

When the Old Testament ends . . .

1. *The Persians are in control of Jerusalem and Judea.*
2. *The Israelites are in captivity having been exiled by their God for idolatry.*
3. *Solomon's temple has been destroyed (first temple).*
4. *Few are looking for the Messiah.*
5. *There are no local synagogues, no Pharisees, no Sadducees.*
6. *There is no prophetic voice after Malachi, a period of 400 years before Christ was born called "the silent years."*

When the New Testament starts with Christ . . .

1. *Rome is in control of Jerusalem and Judea.*
2. *There is virtually no idolatry in Israel.*
3. *The "Second Temple" now stands in place of Solomon's temple.*
4. *Everyone is looking for the Messiah.*
5. *There are synagogues in many Jewish towns and cities. Pharisees and Sadducees in control.*
6. *John the Baptist becomes the first prophetic voice since Malachi.*

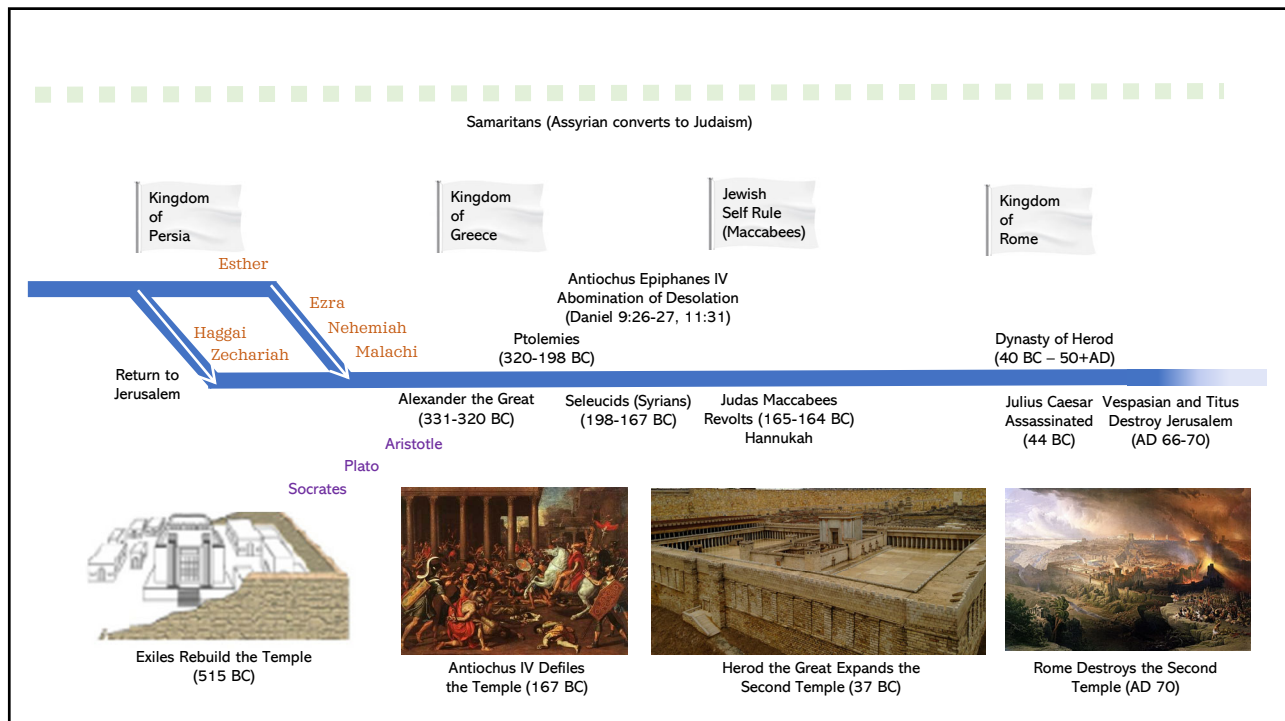
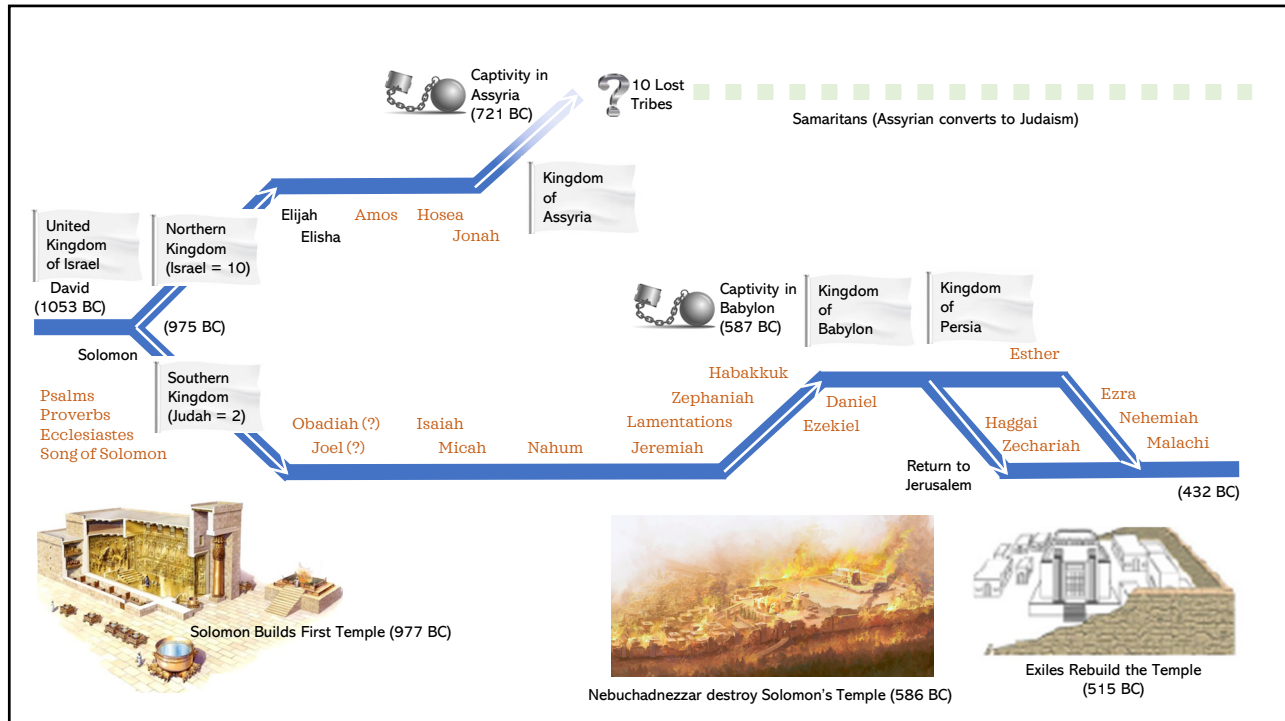
Though no prophet is speaking, the years between the Testaments are anything but quiet. What happens between the OT and the NT to prepare for Christ?

