

The Fullness of the Time

God Designs History to Bring the Gift of His Son

Begin with Galatians 4:4

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

Looking now at all that God did to bring in the **Fullness of the Time** for His Son, our Savior to be born into the human race. The birth of the God-man Jesus Christ. There are many things historically that must take place for the **Fullness of the Time**.

The phrase *fullness of the Time* refers to a **precise time** in history. God is as concerned about when He does it as well as to what He does. There are so many things that have to be in place for Jesus Christ to be born in Bethlehem.

- A precise order in Jerusalem among the Jews
- A precise order in the world. This will be realized by the dominance of the Roman Empire, building of roads, establishing relative peace
- A common language which will be realized by Alexander the Great who spread a common Greek throughout the world.
- The Old Testament completed.

So, let's take a brief look at how God brought about the **Fullness of the Time** in human history.

As we go through these remember that Satan and demonic forces are working to counter the **Plan of God**. That man's **ISN (*Inherited Sin Nature*)** is in full operation to counter the **Plan of God** and the World itself it against the **Plan of God** to bring in the **Fullness of the Time**. But one of the more enjoyable things about studying history is seeing how God actually uses Satan and man's **ISN** to usher in the **Fullness of the Time**. God uses the hatred of man, the jealousy, the greed and the lust of man to bring about **His Plan**.

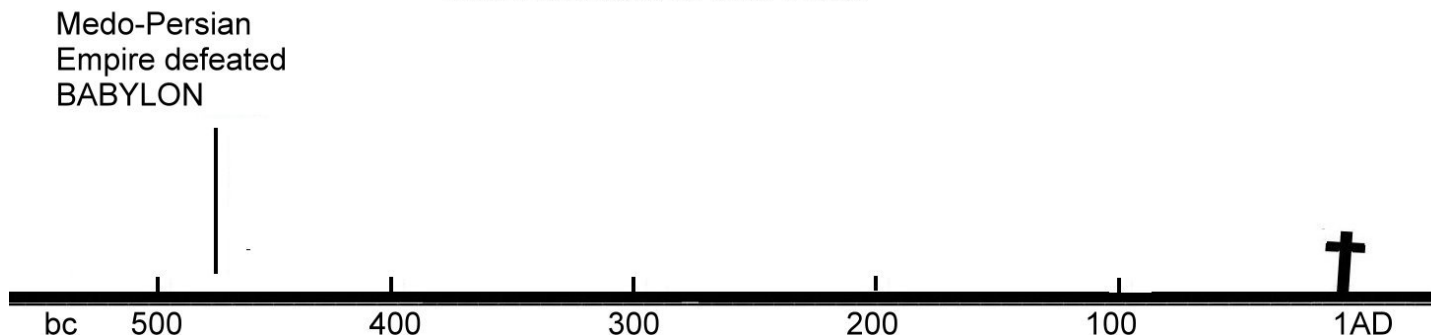
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|---|-------------------------|
| I. Return to land of Judea | 536 bc |
| II. Division of Alexander's great empire into 4 empires | 301 bc |
| III. Antiochus IV Epiphanes | 175-164 bc |
| IV. The Maccabean Period | 166-142 bc |
| V. The Hasmonian Period | 142-63 bc |
| VI. Roman rule | 63 bc to 70 AD |
| VII. Christ born in Fullness of the Time | Bethlehem
ca. 4/3 bc |

I. Return to the land of Judea 536 BC.

Why start here?

Jesus Christ will be born in the land of Judea. Before this date they were in the land of Babylon, under Babylonian rule. The Medo-Persian empire defeated Babylon in 539 BC.

