4. | Removed from office by King Agrippa II, and replaced by Matthias ben Theophilus. Eventually, Jesus ben Gamla is murdered by the Idumeans under Simon bar Giora. |
| 66-67 AD | Matthias ben Theophilus | Matthias was already the High Priest when the war with the Romans broke out, in the 12th year of Nero’s reign | Matthias was killed by Simon bar Giora for being suspected of siding with the Romans during the First Jewish-Roman war, and his office given to Phannius ben Samuel after casting lots for his replacement. |
| 67-70 AD | Phannias ben Samuel | Phannias was made the last high priest of Israel, in the midst of the internecine strife in Judea. The office of high priest was conferred upon him after casting lots to select a new high priest. Being unqualified for the task, he was given instructions as to how to perform his sacerdotal duties. | With the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD, the function of the high priest's office was dissolved. |

Very difficult to piece together the disparate histories and timelines with any sort of definitive accuarcy. A main source is the writings of Josephus. But also the Jewish writings in the Mishnah. Considerable difference between them.

Sourced from
Wikipedia.com: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_high_priests_of_Israel>

Bible History.com <https://bible-history.com/highpriests/list-of-jewish-high-priests>

The Times of Israel.com <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/high-priests-of-the-jews/>

Prepared by Steve Laube for class, July 12, 2025