Between the Testaments | The 5 Eras

PERIOD	DATES	CRISIS	RESULT
1. Babylonian Period	606-539 BC (67 years)	Solomon's Temple destroyed. The Exile.	Despair - Loss of the Temple Loss of national sovereignty
2. Persian Period	539-331 BC (208 years)	Collapse of the Persian Empire by Alexander	Hellenization begins - Loss of Jewish identity
3. Greek Period	331-167 BC (164 years)	Persecution by Antiochus IV Epiphanes	Rise of Jewish mercenaries and Jewish hopes
4. Jewish Self-Rule	167-63 BC (104 years)	Domination by Rome	Loss of national sovereignty - Again
5. Roman Period	63 BC - 70 AD (133 years)	Destruction of the Second Temple	Loss of the epicenter of Judaism

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of 'The Latter Days'

BABYLON 606-538 BC	"His image's head was of fine gold... Thou art this head of gold." (Daniel 2:32, 38).
PERSIA 538-331 BC	"...His breast and his arms of silver... after thee shall arise another Kingdom interior to thee..." (Daniel 2:32, 39).
GREECE 331-63 BC	"...His belly and his thighs of brass... another third Kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth." (Daniel 2:32, 39).
ROME 27 BC-1453 AD	"His legs of Iron...And the fourth Kingdom shall be strong as Iron: for as much as Iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things:." (Daniel 2:33, 40).
DIVIDED ROMAN EMPIRE WRE 27 BC-476 AD FRE 67 AD-1453 AD	"His feet part of Iron and part of clay... partly strong and partly broken... they shall not cleave one to another." (Daniel 2:33, 41-43).