The Fullness of the Time

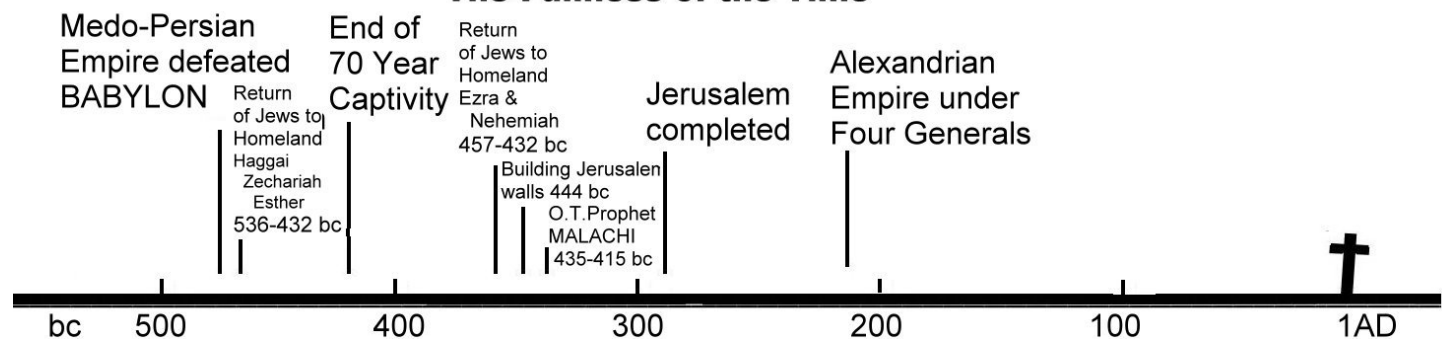


In 536 BC Cyrus the great started the return of the Jews to their land in Jerusalem. The return from Babylon will take some 100 years (536-432 BC.) The first period of the return was 536-516 BC covering the Biblical books of Haggai, Zechariah and Esther. The second period of return: (457-432 BC) covered in Ezra and Nehemiah.

In 517 BC Restoration will continue under the Persians.

In 516 BC marked the end of the 70 years captivity and the rebuilding of the Temple—which had to be in place when Christ was born. Much about the life of Jesus Christ involves the temple.

The Fullness of the Time



In 509 BC God was moving in the founding of the Roman Republic.

444 BC began the building of the walls of Jerusalem. So the temple and the city are now being completed for the **Fullness of the Time**.

435-415 BC is the close of the Old Testament by the prophet Malachi to the Jews on the Prophecy of the forerunner of the Messiah some 400 years before the **Fullness of the Time** for the coming of the birth of the Son of God.

In 396 BC Jerusalem is completed.

So in movement toward the **Fullness of the Time**, the Jews have returned from 70 years in captivity, rebuilt both the temple and the walls.

II. Division of Alexander's great empire

We well covered in Daniel the division of Alexandrian Empire under the rule of four of his generals in 301 BC. Daniel 7:6 the Leopard with four wings; Daniel 8:8 four conspicuous horns, and Daniel 8:21ff; and Daniel 11:4 **his kingdom Alexander's will be broken up and parceled out toward the four points of the winds.**

So we know that this division of Alexandrian Empire is very

important to the **Fullness of the Time.**

It was divided between:

Lysimachus Thrace and Asia Minor;

Cassander Greece;

Ptolemy Egypt

Selucide Syria

All around the Great Sea (Mediterranean) setting the stage for the rise of the Roman Empire.

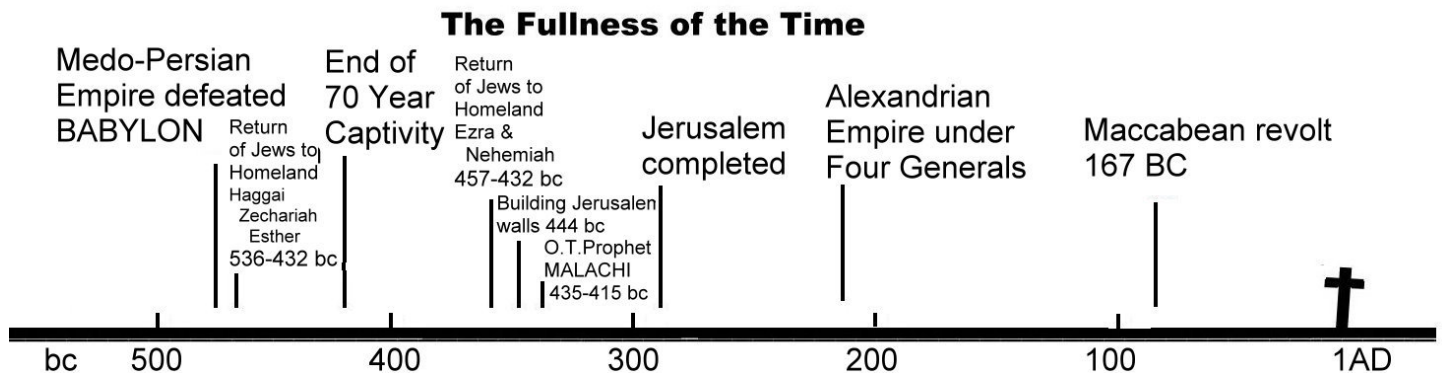
(the following is taken from the combine work of Charles Clough, Robby Dean and Thomas Ice, with occasional inserts from Mattox)

