



Between the Testaments

- Last OT revelation:
 - 420 BC
 - Malachi
- Birth of John the Baptist:
 - ca. 4 BC
- From Malachi to John:
 - 400 years



The Political History



The Image (2) vs. the Beasts (7)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Vision of Pagan King</u> • History from Man's point of view • Noble image w/ expensive metals • Statue destroyed for no obvious reason • God's Power Seen as an Inanimate Stone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Vision of a Godly Prophet</u> • History from God's point of view • Beasts w/o a conscience • Nations destroyed for rebellion against God • God's Power Revealed in The Son of Man
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The Great World Empires

Image	Metal	Empire	Beast
Head	Gold	Neo-Babylonian	Lion
Chest/arms	Silver	Medo-Persian	Bear
Belly/thighs	Bronze	Greek	Leopard
Legs/feet	Iron	Roman	4 th
Toes	Iron/clay	Revived Roman	10 Horns

The Record of History

- Daniel lived and ministered during the Babylonian empire
 - the head of gold
 - the lion
- On October 12, 539 BC the Medo-Persian empire
 - captured Babylon
 - killed Belshazzar
 - the breast and arms of silver
 - the Bear
 - primarily Persian from 400-333 BC

The Record of History

- 333 BC – 323 BC
 - the son of Philip of Macedon
 - captured most of the known world
 - Alexander the Great
 - the bronze belly and thighs
 - the Leopard
 - 333 BC – Alexander beat the Persians at the Battle of Issus.
 - 331 BC – Greece completely defeated Persia.



Alexander's Empire



The Record of History

- Four generals divided the empire
 - Lysimachus – Thrace
 - Cassander – Macedonia
 - Seleucus – Syria
 - Ptolemy – Egypt
- Until 198 BC – the Ptolemies (of Egypt) dominated Palestine



The Greek Empire Divided



The Record of History

- 198 BC – 63 BC – Palestine became a political football.
 - 198 BC – Antiochus the Great
 - A Seleucid ruler of Syria
 - Cleopatra's father
 - Captured Jerusalem
 - 175 BC: Antiochus Epiphanes became king of Syria.
 - 170 BC: he defeated Ptolemy VI

The Record of History

- 168 BC: Ptolemy rebelled, so Antiochus invaded Egypt a second time.
- Laenus, the Roman envoy, confronted Antiochus.
- Antiochus retreated through Jerusalem and plundered it.
- He decided to unify his kingdom by Hellenizing it.

The Record of History

- 166 BC: Antiochus returned to Jerusalem:
 - Stripped the Temple of its valuables.
 - Massacred 1,000s
 - Carried 10,000 captives back to Syria (Josephus)
 - Demolished the walls of the city
 - Built a tower and supplied it with armed mercenaries
 - Desecrated the Temple by erecting an image of Zeus
 - Offered a pig on the altar and sprinkled its blood around the temple grounds
 - Set out on a comprehensive plan to force the Jews to think, and act like Greeks—to Hellenize them
 - Erected shrines to Greek deities throughout the land
 - Burned copies of the Law of God and executed their owners
 - Refused to let them circumcise their children
 - Strangled circumcised children along with their mothers

The Maccabean Revolt

- Village of Modin
 - 20 miles northwest of Jerusalem
- Apelles, Antiochus' general, demanded the village offer a sacrifice on a pagan altar.
- First demanded that a leader and a priest, named Mattathias offer the sacrifice.
- Mattathias refused.
- Another Jewish man did.
- Mattathias and his five sons killed the Jewish traitor, Antiochus' general Apelles, and the soldiers.

The Maccabean Revolt

- Mattathias, his five sons, and many others left the village for the Judean hill country.
- In the months that followed, they fought a guerilla war against the stronger Syrian force.
 - Ranks continued to grow
 - Mattathias
 - Became terminally ill
 - Appointed his son Simon as administrator
 - Appointed his oldest son, Judas, as General of the Army
- Judas was called Maccabeus—the Hammer.

Judas Maccabeus

- Under Judas' leadership, the Jews recaptured the Temple in December, 165 BC.
- 25th of Kislev, 165 BC
- The celebration
 - lasted 8 days
 - singing, feasting, and sacrifices
 - decided to celebrate every year
 - the festival of lights, or Hanukkah
 - Hanukkah celebrates the cleansing of the temple under Judas Maccabeus.