Between the Testaments | Persian Period

- *Persian Period (539-331 BC)*
 - *515 BC | Second temple dedicated (Zerubbabel, Haggai, Zechariah)*
 - *400 BC | Last OT prophet, Malachi, John the Baptist predicted*
- *Preparation for the Christ*
 - *The completion of the OT occurs in the Persian Period with the completion of Malachi. The impact of the OT on NT Christianity cannot be overstated. These 39 books knit Judaism and Christianity together.*

Between the Testaments | Greek Period

- *Greek Period (331-167 BC)*
 - *331-320 BC | Alexander the Great – defeats Persians, Hellenization begins, upon death kingdom divided into 4 parts, Ptolemies get Israel*
 - *320-198 BC | Ptolemies rule Palestine – from Alexandria, Egypt, Septuagint (LXX) Greek OT translation produced*
 - *198-167 BC | Seleucid (Syrian) rule – Antiochus III defeats Ptolemy V, rule from Antioch, 2 parties (pro-Egyptian, pro-Syrian)*
 - *168 BC | Antiochus IV type of antichrist – replaces high priest (Onias III with his brother), invades Jerusalem, sacrifices pig on the altar, incites Maccabean revolt*

Between the Testaments | Greek Period

— Preparation for the Christ

- *As much as being conquered by the Greeks, Hellenization was of equal impact.*
- *Under Ptolemy II, the Hebrew OT was translated into Greek. Legend has it that Ptolemy engaged 70 or 72 scholars, hence the abbreviation LXX.*
 - *The translation was prepared in Egypt for Jews who understood Greek better than Hebrew.*
 - *Many quotes of the OT in the NT are taken from the LXX.*
 - *The LXX served as the Bible for early Christians.*
- *Greek became the language of trade. Only Jews inside Palestine spoke Aramaic. Jews in the diaspora outside Palestine spoke Greek creating a gap between the two.*

Greek Kingdoms at the time of Antiochus Epiphanes 175 - 164 BC

Rome (168 BC)

Rome (188 BC)

Antioch

Seleucid Kingdom (Kingdom of the North)

Ptolemy Kingdom (Kingdom of the South)

Saudi Arabia

- While Antiochus was fighting in Jerusalem, a rumor spread he died. As a result, they deposed Menelaus. As Antiochus was on his way back from fighting in Egypt, he stopped in Jerusalem, reinstated Menelaus and stole the golden table of shewbread from the Temple.
- In 168 BC, Antiochus attempted to completely subdue Egypt but was turned back by the Romans. Frustrated, he invaded Israel to unleash his rage from another failed invasion of Egypt. Once inside Jerusalem, he pillaged it killing the men and selling the women into slavery.
- On the 25th of Kislev, Antiochus had a pig sacrificed on the altar. He spread pig's blood in the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. He had a statue of Zeus put in God's Temple with his own likeness carved onto the face. This was called the abomination that makes desolate.
- Antiochus outlawed the Sabbath, celebrating Holy Days of Leviticus 23, reading of the Hebrew Scriptures, circumcision, and all commandment keeping. Those caught with the Holy Scriptures or performing circumcision were executed.

Between the Testaments | Jewish Self-Rule

- *Jewish Self-Rule (167-63 BC)*
 - *167-135 BC | Maccabees – Temple worship restored, Feast of Dedication, Judas/Jonathan/Simon*
 - *135-63 BC | Hasmoneans – John Hyrcanus I/Aristobulus 1/Alexander Janneus/Salome Alexandra/Aristobulus II*

- *Preparation for the Christ*
 - *Pharisees and Sadducees political parties settle into their respective roles.*
 - *As Palestine expands, the Jewish religion spreads. Both Idumea and Iturea submitted considered themselves Jews. This paved the way for Herod the Great.*
 - *Roman control dominates Jewish attention from this time forward. And determined much of the self-identification of the period.*
 - *Of the various factions that emerged under Hasmonean rule, three are of particular interest: the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes.*

	Sadducees	Pharisees	Essenes
Social Class	Priests, aristocrats	Common people	[Unknown]
Authority	Priests	"Disciples of the Wise"	"Teacher of Righteousness"
Practices	Emphasis on priestly obligations	Application of priestly laws to non-priests	"Inspired Exegesis"
Calendar	Luni-solar	Luni-solar	Solar
Attitude Toward:			
Hellenism	For	Selective	Against
Hasmoneans	Opposed usurpation of priesthood by non-Zadokites	Opposed usurpation of monarchy	Personally opposed to Jonathan
Free will	Yes	Mostly	No
Afterlife	None	<u>Resurrection</u>	Spiritual Survival
Bible	<u>Literalist</u>	Sophisticated scholarly interpretations	"Inspired Exegesis"
Oral Torah	No such thing	Equal to Written Torah	"Inspired Exegesis"

