

Name _____

So Much Has Changed. . . . How Much Has Stayed the Same?

Compare the information about first-century Palestine on the left to our society today. Note similarities or differences in the second column. Take time to look up answers that you don't know for sure, as you will have to answer some questions in the large group following this activity.

First-Century Palestine	Modern Day
EMPLOYMENT	
Women's work was domestic: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• getting water• cooking food• making clothes• caring for children	
Men's work was mostly agricultural: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• farming• growing crops• raising animals• fishing	
Many men worked as tenant farmers because they couldn't afford to own their own land.	
Some men were craftsmen or worked for the government.	
TECHNOLOGY AND MACHINES	
No electricity: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• no electric lights• no refrigeration• no air conditioning/heating• no washing machines/dryers	
Communication was by word of mouth or courier.	
Most people couldn't read or write.	
There was no indoor plumbing / running water.	



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PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY	
Men held political power.	
Men controlled economic power.	
Men controlled religious power.	
Men were solely responsible for the economic livelihood of their families.	
Men made all important family decisions, including arranging the marriage of their daughters.	
Unmarried women remained living with their parents.	
Widowed women returned to their parents, married their husband's brother in order to be provided for, or became beggars.	
Women were not permitted to interact with men they were not related to and were not permitted to speak in public to any man.	
CULTURAL PRIORITIES	
Commitment to family: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most families lived in the same village. • You would be as close to your aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents as you were to your own parents and siblings. • You would never do anything that your family would disapprove of or be embarrassed by. 	
SOCIAL CLASS	
Most people would be considered poor by our standards today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They lived in homes built of stone or dried mud and straw. • They often sold themselves as indentured servants to the wealthy in order to make enough money to survive. 	
A small percentage of the population was wealthy. They were called elites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They owned large, beautiful homes. • They had indoor plumbing. • They had enough room and funds for entertaining. • They owned the majority of the land, which they leased out to tenant farmers. • They ate and drank expensive food and wine. • They took advantage of the poor through low wages and heavy taxation. 	

