

# 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* = Babylonian bondage is broken when Persians conquer Babylon  
*Golden seal* = Cyrus issues "The Edict of Restoration" freeing the Jews  
*Trumpets* = God's people who proclaimed hope and led the returning exiles  
*Haggai & Zechariah trumpets over bricks* = Haggai & Zechariah pushed rebuilding temple  
*Nehemiah trumpet over city walls* = Nehemiah led rebuilding of city walls  
*Ezra trumpet over law tablets* = Ezra initiated law reforms

### 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Contain various historical references and stories  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 = Greek for *things hidden away, (missing)*  
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* = *deutero* means *secondary*  
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 = Greek for *false authorship*  
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*

# Bethel Bible Series

## In the Fullness of Time

Page 2

### 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) = Named after Seleucus or his son Antiochus

- 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*) = Said Zeus was manifest in him
  - 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

# Bethel Bible Series

## In the Fullness of Time

Page 3

### 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 = *hammerer* (for great might as a warrior)  
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) = Hashmon was father of Mattathias

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

# Bethel Bible Series

## In the Fullness of Time

Page 4

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 = *When the time had fully come*

Greek Empire

*Sword* = World brought together by conquests of Alexander the Great

*Greek Pillar* = Cultural barriers removed by spread of Hellenism

*Greek Letters* = Common language allowed unhindered communications

Roman Empire

*Golden Eagle* = Roman rule & unity prevented power struggles

*White Flag* = People lived in security under *Pax Romana* (Roman Peace)

*Roads to Coliseum* = Network of roads was built for army response

*Manuscript* = Hebrew Traditions and Dispersions

Jews longed for coming of the promised Messiah

Earlier exiles carried Hebrew message throughout the world

*Three Figures* = Mankind desperately needed God's intervention

*Clasped Hands* = Foreign gods & philosophy led to spiritual confusion

*Bowed Head* = The Roman way of life was filled with moral corruption

*Upraised Arms* = Many searched for decency and justice

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 1 and Assignment 2

Next Week - *The Word Became Flesh*