III. DURING THE PERIOD FOLLOWING THE BREAKUP OF ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE. DURING THIS PERIOD JUDEA WAS CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO GREAT EMPIRES, THE PTOLEMIES IN EGYPT IN THE SOUTH AND THE SELEUCIDS IN THE NORTH. DURING THE FIRST PART OF THIS PERIOD FROM CA 320 TO 180 THEY WERE PRIMARILY UNDER THE DOMINATION OF EGYPT. BUT WITH THE RISE OF THE POWER OF SYRIA, THEY BEGAN TO ALLY THEMSELVES THERE.

INTERNAL POWER POLITICS INVOLVED THE PRO SYRIAN FACTION, THE PRO EGYPTIAN FACTION, PLUS VARIOUS RELIGIOUS FACTIONS, AND THOSE JEWS WHO REMAINED FAITHFUL TO THEIR GOD AND

HIS WORD.

The **Maccabean revolt** in 167 BC was necessary in order to undo the damage of Daniel 11:14 where believers had tried to bring in freedom and instead had lost freedom. ..



Daniel 11:33 *“And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder, for many days.*

Daniel 11:34 *“Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy.*

Daniel 11:35 *“And some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge, and*

make them pure, until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time.

These verses leave the Maccabean period and go into the post-Maccabean period.

Since Daniel 11:36 starts a prophetic section of Daniel 11 (prophetic in the sense that by 2014 it has not yet been fulfilled)

IV. The Maccabean Period 166-142 BC

This began in 166 when Mattathias the old priest in Modein, about 20 miles from Jerusalem, refused to obey the order of Antiochus to sacrifice to the pagan gods. When a Jew attempted to comply, Mattathias killed the Jew, the Syrian general and destroyed the altar. He called for a revolt and with his sons and many other villagers they fled into the Judean hills and lived in caves and conducted a guerrilla warfare against the Syrians.

During the next 2 years they waged war against the Jews who compromised with Antiochus, raiding villages, tearing down altars, circumcising children, and calling for a widespread revolt.

Mattathias died soon after the revolt began and left the war in the hands of his third son Judas, who was a brilliant general and

tactician. He defeated three of the best Syrian generals at Emmaus and then defeated Lysias the Syrian regent. He then restored the worship at the Temple and cleansed the temple exactly 3 years after its desecration. This is the basis for the Jewish Feast of Dedication or Lights, hanukka. Again, another impt. point in God bringing in the **Fullness of the Time**. Getting the Jews back on track in their priesthood

In 163 Lysias had renewed the attack and had Judas trapped when events in Syria involving the succession after the death of Antiochus IV caused him to break of the siege and head for home.

The conflict continue and Judas continued the struggle for full independence. In 160 BC he was killed at the battle of Eleasa and the pro Syrian forces seemed to have won. But the fifth son, Jonathan continued the war against Hellenism. Continued internal problems in Syria allowed Jonathan to consolidate his gains.