Major Players | Pharisees

- *Group likely developed in opposition to the combination of Kingly and Priestly roles in the Hasmonean Dynasty. May be related to the Hasadim (Faithful Ones).*
- *Name = "separatists." Likely a separation of powers, not a separation from society*
- *Opposed Jesus*
- *Were opposed to Rome, but also opposed to violence*
- *Would rather seek holiness (personal and corporate) which they believed would be rewarded by God*
- *Scribes were not all Pharisees but were likely associated with them (they were so familiar with the text from copying it they were seen as legal experts (sometimes called lawyers)).*

Major Players | Sadducees

- *Developed out of the group who supported the Hasmoneans because of their reversal of Hellenization*
- *Were likely the wealthy and influential members of the aristocracy*
- *Descended from the Priestly family of the Zadokites*
- *Centralized in Jerusalem and held the High Priesthood during the time of the NT*
- *Held entire OT to be God's revelation but only doctrine provable from Torah was binding*
- *Did not oppose Roman occupation*
- *Did not persist past 70 AD since their power was centralized in the Temple*

Major Players | Zealots / Siccari

- *Referred to by some as the “Fourth Philosophy”*
- *Believed Rome must be overthrown by force*
- *Committed terroristic acts of violence against both Jews and Gentiles*
- *Formally organized in 6 AD under Judas of Galilee, but likely existed informally prior*
- *It is likely that Judas Iscariot's surname is a reference to his membership in the Sicarri*
- *Peter’s action in the Garden and his origin in Galilee seems to indicate that he was at least sympathetic to this movement, if not formally a member*
- *With Simon the Zealot, Peter, and Judas 1/4th of Jesus’ disciples held to this position*

Major Players | Essenes

- *Apocalyptically oriented*
- *Founded by an anonymous leader called the “Teacher of Righteousness”*
- *Believed that the time was so wicked that withdrawal was the only option*
- *Monastic Hermits who often lived in commune like communities*
- *John the Baptist shares many parallels with Essenes, but does not fit neatly. It is possible that he held views similar and may have interacted with them at some point*

Between the Testaments | Roman Period

- *Roman Period (63 BC – 70 AD)*
 - *63 BC | General Pompey enters Jerusalem and establishes Roman rule*
 - *44 BC | Julius Caesar assassinated by Brutus, “Caesar” become generic title*
 - *40-37 BC | Herod named king of Judea by Roman senate, repulses Parthians to take the kingdom*
 - *31 BC | Octavian Augustus defeats Mark Antony and Cleopatra, “Golden Age” of Rome, pax Romana, emperor worship*
 - *26 AD | Pontius Pilate becomes governor of Judea*
- *Preparation for the Christ*
 - *With the Roman destruction of the Jewish state and temple, the Jews were in absolute dismay and disarray.*
 - *With national records lost and the center of Judaism destroyed resulted in absolute despair. Rome was a burden but revolts against Rome resulted in a total loss.*

Major Players | Herodians

- *Roman Occupation presented a major challenge for Jewish ideals during this period*
- *Rome placed client kings in place which were not true Romans, but also not true Jews*
- *This compromised rule was resented by most Jews, with the exception of the Saducees*
- *The dynasty of client kings, starting with Herod the Great, was called the Herodians*
- *Upon the death of Herod the Great, his kingdom was split between his 4 sons*
 - *Herod Antipas over Galilee*
 - *Herod Archelaus over Judea and Samaria*
 - *Herod Archelaus was banished due to incompetence and cruelty, and was replaced by Roman Procurates, the most famous of which was Pontius Pilate*

Between the Testaments | Herodian Dynasty

- 40 – 4 BC | Herod the Great – Edomite vassal ruler over Palestine, slaughter of the infants in Bethlehem ([Luke 2:16](#)), 3 sons
 1. 4 BC – 6 AD | Archelaus – Ethnarch of Judea and Samaria, banished by Augustus in 6 AD, misrule caused Joseph to settle with Mary and Jesus in Nazareth after returning from Egypt ([Matt 2:21-33](#)), after 6 AD Galilee ruled by Roman governors
 2. 4 BC – 33 AD | Herod Philip – Tetrarch of northern provinces
 3. 4 BC – 39 AD | Herod Antipas – Tetrarch of Galilee, beheads John the Baptist ([Mark 6:17-29](#)), Jesus calls him “that fox” ([Lk 13:32](#)), later stood trial before him ([Lk 23:7-12](#))
- 41 – 44 AD | Herod Agrippa I – Grandson of Herod the Great, ruled Judea and all Palestine, executed James the apostle and imprisoned Peter ([Acts 12:1-3](#))
- 50 - ? AD | Herod Agrippa II – Great-grandson of Herod the Great, heard Paul’s self-defense ([Acts 25-26](#))

