

The INTER-TESTAMENTAL PERIOD (The 400 years of silence)

The Old Testament Closes with:

Persian Language
Hebrew Scripture
Oral tradition
Persian control
Jewish Governor

2nd Temple completed in 515 BC

The New Testament Opens with:

Universal Koine Greek Language
Greek Scripture
Written law
Roman control
Edomite Governor named Herod the Great
Also called "King of the Jews"
Herod's Temple & 37 acre Temple Mount

1,000 BC David becomes king

961 BC David dies and Solomon becomes king

921 BC Solomon dies and kingdom is divided Israel & Judah

722 BC Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to the Assyrians and ceases to exist

605 BC Judah falls to Babylon

586 BC The temple is destroyed and people taken into exile in Babylon

539 BC Babylon falls to Cyrus the Great, King of Persia – allows exiles to return

515 BC 2nd Temple completed Much smaller than Solomon's Temple

400 BC Old Testament closes with Malachi, the last prophet until John the Baptist

POLITICAL TRANSITION

Although God is silent, He has already said what will happen to Israel during that time.

Zechariah's prophesy refers to the 4 world powers as 4 horns (Zechariah 1:18-21).

Daniel's prophesy sees the 4 world powers as 4 beasts.

Babylon, Medo-Persians, Greeks and Romans

605 BC Babylon Rule

539 BC Persian Rule Post-Exilic prophets Cyrus the Great unites Media, Lydia and Persia

333 BC Greek Rule Alexander the Great (Greeks) defeats Persian King Darius III

Philip of Macedon, father of Alexander, had Alexander tutored by Aristotle

SEE Daniel 7:2-6

1 A lion with wings Daniel 7:4 (Nebuchadnezzar -Babylon)

2 A bear. Daniel 7:5 (Medo-Persians) had three ribs in its mouth (Media, Lydia and Persia) between its teeth.

3 A leopard, Daniel 7:6 (small king of a small kingdom, Macedon- many small spots of the many kingdoms)

4 The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 4 Generals of Alexander

According to the Midrash: (Jewish commentary)

Alexander spares Jerusalem when the High Priest comes out to meet him and shows him Daniel's prophecy about the fall of Jerusalem to Alexander.

Daniel 11:1-4

"he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece. 3 Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. 4 And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.

The four winds: North, South, East and West

God said Jerusalem is the center of the world (Not America)

Ezek 5:5 "Thus says the Lord God: 'This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her.

323 BC Dan 11:1-4 Alexander dies in Babylon at 33 years old.

Alexander's 4 generals kill his heirs and family (Alexander II, his mother) and divide the kingdom

Daniel 7:6 The four-headed beast

1. North Lysimachus- Asia Minor and Turkey
2. South Ptolemy- Egypt, North Africa and Arabia Ptolemies
3. East Selucus- Syria and Babylonia Selucids
4. West Cassander- Macedonia & Greece

Ptolemies and Selucids became major empires.
Israel was between them and experienced much conflict

323 BC Egyptian Ptolemies The 2nd Ptolemy, Philadelphus, founded the Alexandrian Library commissioned the Septuagint translation of the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek.

204 BC Syrian Selucids

Antiochus Epiphanes 175 BC Destroyed Jerusalem, desecrated the temple
By sacrificing a pig on the altar, erecting an idol on the altar (Dan. 8:13-14, over 3 years Dan. 11:20-22)
80,000 Jews were killed and 40,000 were sold into slavery.
Desecrated the city for 2,300 days (Daniel 8:13-14)

165 BC Maccabean Period

The Maccabean revolt

Modine is 12 miles NW of Jerusalem

When a Syrian General tried to force a priest to eat from a pig sacrificed on the altar, an old priest named Mattathias killed the General and started the revolt.

His son Judas Maccabeus restored the temple and orthodox worship. He was killed in a battle with the Syrians and his brother Johnathan became leader and high priest, uniting civil and priestly authority in one person, which started the Hasmonean line of high priests. (from Hashman, great grandfather of the brothers).

When Judas Maccabeus restored worship in the temple, They wanted to celebrate but he only had enough consecrated oil to burn the 7 branch menorah for 1 day. The menorah burned 8 days and is celebrated at Hanukkah with a special 9 branch menorah, 1 center and 8 branches.

Hanukkah is celebrated as the Feast of Dedication or Feast of Lights. Celebrated 8 nights, usually in December, starting on the 25th day of Kislev in the Jewish calendar.

It wasn't celebrated in the Old Testament

63 BC Roman Period Judea became a province of the Roman Empire

47 BC Antipater (an Idumean- Edomite) was appointed over Judea by Julius Caesar.
Antipater appointed his son Herod governor of Galilee.

40 BC Herod was appointed king of the Jews by Rome.

"Herod the Great" Massive building programs.

250,000 miles of roads, 50,000 of those were paved- with stone pavers
Built and extended the temple mount (37 acres) and "Herod's Temple"

CULTURAL TRANSITION

A universal language – Greek Hebrew was becoming a dead language
250 BC The Greek Septuagint translated the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek
70 scholars took 70 days to translate Greek OT = LXX "70"

Greek Culture 3 metropolitan areas- Rome, Babylon, Alexandria

1,000,000 Jews fled to Alexandria, Egypt

Jeremiah was stoned there (by Jews) after fleeing there from Jerusalem during the exile.

Joseph fled to Egypt with Jesus after being warned by an angel

Jews were quoting Old Testament scripture in Greek

RELIGIOUS TRANSITION

Office of Scribe was developed- oral tradition was being written down.
Scribes became guardians and teachers of the Scriptures.

Pharisees were started. Trying to live with “What would Moses Say?”

As time went on Pharisees started separating from the Jewish People
Jesus would say “you have heard it said” or “you would say” But Jesus would say, “It is written.”
The Pharisees were interpreters of the oral law.

Saducees were aristocrats. Denied angels, resurrection, anything spiritual, eternity.
The oral law for many generations was written into the Talmud.
Sadducees held only to the law “The Pentatuch”

The name pharisee means “separatists”, Sadducees means “righteous ones”

The Sanhedrin The supreme civil and religious tribunal. 71 members formed the Sanhedrin
The Council was made up of the High Priest, 24 chief priests who represented 24 orders of the
priesthood, 24 elders and 22 scribes who interpreted the law in civil and religious matters.
Matt 26:59-61

59 Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death,
60 but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false
witnesses came forward 61 and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in
three days.'"

The Essenes A strict Jewish sect devoted to copying Scripture. Abstained from marriage, had
common ownership of property, and a simple diet. Qumran was an Essene community which copied,
preserved and hid scrolls in caves in clay vessels.
The Dead Sea Scrolls were found at Qumran in 1947.

Synagogues Alexander had started synagogues all over his kingdom where there was no temple.

THE APOCRYPHA

Books written during the Inter-Testamental Period

Deutero-canonical books A 2nd canon of Scripture

Martin Luther and the Reformation removed the Apocryphal books.

In reaction to their rejection by the Protestant Reformers, it was added to Catholic canon of
Scripture in 1546 at the Council of Trent.

It is not in the Jewish canon of Scripture.

It found it's way into the Latin Vulgate- Appears in Catholic and Eastern Orthodox bibles.

It is written in Greek, not Hebrew.

Not quoted by Jesus or any New Testament writers.

In 1870 a Decree of Papal Authority gave the Pope ultimate authority.

For Conservative Christians, the ultimate authority is Scripture.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son,
A universal language, roads, culture
The world was prepared to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.