

# INTERTESTAMENTAL

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## PERIOD

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The Intertestamental period is important when seeking to understand the Bible as a whole. In this period of time a lot changes in the bible. World empires \_\_\_\_\_, political figures \_\_\_\_\_ and religious sects gain prominence. This period of time is also referred to as “the 400 years of \_\_\_\_\_”. That’s because the span of time from the ending of Malachi to the beginning of Matthew is about 400 years. During this time there are no \_\_\_\_\_, God is silent as the next major event on His timetable approaches, the first advent of the Son of God. It has been 4000 yrs since God said “let there be light,” and during much of that time He had been very interactive with mankind through various men, much to \_\_\_\_\_. Now however, before the next major event on Gods timetable, He goes silent. This Intertestamental period was very calculated by God.

**Gal 4:4** But when the **fulness of the time was come**, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

This is a reference to the fact that Christ wouldn’t be born until things were positioned the way God desired for them to be. The stage had to be set and God used this intertestamental period to do just that.

Though God was silent \_\_\_\_\_ this time, he was not silent \_\_\_\_\_ this time. The scriptures are actually very detailed about this 400 year time period. Passages like Daniel 2 are very important to this period

In Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar has a dream he can’t remember and demands his magicians, astrologers, and sorcerers recall the dream and interpret it. They can’t and all wise men are ordered to be \_\_\_\_\_ including Daniel and his friends. Daniel appeals to the king for some time and he would reveal the dream. He is granted that time and God makes known to Daniel the interpretation.

**Dan 2:31** Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness *was* excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof *was* terrible.

**Dan 2:32** This image's head *was* of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

Dan 2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

Dan 2:34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

Dan 2:35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Dan 2:36 **This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.**

Dan 2:37 Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

Dan 2:38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. **Thou art this head of gold.**

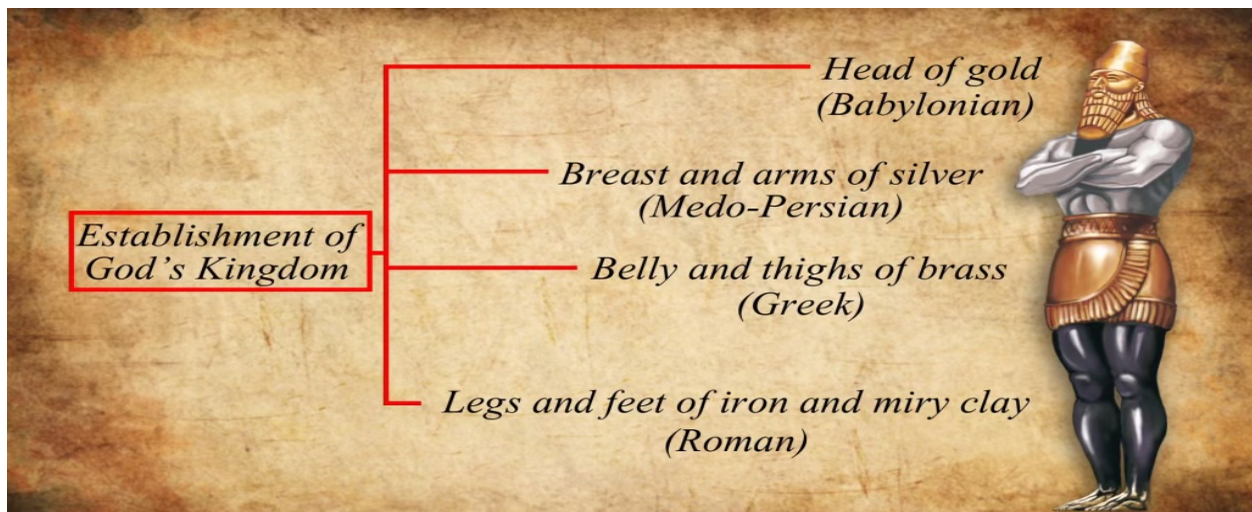
Dan 2:39 And after thee shall arise **another kingdom inferior to thee**, and **another third kingdom of brass**, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

Dan 2:40 And **the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron**: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things*: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

Dan 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, **the kingdom shall be divided**; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

Dan 2:42 And *as* the toes of the feet *were* part of iron, and part of clay, so **the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.**

Dan 2:43 And whereas thou sawest **iron mixed with miry clay**, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.



These kingdoms represent the different eras of \_\_\_\_\_ that lead up to and set the stage for the opening of the New Testament. As Daniel continues the interpretation, he alludes to how this intertwines with New Testament variables.


**Dan 2:44** And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

**Dan 2:45** Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream *is* certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.


Daniel revisits this in Chapter 7. It's interesting that in Chapter 2, these empires are envisioned as valuable \_\_\_\_\_ (gold, silver, brass, etc.) which shows their value to men, however when God describes those same kingdoms in Chapter 7, he compares them to \_\_\_\_\_. Daniel goes on to envision much of what happens in the Intertestamental period in regard to world empires.