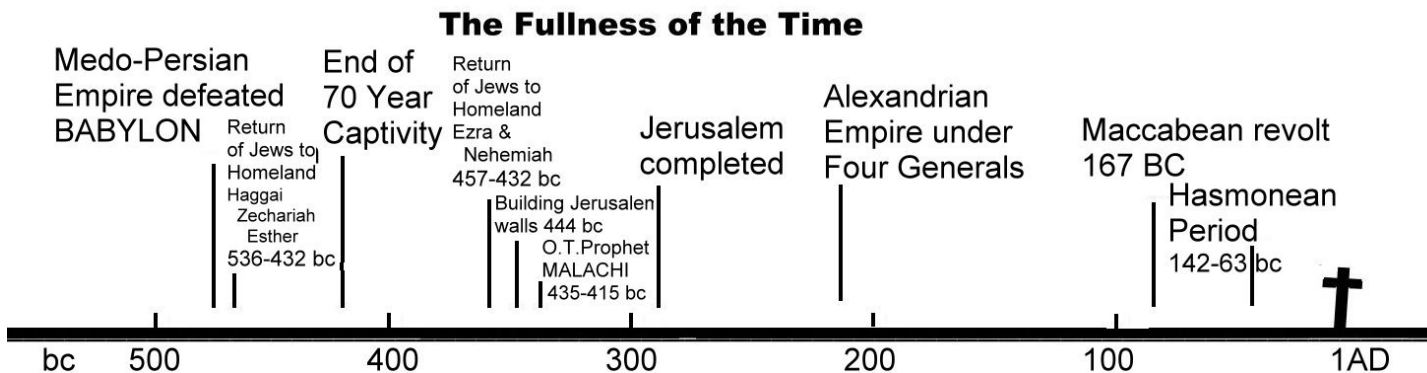
Finally in 150 BC Alexander Balas, who claimed to be the son of Antiochus, won the kingdom and made Jonathan governor and high priest of Judah. Balas was eventually defeated by the son of Demetrius I, Demetrius II in 145 BC. Demetrius II confirmed Jonathan's position though and eventually the Jews were given a measure of independence.

In 142 BC a new period began. When Jonathan died he was succeeded by his older brother Simon the second oldest son of

Mattathias.

V. The Hasmonean Period 142-63 BC

63 BC is when Pompey comes to put Jerusalem under Roman rule.



Never heard of the Hasmoeans? ...or the Hasmonean Period of history?

Few Christians have, yet as we will see this is a vital period of history in developing the **Fullness of the Time**.

I am going to start this segment with defining *Hasmonean*.

- a. It is a family of high priests and kings descended from Mattathias, the father of Judas Maccabeus.
- b. "The name derives, according to Josephus, from that of the great-grandfather of Mattathias, in Greek ***Asamonaïos***; ...The name does not appear in the books of the **Maccabees** but is used several times in **Josephus**.

The period of history of Daniel 11:33–35 began with the Maccabean revolt in 166 BC and the Hasmonean rule in 142 B.C.

The period of the Hasmonean rule is said to have begun in 142 B.C. because that is the year they started control of Judea as rulers and that it the year Simon the last son of Mattathias, secured tax exemption from Rome for the state of Israel.

The period of Hasmonean rule is a time when the Jewish state was relatively free from foreign domination. The empire of the Seleucids was fading out and before the rise of Rome. This freedom was only a relative freedom, not an absolute freedom from Gentile domination and support because from 586 B.C. until the 2nd Advent it is God's will that the Gentile powers dominate the international scene such that a state of Israel can only exist with Gentile support.

Why?

Because, except for very brief periods the Israelites rejected God's plan and the Messiah sent from God.

Simon was assassinated at a banquet near Jericho, along with two of his sons, by his own son-in-law Ptolemy. Ptolemy also sent hit men to take out the other son, John Hyrcanus but he was warned and laid a trap for them and killed his would be assassins.

Simon, the last son of Mattathias who started the Maccabean revolt, was succeeded by his son **John Hyrcanus** who was a

military genius. During the administration of John Hyrcanus in the period of the **Hasmanean rule** in Israel, even this Maccabean movement in Israel' began to go astray doctrinally. With John Hyrcanus elements of cruelty were introduced by the Jews. Whereas before the Jews were forced to be Hellenized, John Hyrcanas forcibly Judaized the people around Israel. He conquered Idionia and made them Jews by commanding circumcision, an act of cruelty on the part of the Jews who earlier had been treated cruelly themselves. . .

