

CONTENTS

Foreword by Shaye J.D. Cohen	xi
Introduction	xvii

THE DAWN: Pharaohs and Great Kings

1 ☞ Biblical Egypt

Joseph and His Brothers	5
Moses and the Pharaoh	11
The Desert Road	16

2 ☞ The Stronghold of Elephantine

A Judean Colony in Egypt	21
Mibtahiah and Her Husbands: A Family of Note during the Reign of Artaxerxes I	26
“God of Heaven” and God of the Floods	36


THE ZENITH: Ptolemaic Egypt

3 ☞ Alexandrian Judaism and Its Problems


Alexander and the Jews	47
Can One Be Both Jewish and Greek?	56
A Love Story	65

4 ☞ A New Diaspora


Among the “Hellenes”	73
Soldiers of the Ptolemies	83
“God the Most High” and “Splendor of Israel”	87

5  A Law for the Jews of Egypt

- The Greek Torah and the Demotic Case Book 99
The Law of Moses and the Justice of the King 107
“The Law of the Land Is Law” 112

6  A Jewish Temple in Ptolemaic Egypt

- The Echoes of the Maccabean Crisis 121
“An Altar of the Lord in the Midst of the Land of Egypt” 124
Images of the “Land of Onias” 129


7  At the Wellsprings of Pagan Anti-Semitism

- Modern Fantasies and Ancient Myths 135
The Miracle at the Hippodrome 141
“They Loathe the Jews” 153

THE TWILIGHT: Egypt in the Roman Empire

8  The “Jewish Question” in Alexandria

- The Decline 161
The Vile Deeds of Flaccus the Prefect 165
Jews, Alexandrians, and Claudius the Emperor 173

9  The Time of Misfortunes

- The Service Record of a Brilliant Alexandrian 185
A Miracle in Rome 191
“A Spirit of Rebellion” 198

10  The Remembrance

- Who Destroyed the Great Synagogue of Alexandria? 207
“Jewish Tax,” “Jewish Accounts”: The Tale of the Imperial Tax
Records 214
A Day of Rejoicings in Oxyrhynchos 222

Epilogue 227

Chronological Table 233

Calendar 237

Monetary Units and Units of Measure 239

Glossary 241

Bibliography 247

Maps 256

Index of Persons and Places 261

Index of Sources 271