## The Statue in the Book of Daniel

### The Kingdoms and King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream



NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM (Daniel 2)	DANIEL'S VISION (Daniel 7)	THE KINGDOMS (Daniel 2, 7, and 8)
<b>HEAD (FINE GOLD)</b> <small>The golden head of the statue represents the kingdom of Babylon which God gave King Nebuchadnezzar to rule. (Daniel 2:37, 38)</small>	<b>LION With Wings of an Eagle</b> <small>In Scripture, Nebuchadnezzar is compared to both the lion (Jeremiah 47:10-14) and the eagle (Ezekiel 17:3, 11, 12). Images of lions with eagle's wings were popular in Babylonian architecture and currency. (Daniel 7:4)</small>	<b>BABYLONIA</b> 605 bc – 539 bc King Nebuchadnezzar to Belshazzar
<b>CHEST AND ARMS (SILVER)</b> <small>The silver chest and arms of the statue represent the kingdoms of Media and Persia, which in the second power that would rise after Babylon falls. (Daniel 2:39, Daniel 7:5)</small>	<b>BEAR With Three Ribs on its Mouth</b> <small>The bear was raised on one side, which may illustrate the dominance of Persia over Media. The three ribs in its mouth may illustrate the three major empires Persia conquered. The bear is commanded to devour much flesh, which may be a reference to Persia's military expansion throughout the ancient world. (Daniel 7:5) Persia is also symbolized by a ram. (Daniel 8)</small>	<b>MEDO-PERSIA</b> 539 bc – 332 bc King Cyrus to King Darius III
<b>BELLY AND THIGHS (BRONZE)</b> <small>The bronze belly and thighs of the statue represent the kingdom of Greece. This third kingdom would rule over the whole earth. (Daniel 2:39)</small>	<b>LEOPARD With Four Wings and Four Heads</b> <small>The leopard represents the kingdom of Greece. The wings might illustrate the speed of Alexander the Great's conquest. The four heads might represent the division of Alexander's kingdom into four provinces after Alexander's death. (Daniel 7:6)</small>	<b>GREECE</b> 332 bc – 63 bc Alexander the Great and the Four Divisions
<b>LEGS (IRON)</b> <small>The fourth kingdom would be strong as iron and would break, smash and crush things.</small>	<b>BEAST With Iron Teeth and Ten Horns</b> <small>The fourth kingdom would be a reference to a major empire. Many scholars suggest this to be the Roman empire. The beast's ten horns are ten kings that would rise from this kingdom. After them, another king (the "11th horn") would rise, speak against God, and persecute God's people. It is during the reign of this king when God would set up his everlasting kingdom. (Daniel 7:7, 8)</small>	<b>A DIVIDED KINGDOM</b> <small>Many scholars believe this kingdom to be Rome. Rome occupied Jerusalem in 63 bc and was still in power at the time of Jesus. (Luke 2:1)</small>
<b>FEET (IRON AND CLAY)</b> <small>The fourth kingdom would be a divided kingdom, different from the others, both strong and weak. This kingdom would have a mixture of people who are not united. (Daniel 2:41-43, 7:23)</small>	<b>STONE Cut from a Mountain</b> <small>In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, a stone was cut out, not by human hands, and struck the statue on its feet and broke it to pieces. Then it became a great mountain that filled the whole earth. This symbolizes Jesus Christ instituting the kingdom of God that all reign forever and will never be destroyed. (Daniel 2:34, 35, 44, 45)</small>	<b>SON OF MAN (Jesus Christ)</b> <small>In my vision at night I saw a likeness to a man, one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was taken into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. —Daniel 7:13, 14, 27</small>



- Political developments of the Intertestamental period into the New Testament.

Malachi ends approximately around 403 B.C. with the Persians ruling the region after overthrowing the \_\_\_\_\_.

Around 356 B.C. King Phillip II of Greece has a son who he names Alexander, later known as Alexander the \_\_\_\_\_. Alexander would lead the Greeks as they overthrow the Persian empire (343-331 B.C.) taking Persia, Palestine and Egypt. As he conquered the territories he would spread Hellenism, which is \_\_\_\_\_ culture. The crux of their culture was their quest for higher \_\_\_\_\_ and the desire to make their language the common language. This explains why the New Testament was written in Greek instead of \_\_\_\_\_. It would also be advantageous to the spreading of the \_\_\_\_\_ to the Gentiles.