At the point of compulsory circumcision there was a split in the Jewish movement, a split that foreshadowed the New Testament. Understanding the Hasmonean period will set you up to better understand the gospels. The political forces active during the period of the Hasmonean rule where the political forces that would one day **crucify Christ**.

What were those political forces?

The movement of John Hyrcanus was largely that of the aristocrat. John Hyrcanus, the high priests, and the aristocrats formed what later became known as the **Sadducees party**. These were the upper, wealthy classes. They were **liberal** in their theology in that they denied the reality of the resurrection which became an issue in one of Paul's trials in the book of Acts. The **Sadducees** were direct political descendants of the Maccabean revolution and out

from the **Sadducees** that accompanied this movement came the splitting off of the **Pharisees**. The Pharisees and **the Essenes** were in opposition to much going on by the Hasmonens. The Pharisees will have an important part in the life and ministry and trials of Jesus Christ.

The name Pharisees means **separatist** referring to their separation from the Hasmonians and almost every other group. They demanded strict obedience to the Law. They were strongly against all Hellenization of Israel. The **Sadducees** came from the ranks of the priest while the **Pharisees** came from the Scribes.

The man **Saul** in the New Testament was a **Pharisee** and Christ changed his name to the **Apostle Paul** That entire movement started back in the reign of the **Hasmonians** when John Hyrcanus for political reasons began to subjugate people to Judaism. The Pharisees objected, saying that these people were only being subjugated by external force and not by an internal willingness to abide by scripture.

A second problem with John Hyrcanus in the Hasmonian period was that the political environment began to be phrased **in political terms** rather than in **spiritual** and **doctrinal terms** and so there was a subtle transition over to politics **by works** instead of politics **by grace**. Secular vs. religious Jews.

John Hyrcanus was succeeded by one of his sons, **Aristobulus I**, still of the Hasmonean lineage. This son was even more cruel than his father. His mother was supposed to take over one sphere of the government but Aristobulus I, made a deal with the police, had his mother arrested, put her in prison and starved her to death. That is how Aristobulus gained ascendancy in Israel.

Aristobulus freed Galilee and for the first time since 721 B.C. Galilee was now “free”, about the same time he freed Galilee he set in motion the wheels that were to figure in **Christ’s trial** because during the reign of Aristobulus Galilee became the hideaway of what was called the **zealot** movement. The **super patriot movement** always originated in Galilee and as a Galilean Jesus had the problem of disassociating Himself with the zealots throughout the gospels.

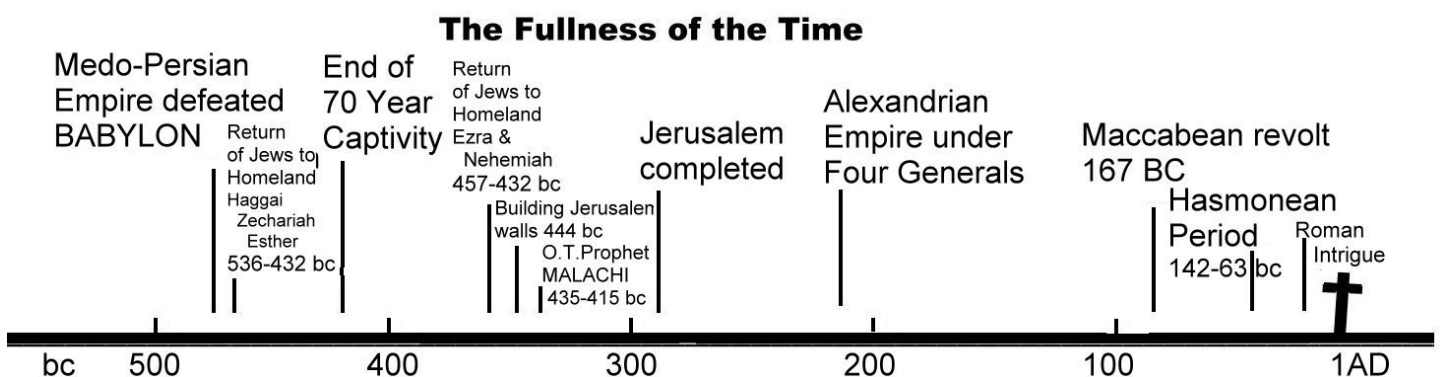
Aristobulus was succeeded by his son **Alexander Genaeus** (Jonathan was the man who first fortified **Masada**.) Alexander Genaeus married his older brother’s wife in a Levirate marriage and he built the kingdom of Israel out almost to the boundaries of David, a fantastic period in Israel’s history, a period of large expansion of the free state of Israel. Again God moving to the **Fullness of the Time**. Alexander Genaeus was like his father in that he too was more purely politically oriented than spiritually oriented and he, too, was very cruel and unmerciful. When