The Record of History

- 165 BC – 63 BC: Descendants of Judas led the nation.
 - 129 BC: John Hyrcannus won political independence.

The Romans in Palestine

- 63 BC: Pompey
 - annexed Syria and arrived in Damascus
 - decided something had to be done with Judea
 - entered the Temple; and the Holy of Holies
- 63 BC: Judea and Jerusalem came under Roman occupation.

The Romans

- 63 BC – 31 BC: Rome's civil wars
- 31 BC: Octavian won
- 27 BC: Octavian gained the title, Caesar Augustus
 - Octavian rewarded Antipater for his help.
 - Antipater's son was made governor over Palestine.
 - Herod
 - Later called, Herod the Great

Herod the Great

- Brilliant & brutal
- Ten wives
 - loved Mariamne passionately
 - suspected her of infidelity, so he had her killed
 - 7 BC: executed her two sons
- 4 BC: ordered the execution of the babies in Bethlehem 2 years and younger
- 4 BC: 5 days before his death, had his favorite son executed

The Religious History



The Pharisees

- Arose in the time of Antiochus
- Called the *Hasidim*
- Means "separated ones"
- Opposed bringing Greek, pagan elements into the Jewish culture
- Most conservative of Israel's leaders
- Primarily *scribes*
- Chief responsibilities:
 - 1) interpret the Law (using oral tradition; eventually recorded in the Mishnah by 200 AD)
 - 2) teach the Law
 - 3) apply the eternal Law to changing circumstances

The Sadducees

- Named after Zadok, high priest of David's time
- Primarily *priests*
- Wealthy, aristocratic families
- Most of the political leaders
- The Pentateuch
- Rejected oral law
- Anti-supernaturalists
 - God doesn't intervene.
 - There is no spirit world (angels).
 - There is no resurrection.
- Pragmatists
- Hellenists



The Great Sanhedrin

- Mishnah – 71 men
- Mostly ...
 - Aristocracy
 - the Sadducees
 - the high priest
- High priest presided
- Met in the Temple precincts
 - "The Chamber of Hewn Stone"
- Sat in a semi-circle
- Two scribes kept a written record
- Their authority:
 - Interpret the Mosaic Law
 - Govern civil affairs of the nation
 - Try certain criminal cases under the Roman procurators authority



The Synagogue

- Origin: Babylonian captivity in the 6th century BC
- Greek means "a gathering of the people or a congregation"
- The Hebrew word is *Kneset*.
- A local place to meet, pray, and hear the Word read and explained
- Required a quorum of 10 men
- Initially, men and women sat together; eventually, separate
- The weekly service in the time of Christ:
 - Prayers – the 18 benedictions
 - The reading of the Scripture, particularly the Pentateuch
 - An explanation of the biblical text or an exposition
- Often find Christ or Paul in the synagogues.

The Septuagint (LXX)

- Ptolemy II of Egypt commissioned a Greek translation of the Hebrew OT.
 - Jews spread around the empire no longer spoke Hebrew
 - Provide a copy of the Jewish Bible to the library in Alexandria
- Jews from Palestine
- Legend
 - 72 scholars, 72 days.
- Called the *Septuagint* (70)
- Probably completed 275-250 BC
- The Bible of NT times
- Jesus, the apostles, and Paul freely quote from this translation.

Why 400 Silent Years?

During those
400 silent years,
God was
preparing the world
for the arrival
of His Son.



The Greeks

- The Greek language
 - A precise language, especially suited to the revelation of the NT's doctrine
 - A universal, trade language that would allow the spread of the apostle's writings across the empire.

The Romans

- The *Pax Romana*
 - Relative peace across the world
 - A united world, where national boundaries and loyalties would not prevent the spread of the gospel.
- A network of roads that made travel and communication by letters much simpler.
- An openness to religions of various kinds

The Jews

- Oppressed by the Romans
 - Looking for a deliverer
 - Looking for a Messiah
- Dispersed throughout the empire (the Diaspora)
- A Greek translation of their Scripture
 - Took this Greek version of the OT wherever they went.
 - In the NT era, even God-fearing gentiles had the OT in the language they could understand.

The Silent Years

"When the fullness of the time
came, God sent forth His Son."

Galatians 4:4