At the death of Alexander the Great, there is no one to inherit his kingdom. With his four military generals: Antigonus, Cassander, Ptolemy, and Seleucus at his side as he is dying, they inquire of who should become \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom to which Alexander responds "the strongest." So the generals split the kingdom among themselves in which two rise in their importance. Ptolemy takes the region of Egypt and Palestine and assumes \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews. By the time Ptolemy II comes along he builds the library of Alexander and wanted the Old Testament translated into Greek for the library, which is how we ended up with the Septuagint.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> general from Alexander the Great's military that became important in the \_\_\_\_\_ narrative was Seleucus. He takes an area north of Palestine which would be known as Seleucid. This brings us to around 198 B.C. The Jews are under the rule of Ptolemy II and are seeking something better for themselves end up \_\_\_\_\_ and coming under rule of the Seleucids. The Seleucids would come to be ruled by Antiochus Epiphanes IV by 169 B.C. and that would be horrible for the Jews. He \_\_\_\_\_ the temple, tears down the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jerusalem, \_\_\_\_\_ Judaism, and offers a sacrifice in the Jewish temple.

This causes a revolt among the Jews led by the Hasmonean family better known as the Maccabees. After a twenty-four-year war (166-142 B.C.) the Jews regained their independence and reclaimed the \_\_\_\_\_, which is still celebrated by modern Jews with the holiday Hannukah.

By 142 B.C. Judah is once again recognized by the Roman empire, who have risen to prominence in the world. However they would lose their independence around 63 B.C. when Roman Ruler Pompey took Syria and entered \_\_\_\_\_. Later around 47 B.C. under the rulership of Julius Caesar, Antipater the Idumaean was appointed procurator of Judea. A procurator was like a \_\_\_\_\_ in charge of financial affairs. Around 40 B.C. Herod, the son of Antipater became king of the Jews. Herod (the great as he would later be called) would begin a \_\_\_\_\_ of the temple in Jerusalem around 20 B.C. which would not be completed until 62 A.D.

So this is the temple that you see Jesus Associated with during his life:

Luke 2:20 – \_\_\_\_\_ sees Jesus at the temple and proclaims him as Savior

Matt 21 – Cast out those that \_\_\_\_\_ from the temple

Matt 23 – Preached the scathing message to the \_\_\_\_\_ in this Temple

Matt 27 – The \_\_\_\_\_ was rent in this Temple.

After Herod the Great died the kingdom was divided between his three sons Archelaus, Philip and Antipas. Each of these men plays a role in some respect to New Testament \_\_\_\_\_. In similar form to the Roman dynasty, Herods son also carried his name as ruler.

Herod The Great was on the throne when the New Testament \_\_\_\_\_.

**Mat 2:1** Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

It was the death of Herod the Great that allowed Jesus family to leave \_\_\_\_\_ where they had fled to preserve his life.

**Mat 2:14** When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

**Mat 2:15** And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

When Herod the Great died, his son Herod Archelaus ruled Jerusalem and Judea in his stead. The Jews \_\_\_\_\_ him and sent a delegation to Rome to have him removed.

His Brother Herod Antipas ruled in the northern region of Galilee. He builds a city on the coast named Tiberias. This is the Herod who has \_\_\_\_\_ beheaded and is at the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

Herod Philip - Nothing notable

However later in scripture the grandson of Herod the Great surfaces, who's name is Herod Agrippa.

**Act 12:1** Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the church.

He kills \_\_\_\_\_ the brother of John and imprisoned \_\_\_\_\_.

**Act 12:2** And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

Act 12:3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

Act 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

Finally we have the last of the Herodian dynasty Herod Agrippa II. He is the king the apostle \_\_\_\_\_ encounters in Acts 25 and 26.

### • Religious developments from the Intertestamental Period that impact the New Testament

The development of the Synagogue – With the destruction of the temple in 586 B.C. the synagogue became a place of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for the Jews in exile. Since the majority of Jews didn't return to Palestine after the Exile, synagogues played a large role in Jewish life and were even constructed in Palestine eventually.

Mat 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Scribes & Rabbis – The Jews believed the exile came because of their lack of knowledge and obedience to the Torah. So they devoted themselves to the study of it. Scribes became \_\_\_\_\_ in and \_\_\_\_\_ on the interpretation of scriptures during the intertestamental period. The rabbis were the teachers who passed on this knowledge to the people.

Jhn 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Pharisee – the name means “\_\_\_\_\_.” Appearing somewhere around 150-140 B.C. they had a desire to rid the land of the Hellenistic or Greek influence. In an attempt to do this they separated from the religious establishment of Judea. They interpreted the law strictly and morphed that into an \_\_\_\_\_ tradition, making their interpretation binding on all Jews. Surprisingly they enjoyed great favor among the people in Palestine.

Mat 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

Mat 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the **tradition of the elders**? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

Mat 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, **Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?**

Sadducees – they appeared around the same time and were the rivals of the \_\_\_\_\_ . They were Hellenized, (proudly immersed in Greek culture) aristocratic Jews, guardians of temple policy and practices. Outside of the Torah, they rejected the Old Testament as scripture, as well as any teaching not found in the Torah (like the resurrection of the dead)

**Mat 22:23** The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,

Both groups were equally a \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus and a spiritual danger to the nation

**Mat 16:6** Then Jesus said unto them, **Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**