

# Study XV

## Chronological Bible Study The History Between the Testaments

The summary within will give you information concerning the people who were (Rulers) in power at this time and the extended geographical location. Also, some about the Heleizers, Sadducees, Anti-Helliziners, and the Pharisees.

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## **Study XV**

### **The History**

### **Between the Testaments, 400 - 5 B.C.**

#### **Persian Reign Weakens (400-333 B.C.)**

Persia was used to restore the chastened Jews to their home land and to help them re-establish their old way of life. The Jews were ruled by high priests, who acted under the Syrian governors who had annexed Palestine. These priests were both spiritual and civil heads of state. An assembly of leaders, called the Sanhedrin, advised the priest and checked his power.

In religious life, scribes replaced the prophets to guard and recopy the sacred scriptures. Persia reached the height of her power in about 500 B.C., but in time of her fifth emperor, Nehemiah's Artaxerxes I, she weakened.

The seat of power gradually changed from Asia to Europe, and Greece became the world power.

#### **Greece Is The World Power (333 - 63 B.C.)** **(Daniel's third world empire)**

In 334 B.C., Alexander the Great defeated the Persians. Afterwards, he took possession of northern Africa and went on to conquer Jerusalem. He treated the Jews well and encouraged them to settle in new cities, particularly Alexandria, Egypt.

In 301 B.C. after Alexander's death and a time of civil strife, four generals began to divide the empire. Palestine went to Ptolemy of Egypt as did Libya and Arabia. Another one of the four generals was Selucidae, who obtained Syria and the Asian countries not given to Ptolemy. Hence, Selucid kings were kings from Asia; Ptolemy kings were from Africa.

The Palestinian Jews had their own priest as they had under Persian domination, but now they had to pay tribute to the Egyptian government. Ptolemy had brought many thousands of Jews from Palestine to Egypt and gave them religious freedom and full citizenship rights. Greek culture prevailed there and Jews found it difficult to maintain their separation.

In about 280 B.C., a group of Jewish scholars began to translate the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek, the common language of the day, for the Jews in Alexandria and other places were now speaking Greek. Seventy-two men did the translating; it was a holy and supernatural event; each translation produced the same words and phrases as though guided by an unseen hand. It took 150 years.

## **Translating the Old Testament**

It took 150 years to complete and is called the Septuagint Version (translation of the seventy).

There were two opposing parties forming among the Jews; Hellenizers and anti-Hellenizers. The Hellenizers cared little for their religion; they were worldly, intellectual, sophisticated and conformed to the world. Later they became the Sadducees who hardly believed in anything that was spiritual. The anti-Hellenizers repudiated anyone who opposed traditional Judaism and were proud of their orthodoxy. Later they were called Pharisees.

In 204 B.C., the last strong Ptolemy ruler died and their rival, the Selucid kings, began to control Palestine. It was Antiochus the Great that took Palestine from a weak king in Egypt. His son, Antiochus I (little horn of Daniel 8), wanted to make a great empire for himself. His goal was to Hellenize the world. In Palestine he replaced spiritual priests with unspiritual ones. He outlawed Judaism, desecrated the temple, abolished worship of Jehovah, and set up pagan worship with its sacrilege and immorality. Further, in 168 B.C., he forced the Jews to sacrifice on heathen altars to heathen gods (Daniel 11:21-35).

The Jews prepared to oppose the dictates of this king. Mattathias, an aged priest objected and killed a few Syrian officers. His son Judas Maccabees, became the Jews' military leader and organized the anti-Hellenism party. Thousands of Jews were killed in the ensuing conflict, including Judas. His two brothers, Jonathan and Simon led in the fight to bring political independence and religious freedom back to the Jews. Israel began to make alliance with Rome at this time to help guarantee its independence. By December 25, 164 B.C., the Jews had cleansed and re-dedicated the temple. The Pharisees and Sadducees split into definite parties. (See Rome power 63 B.C.)

## **Rome (Daniel's fourth world empire)**

Civil war broke out in Palestine led by two opposing brothers. One brother, Aristobolus, who was in power in Jerusalem, was planning to lead a revolt against Rome. Pompeii quickly besieged Jerusalem in 63 B.C. and took it over; 12,000 Jews were quickly killed. Pompeii made the other brother, Hyrcanus, the governor of Palestine and required him to pay annual tribute.

Herod reigned from 37 B.C. and was responsible for the orders to kill the Bethlehem children. In 20 B.C. he began to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem, (John 2:20) partly to please the Jews and partly for his own glory.

### Approximate Dates Of The Remaining Lineage Of Christ

421 B.C.	Birth of Eliakim	(10th gen)
375 B.C.	Birth of Azor	(9th gen)
329 B.C.	Birth of Sadoc	(8th gen)
283 B.C.	Birth of Achim	(7th gen)
237 B.C.	Birth of Eliud	(6th gen)
191 B.C.	Birth of Eliazar	(5th gen)
145 B.C.	Birth of Matthan	(4th gen)
99 B.C.	Birth of Jacob	(3rd gen)
53 B.C.	Birth of Joseph (man God chose to raise his son)	(2nd gen)

The lineage in Matthew fails to list Ahaziah, Joash and Amaziah (1:8) and Jehoiakim (1:11). The lineage in Luke adds Cainan (3:36) between Sala and Arphaxad. This is a probable copyist's error repeating the earlier Cainan (61st gen) as Arphaxad was only 35 years old when he begat Salah (World Encyclopedia).

Mary's lineage from David to Jesus is located in Luke 3:23-31.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Study XV**  
**The History**  
**Between the Testaments, 400-5 B.C.**

**Questions**

**Part I**

1. What country or people (rule) was used to restore the Jews to their homeland and help re-establish their old way of life?  
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2. Who were the Jewish Rulers and what were they called?  
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3. How much authority did they have?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Who were the Sanhedrins?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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5. What were the duties of the scribes?  
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6. What year was Persia at the height of her power?  
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7. Who was the fifth emperor of Persia?

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8. On what continent was Persia located?

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9. Where was the seat of power moved?

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**Part II**

1. What year did Alexander defeat Persia?

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2. What other places did he take?

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3. After his death, how was the territory divided?

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4. About 280 B.C., how many and of what nationality translated the Old Testament Hebrew into Greek?

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5. Who were the Hellenizers? The Anti-Hellenizers?

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6. What was the name of Antiochus' son (little horn of David)?

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7. What was his goal?

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8. Would a Jew sacrifice on a heathen altar?

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9. Who organized the Anti-Hellenism Party?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

10. What did the organization (Anti-Hellenism) accomplish?

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11. What were the results accomplished by Dec. 25, 164 B.C.?

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12. Aristobolus. . . With whom did he have a war?

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13. In Daniel's 4th World Empire, who was in power?

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14. Who was in power when Christ was born?

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