several rebels tried to thwart him he had 800 men crucified while he had a party with his harem girlfriends on the top of the palace roof.

VI. Roman Rule

Various intrigues continued down to the year **63 B.C.** when **Pompey** came to **take over Israel for Rome**. The Romans had had enough of piddling around with Syria. The Parthians were developing in the east and so Rome had to secure its eastern frontier. Pompey therefore was sent to take over Israel as the eastern front of the Roman empire.

Roman intrigues and their political deals went on for a time, **Julius Caesar** was assassinated (44 BC) and so on, the **Battle of Actinium occurred in 31 B.C.** finally putting Mark Anthony in his place, Out of all this business came a man who is very prominent in the New Testament and very prominent in the Masada episode, **Herod the Great**, right near the **Fullness of the Time**



Herod the Great married a Jewess and he always had problems

being accepted by the Jewish people because he came from the south, from Idumea, he wasn't really a Jew, he simply had married into the Hebrew nation. Herod the Great was always perched on a limb between being knocked off by Cleopatra in Egypt and being taken over by the Jewish nationalists.

Even so, Herod was able to construct some of the most magnificent architecture in the entire history of Israel. Herod built and built and built and one of his most magnificent projects was the **fortress of Masada**, a fortress that was designed to protect him both from the Jews and from Cleopatra.

*Herod was a man in the **New Testament** known for his cruelty, In the Christmas story wherein all male babies in Bethlehem two years old and younger were slaughtered, Herod was the one who ordered that slaughter. Typically when Herod got angry with someone he took his anger out on an entire class of people. Christ came into the world under the rule of a very cruel tyrant, appointed by Rome.*

Daniel 11:33 **“And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder, for many days.**

Daniel 11:34 **“Now when they fall they will be**

granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy.

These verses apply to the **period of Hasmonean rule** beginning in 142 BC, down to the time just before the beast of The Tribulation.

verse 33 “those who have insight among the people.

Have insight is a hiphel participle and refers to those who are skilled in wisdom and understanding from God’s wisdom.

They have learned wisdom from the book of Daniel as well as other books of Old Testament. These are believers with knowledge of WORD OF GOD. great people who trusted the Word of God and trusted God. These are mature believers who have come to understand the wisdom of Dan. and know how to face the incredible national catastrophes which came to Israel between this time and the 2nd advent of the Messiah. They were able to teach others how to think and act under adversity.

“those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many”

That is, they will conduct Bible classes. God the Son pre-incarnate (Daniel 10:5–9) is predicting here in Daniel 11:33 that during this period of history from the period of the **Hasmonean** rule down to the **2nd Advent**, when the political machines are turning out one political intrigue after another, with people being starved to death, beaten, assassinated, with a surface appearance of great instability, believers will be quietly teaching the Word of God, teaching, teaching, teaching, yet it says in verse 33 that **“they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder”**. It will be a time of tremendous suffering and it was during this period of history. This is why Mary and Joseph hid the baby Jesus, **they well knew** of the kind of cruelty that was typical of their day.

It’s no wonder that Mary, and Joseph fled to the place of Herod’s archenemy, Egypt.

A lot of New Testament passages are explained if you know this period of history. But again to show how God was in control to bring about the **Fullness of the Time** it was God who told

Joseph to take Mary and go to Egypt.

The kind of wisdom here is that spoken of by the Lord in Matthew 10. Believers need to be wise, skillful in how they face the adversities of living in the cosmic system and how they handle witnessing and teaching.

