

The Intertestamental Period

Return From Exile

Zerubbabel - rebuilds the temple

Ezra - restores worship

Nehemiah - rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem

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Persian and Greek Rule

Continued Persian rule - up to 331 BC

Greeks

Alexander the Great conquers Judea 331 BC

Ptolemaic Empire (Egypt) 323 BC - 198 BC

Seleucid Empire (Syria) 198 BC - 167BC

Antiochus Epiphanes 175 BC - desecrates the temple

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Maccabees and Hasmonean Dynasty

Mattathias begins a revolt

Judas Macabbee cleanses the temple (Hanukkah)

Hasmonean Dynasty 142BC - 63BC

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Roman Rule 63BC into NT period

Pompey invades Jerusalem - enters the Holy of Holies

Rule of Antiochus 63BC - 43BC (a 'client' king)

Then Herod the Great 37BC - 4BC

- refurbishes the temple and other big building projects

Succeeded by

Herod Antipas
Archelaus
Phillip

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Religious Situation

Greek/Roman mythology

Mystery cults/religions

Greek philosophy

Emperor worship

Judaism

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Judaism

Groups : Pharisees ; Sadducees ; Zealot; Essenes

Characteristics: interest in supernatural ; messianic/apocalyptic expectation
Some religious freedom/licenced religion.

“Badges” : dietary laws ; Sabbath ; circumcision

National Symbols : Torah ; Temple ; Land.

The Intertestamental Period

Summary

400 years largely under gentile rule - sometimes tolerant sometimes hostile

A period of independence relatively fresh in memory

A fractured Judaism

A magnificent restored temple

Expectation of God's intervention ?



Mark 1 v 1. " the beginning of the gospel about Jesus, the Son of God"