

FROM MALACHI TO MESSIAH

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 build 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 Old Testament into Greek (Septuagint version [LXX] 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 Palestine 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 Palestine at the time of Messiah's birth.

Herod the Great rules as king; subject to Rome

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Malachi c. 430 B.C.

- 333-323 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

- 226 Antiochus III (the Great) of Syria overpowers Palestine
- 223-187 Antiochus becomes Seleucid ruler of Syria
- 189 Antiochus defeats Egypt and gains control of Palestine

- 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

- 103 Aristobulus's rule
- 102-76 Alexander Jannaeus's rule
- 75-67 Rule of Salome Alexander with Hyrcanus II as high priest
- 66-63 Battle between Aristobulus II and Hyrcanus II
- 63 Pompey invades Palestine; Roman rule begins
- 63-40 Hyrcanus II rules but is subject to Rome

- 40-37 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