

From Malachi to Christ

THE PERSIAN PERIOD 450-330 B.C.

For about 200 years after Nehemiah's time the Persians controlled Judah, but the Jews were allowed to carry on their religious observances and were not interfered with. During this time Judah was ruled by high priests who were responsible to the Jewish government.

Rule of Alexander the Great

THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD 330-166 B.C.

In 333 B.C. the Persian armies stationed in Macedonia were defeated by Alexander the Great. He was convinced that Greek culture was the one force that could unify the world. Alexander permitted the Jews to observe their laws and even granted them exemption from tribute or tax during their sabbath years. When he built Alexandria in Egypt, he encouraged Jews to live there and gave them some of the same privileges he gave his Greek subjects. The Greek conquest prepared the way for the translation of the OT into Greek (Septuagint version) c. 250 B.C.

Rule of the Ptolemies of Egypt

Rule of the Seleucids of Syria

THE HASMONEAN PERIOD 166-63 B.C.

When this historical period began, the Jews were being greatly oppressed. The Ptolemies had been tolerant of the Jews and their religious practices, but the Seleucid rulers were determined to force Hellenism on them. Copies of the Scriptures were ordered destroyed and laws were enforced with extreme cruelty. The oppressed Jews revolted, led by Judas the Maccabee.

Hasmonean Dynasty

THE ROMAN PERIOD 63 B.C. ...

In the year 63 B.C. Pompey, the Roman general, captured Jerusalem, and the provinces of the Holy Land became subject to Rome. The local government was entrusted part of the time to princes and the rest of the time to procurators who were appointed by the emperors. Herod the Great was ruler of all the Holy Land at the time of Christ's birth.

Herod the Great rules as king; subject to Rome

410	Malachi c. 430 B.C.
400 B.C.	
390	
380	
370	
360	
350	
340	
330	
334-323	Alexander the Great conquers the East
330-328	Alexander's years of power
320	Ptolemy (I) Soter conquers Jerusalem
311	Seleucus conquers Babylon; Seleucid dynasty begins
300	
290	
280	
270	
260	
250	
240	
230	
226	Antiochus III (the Great) of Syria overpowers the Holy Land
223-187	Antiochus becomes Seleucid ruler of Syria
210	
200	198 Antiochus defeats Egypt and gains control of the Holy Land
190	
180	
175-164	Antiochus (IV) Epiphanes rules Syria; Judaism is prohibited
167	Mattathias and his sons rebel against Antiochus; Maccabean revolt begins
166-160	Judas Maccabeus's leadership
160-143	Jonathan is high priest
142	Tower of Jerusalem cleansed
142-134	Simon becomes high priest; establishes Hasmonean dynasty
134-104	John Hyrcanus enlarges the independent Jewish state
110	
103	Aristobulus's rule
90	
102-76	Alexander Jannaeus's rule
75-67	Rule of Salome Alexandra with Hyrcanus II as high priest
70	
66-63	Battle between Aristobulus II and Hyrcanus II
63	Pompey invades the Holy Land; Roman rule begins
63-40	Hyrcanus II rules but is subject to Rome
50	
40-3	Parthians conquer Jerusalem
37	Jerusalem besieged for six months
32	Herod defeated
19	Herod's temple begun
16	Herod visits Agrippa
4	Herod dies; Archelaus succeeds
20	
A.D. 30	