

Bethel Bible Series

In the Fullness of Time

Week 1

Welcome & Announcements

Opening - What is your favorite concept or lesson from the Old Testament?
How did it prepare the world for Christ's coming?
Sign in and pay (\$30 for New Testament Set)

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week

Review of Last Week - *The Restoration*

Broken chain
Golden seal
Trumpets
Haggai & Zechariah trumpets over bricks
Nehemiah trumpet over city walls
Ezra trumpet over law tablets

Lesson - *In the Fullness of Time*

Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha

Religious writings not accepted as divinely inspired (not in *canon*)
Old Testament canon defined by rabbis at Jamnia in 90 AD
Produced and circulated during period of 200 BC - 100 AD
Contain various historical references and stories
Recommended by Jerome & Luther for ethical but not doctrinal teaching
Many apocryphal New Testament writings also exist, such as:
Gospel of the Infancy, Gospel of Thomas, ... Nicodemus, ... Bartholomew
Acts of John, ... Paul, ... Peter, ... Andrew, ... Philip, ... Thomas

Apocrypha

Contain ideas that disagree with Protestant doctrine
Purgatory, masses for the dead, good works earn merit with God
Roman Catholics accept 12 of these 15 books as *Deuterocanonical*
Accepted at *Council of Trent* in 1546 in response to reformers
Eastern Orthodox accept all but 2 Esdras as canonical
1 & 2 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, Additions To Esther, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch,
Letter of Jeremiah, Song of the Three Young Men, Susanna, Bel and the Dragon,
Prayer of Manasseh, 1 & 2 Maccabees

Pseudepigrapha

Falsely claimed to be written by a well-known ancient figure
Given even less credence than apocrypha
Called Apocrypha by Roman Catholics
Eastern Orthodox accept 3 & 4 Maccabees as canonical
Enoch, Psalms of Solomon, Books of Adam & Eve, Martyrdom of Isaiah, 2 & 3 Baruch,
Book of Jubilees, Testament of the 12 Patriarchs, 3 & 4 Maccabees, others

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Persian Period (539-333 BC)

Aramaic became common language of the Jews while in captivity (replaced Hebrew)
Cyrus conquered Babylon and allowed exiles to return
Temple and city walls were rebuilt, God's Law was reinstated (Ezra & Nehemiah)
Jewish high priest was appointed as head of church & state
Persians allowed Jews to set and administer their own religious laws
Artaxerxes III assassinated by Bagoas (his minister of state)
Artaxerxes' son Arses set up as puppet king by Bagoas
Arses replaced by Darius III (Codomanus) when he disagreed with Bagoas

Alexander the Great (336-323)

Strong Greek military developed by Philip of Macedon (358-336)
Alexander took rule after his father Philip was assassinated
Conquered the eastern world to build Greek empire and spread Greek culture to unify the world
Defeated Persians in 333 BC at Issus
Established Alexandria in Egypt in 331 BC
Died soon after returning to Babylon in 323 BC
Greek empire was divided between his 4 generals - Two grew into dynasties
Ptolemy - Ruled Egypt, Capital at Alexandria in Egypt
Seleucus - Ruled Babylonia, Capital at Antioch in Syria

Greek Period (333-63 BC)

Ptolemies (323-198)

Egypt flourished under the 15 Macedonian kings called Ptolemies
Government patterned after pharaohs instead of Greeks
Ptolemy wrestled control of Palestine away from Seleucus
Palestine changed hands numerous times in this period
High priest served as top administrator of Judea, line of Zadok (David's priest)
Pentateuch (Torah) served as Judea's constitution
Sanhedrin served like a senate & supreme court
Septuagint made during prosperous reign of Ptolemy II (Philadelphus)
72 elders translated Hebrew Pentateuch (Torah) into Greek (6 per tribe)
Rest of Old Testament was translated and added to Septuagint over following years
Cleopatra's son by Julius Caesar, Ptolemy XV, was the last Ptolemy
Murdered with mother by Octavian's orders in 30 BC

Seleucids (198-165)

