

The Intertestamental Period

The period considered “intertestamental” brought about theological, geo-political, and cultural developments for the Jewish people. These changes provide the backdrop for the coming of Jesus as Messiah. Some consider that the developments which took place during that period time brought about the “fullness of time” mentioned in Galatians 4:4.

Major Periods

Babylonian Period (605-539 BC)

Persian Period (539-332 BC)

Greek Period (332-167 BC)

Alexander 332 - 323

Ptolemy and Egypt 320 - 198

Seleucid and Syria 198 - 167

Maccabean Period (167-63)

Struggle under Syria 167 - 142

Mattathias 167 - 166

Judas the Maccabee 166 - 160

December 25, 164

Jonathan 160 - 143

Independence under the Maccabees 142 - 63

Simon 143 - 134

John Hyrcannaus 134 - 105

Aristobulus 104 - 103

Alexander Jannaus 103 - 76

Alexander Salome 76 - 67

Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus II 67 -63

Roman Period BC 63 - 135 AD

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Dispersion of the Jewish people

The rise of the synagogue

Samaritan-Jewish relations

Doctrine of the resurrection

The hedge about the Law

Hasidim

Hellenists

Pharisees

Sadducees

Development of Apocalyptic literature

Preparation for spread of Christianity

The OT Apocrypha

Written between 300 BC and 70 AD

Tobit

Judith

Addition to Esther

Wisdom of Solomon

Ecclesiasticus (Sirach)

Baruch

The Letter of Jeremiah

Prayer for Azariah

Bel and the Dragon

1 & 2 Maccabees

1 Esdras

BC 605 - 63 AD