This multidisciplinary volume takes a fresh look at a period of transition from Persian to early Hellenistic times in Judah, which has been long neglected in research. Until recently, the period from Alexander’s conquest in 332 BCE, through the time of the Diadochi (324–301 BCE) and the Ptolemaic domination (301–198 BCE), to the early years of Seleucid domination following Antiochus III’s conquest in 198 BCE was reputed to be poorly documented in material evidence and textual production, buttressing the view that the period from late Persian to Hasmonean times was one of seamless continuity. However, recent archaeological and literary studies have begun to reveal that this is a period in which critical changes took place. At the same time, historians of the Hellenistic East have shed new light on the nature of the Hellenistic empires and the relationship between the central power and local entities in ancient imperial settings. The re-dating of several biblical texts to the 3rd century BCE is another major thread explored in this volume, challenging the traditional periodization of Judean history.

This volume contains the proceedings of an international conference held at the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University in 2014. The conference brought together scholars from a variety of disciplines, including Hellenistic history, the archaeology of Judea, and biblical studies, in order to appraise this period anew as a time of transition and change and to situate Judea within its broader regional and transregional imperial contexts.

*Times of Transition* is the first volume in a new series, titled “Mosaics: Studies on Ancient Israel,” launched by the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University and co-published by Eisenbrauns, an imprint of Penn State University Press.
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