Pushed Hellenism & built Greek cities throughout empire
Hellenism - Greek thought, customs, lifestyle
Intended to unify diverse peoples and cultures
Threatened Jewish faithfulness to God and His Law
Antiochus III recaptured Palestine from Ptolemy V in 198 BC
Gave Jews right to make their own laws, Donated to temple
Antiochus IV forced unity (Hellenism) & expansion (heavy taxation)
Self-named Epiphanes (*Manifest*)
Nicknamed by his subjects Epimanes (*madman*)
Sold high priesthood to highest bidder, then deposed & resold
Plundered & desecrated the temple - altar to Zeus (167-164 BC) & sacrificed pig
Forbade circumcision, Sabbath, festivals, Torah - punishable by death
Tried to destroy all copies of the Torah

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Maccabean Period (165-134 BC)

Elderly priest Mattathias destroyed Greek altar built in his town (ex. Judges 5:25-32 – Gideon)
He killed the official demanding pagan sacrifice & began a Jewish revolt
Fled to hills with 5 sons & others - Judas, Jonathan, Simon, Eleazar, John
Organized an army, destroyed altars, killed Hellenized Jews, circumcised Jewish boys
Mattathias killed within 3 months, succeeded by son Judas

Judas Maccabeus led surprise attacks against Seleucids & won independence
Nicknamed Maccabee
Temple was cleansed & rededicated (celebrated at Hanukkah)
Skirmished around Palestine & Galilee to bring scattered Jews back to Jerusalem
Killed in political battle against Seleucid army

Jonathan followed brother Judas and gained power with shrewd politics
Awarded role of high priest although not of Zadokite line
Taken prisoner and killed by Trypho under Antiochus VI

Simon took title of *great high priest and commander and leader of the Jews*
Qumran community was established in protest (Dead Sea Scrolls)

Hasmonean Period (134-63 BC)

John Hyrcanus installed as Priest-Prince after his father Simon was killed by son-in-law
Defeated by Antiochus VII, Later won freedom & Samaria from Demetrius II

Two parties emerged during John Hyrcanus I

Pharisees - Focus on obedience to God's Law (study, apply, develop)

Opposed Judas Maccabeus' efforts to win political freedom

Content with cleansing of Temple and reestablishment of Jewish worship

Sadducees - Priests & nobles opposed Pharisees to protect privileges

Aristobulus (John's son) called himself king (instead of ethnarch)
Imprisoned brothers & mother to protect reign

Alexander Jannaeus (Aristobulus' brother) expanded borders to include David's territory
Power-hungry, hated by his own people, persecuted the Pharisees

Alexandra Salome (Alexander's widow) brought time of peace & prosperity

Aristobulus II and Hyrcanus II (Salome's sons) fought for leadership
Rome intervened and Palestine became part of the Roman Empire
Pompey besieged temple, massacred priests while performing duties, entered Most Holy Place
Emperor Pompey imprisoned Aristobulus II & appointed Hyrcanus II high priest

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Roman Period (63 BC-)

Julius Caesar took Syria from Pompey in 47 BC

Appointed Hyrcanus as ethnarch & high priest, Antipater as procurator

Antipater's sons as governors - Herod over Galilee, Phasael over Jerusalem

Herod married Hyrcanus' granddaughter after Antipater was killed

Parthians gained power over Syria after Julius Caesar was killed in 44 BC

Parthians helped Aristobulus's son Antigonus become high priest

Hyrcanus exiled to Babylon, Phasael commit suicide, Herod ran to Rome

Herod the Great won favor of Mark Antony & Octavian, named *King of the Jews*

Took over 3 years later after Romans executed Antigonus

Reported directly to Rome, a Hellenist at heart, not accepted by Jews

Became paranoid, killed some of his wives & kids to protect throne (Matthew 2:16)

Used heavy taxation for a lavish building program (including 2nd Temple)

Herod's territory was divided between his 3 remaining sons when he died (4 BC)

Herod Archelaus ruled Judea 10 years and was replaced by procurators

Pontius Pilate was the fifth procurator (26-36 AD)

Herod Antipas ruled Galilee, Jesus' homeland

He killed John the Baptist and was in Jerusalem when Jesus died

Summary – *In the Fullness of Time*

Hour Glass

Galatians 4:4-5

Greek Empire

Sword

Greek Pillar

Greek Letters

Roman Empire

Golden Eagle

White Flag

Roads to Coliseum

Manuscript

Jews longed for coming of the promised Messiah

Earlier exiles carried Hebrew message throughout the world

Three Figures

Clasped Hands

Bowed Head

Upraised Arms

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials

Next Week - *The Word Became Flesh*