

P.T. BIBLE SURVEY

Intertestamental Period

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

- ◎ Over 400 years passed between the testaments.
 - This period is known as the Silent Years.
 - The Silent Years began at the end of Malachi in 425 B.C. and end at the beginning of the Gospels in around 4 B.C.

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

- ◎ Empires in Palestine (Israel) during the Intertestamental Period:
 - Persian Empire - 539 B.C. to 331 B.C.
 - The Persians defeated the Babylonians.
 - The Jews are allowed to return from Babylonian exile.

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

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 - Persian Empire - 539 B.C. to 331 B.C.
 - The Persians defeated the Babylonians.
 - The Jews are allowed to return from Babylonian exile.
 - Greek Empire - 331 B.C. to 146 B.C.
 - The Persians fell to Greece which was ruled by Alexander the Great.
 - Alexander the Great died in 323 B.C., and his empire was divided between four of his generals.

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

- ◎ Empires in Palestine (Israel) during the Intertestamental Period:
 - Two of Alexander's generals, Ptolemy I Soter and Seleucus I Nicator came into prominence.
 - The Ptolemies ruled the Southern Empire in Egypt.
 - The Seleucids ruled the Northeastern Empire in Syria.
 - Palestine was sandwiched between these two competing empires.

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

- ◎ Empires in Palestine (Israel) during the Intertestamental Period:
 - Ptolemies Empire - 320 B.C. to 198 B.C.
 - This southern Egyptian empire maintained control of Palestine for 122 years.
 - These were good years for the Jews because they were allowed and even encouraged to practice their Jewish faith.
 - The Jewish Scriptures were translated into Greek.

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

- ◎ Empires in Palestine (Israel) during the Intertestamental Period:
 - Seleucids Empire - 198 B.C. to 143 B.C.
 - After many failed attempts, the Seleucids finally took control of Palestine.
 - Antiochus III defeated Egypt and replaced the pro-Egyptian high priest with a politician-priest named Jason.
 - Jason moved to transform Jerusalem into a Greek city.
 - This was the beginning of the Hellenistic Jew movement which included pagan ways and values.

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

- ◎ Empires in Palestine (Israel) during the Intertestamental Period:
 - The Maccabean Revolt - 198 B.C. to 143 B.C.
 - Many Jews rejected this new pagan movement, including Mattathias Hasmonean and his five sons.
 - The Hasmonean family became known as the Maccabees, which means The Hammer.
 - After years of guerilla warfare the Maccabees took back the high priesthood, purified the temple which had been desecrated by the Syrians, and began to rebuild Jerusalem.

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

- ◎ The Maccabean Control - 143 B.C. to 34 B.C.
 - The Hasmonean family maintained a certain level of control in Palestine for about 100 years.
 - During this time the Hassidim or “pious” who had also opposed the Greeks, now opposed the Hasmoneans. These were known as Hasidic Jews.
 - In Jesus’ day, the Sadducees were descendents of the Hasmoneans, and the Pharisees were in the tradition of the Hassidim (the Pious), Hasidic Jews.

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

◎ The Sects:

- The Sadducees - Priestly and political
 - This pragmatic and political group rejected the supernatural including angels. They were more concerned with maintaining their status and power with Rome.
- The Pharisees - Passionate supernaturalists
 - Extremely popular with the general public because of their zeal and spirituality.
 - The Pharisees believed in angels, demons, and the resurrection of the dead, but their strict adherence to the law blinded them to principles of grace, mercy and a forgiving God.

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

◎ The Roman Empire:

- By the time Jesus was born, power in Palestine had passed from Jewish hands entirely into the firm grip of the greatest empire in the world; the Romans.
- The Romans took control of Palestine in 63 B.C., and continued to occupy that region throughout all of New Testament history.
- Power was shared between Roman emperors, Roman governors, the Roman army, and the Jewish Herods.

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

- ◎ The Powers during the Roman Empire:
 - Roman Emperors
 - Augustus - Ordered the census related to Jesus' birth.
 - Tiberius - Under whom Jesus ministered and was crucified.
 - Nero - Persecuted Christians, martyred Paul and Peter.
 - Roman Governors
 - Pontius Pilate - Was the judge in Jesus' trial. (Matt. 27:11)

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

- ◎ The Powers during the Roman Empire:
 - The Herods
 - Herod the Great - Became King of Judea at 26 years old. He ordered the killing of infants around Bethlehem in an effort to kill Jesus. (Matt. 2:7-23)

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

- ◎ Summary of Intertestamental Period:
 - Persian Empire - 539 B.C. to 331 B.C.
 - Greek Empire - 331 B.C. to 146 B.C.
 - Alexander the Greats' Two Generals
 - Ptolemies Empire - 320 B.C. to 198 B.C.
 - Seleucids Empire - 198 B.C. to 143 B.C.
 - The Maccabean Revolt - 198 B.C. to 143 B.C.
 - The Maccabean Control - 143 B.C. to 34 B.C.
 - The Roman Empire - 63 B.C. through most of New Testament History.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

◎ Home Study

- Read a couple chapters daily in Matthew this week.
- Review your One-Sentence Summaries.
- Recite your memory verses.