Matthew 10:16

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; therefore be shrewd as serpents, and innocent as doves.

17 “But beware of men; for they will deliver you up to the courts, and scourge you in their synagogues;

18 and you shall even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

19 “But when they deliver you up, do not become anxious about how or what you will speak; for

it shall be given you in that hour what you are to speak.

20 “ For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

21 “ And brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents, and cause them to be put to death.

Daniel 11:34 “ Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy.”

22 “ And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

Remember that these verses extend through the Christian era down to the time just before the beast of **The Tribulation**. These

verses make it clear that understanding the **WORD OF GOD** and **Filling of the Holy Spirit** gives you peace and stability in the crisis it doesn't protect from the consequences of the crisis.

In war believers are killed,
in depression believers starve to death,
in times of economic crisis believers lose their life savings,
yet they can handle all of these crises through the Power of Holy Spirit and Knowledge of Scripture and Trusting Him

“many will join with them in hypocrisy” literally,
join with them **by intrigue**

Originally this referred to the unbelieving Jews who would turn traitor against the believing remnant.

Daniel 11:35

“And some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge, and make them pure, until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time.

This verse is God the Son pre-incarnate's explanation as to why we must go through an era of history when believers are helped with only a little help (Daniel 11:34).

Refine, tsarap, used for melting or refining metal.

Purge, to sparate, used in the intensive piel, to separate from impurity

Make them pure, also in the intensive piel to be white,

“some of those who have insight will fall”

Notice that it says **“some”**, not all. Some of the historically, doctrinally oriented believers will fall under physical affliction **“in order to refine, Purge, and make them pure (sanctification) until the end time (the 2nd Advent).”**

“because it is still to come at the appointed time”

. . literally, the time of the end, a phrase loaded with eschatological significance and one that focuses our attention on

the future as spelled out in the next few verses.

33 “Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for *many* days.

34 “Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy.

35 “Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because *it is still to come* at the appointed time.

The handout on the following pages is for your study files.

Introduction to Daniel

Why & How did Daniel get into Babylon?

Four empires to grasp:

1. Judah 2. Nineveh 3. Babylon 4. Egypt

722 Destruction of Northern Kingdom by Assyrians

Three invasions
of Jerusalem
of Southern Kingdom
by Babylon

605 Daniel 1 1st invasion, but Nebuchadnezzar was kind to Jerusalem.
Daniel is taken to Babylon

598 2nd invasion; but Nebuchadnezzar still did not destroy Jerusalem

586 3rd & final invasion – this time Nebuchadnezzar besieged the city for 18 months. And Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city, the temple & the walls.
The land became desolate.

760 Our history of Daniel begins with Jonah 760 B.C.

Go to the great enemy of Israel...Nineveh capital of Assyrian Empire.
When Jonah was called Assyria had existed as an empire for some 1900 years.
When they will be destroyed they will have been an empire for 2000 years

(USA-200+)

Nineveh was built across **Tigress river** – flow of natural water; the walls were 100 feet high (over 30 yards), At the top, drive 3 chariots across. Surrounded by a moat that was 200 feet wide (over 66 yards & 60 feet deep or some 20 yards) could withstand a siege for 20 years. Considered impregnable.

Jonah 1:1-2 GOD cares about all nations, all people;

Jonah 1:3 but Jonah did not want to go;

but in **760** the city of **Nineveh** turned to **JEHOVAH** of **Israel**. (**YEHWEH**)

The great heathen city of **Nineveh** responded to the gospel and believed in the coming **MESSIAH**

750

GOD was moving among the 5 tribes of the **Chaldeans**.

Abraham was from this area (circa 2000bc) and the 1st one to pull together the **Chaldeans** is mentioned in the Bible:

2 Kings 20:12 & Isaiah 39:1 Merodach-baladam & he captured **Babylon** in **750 B.C.** from the **Assyrians**. **Babylon** was a growing city at this time.

The **Assyrians** regained control of the city of **Babylon**.

722

The **Assyrians** came down & destroyed the **Northern Kingdom of Israel**. All 10 tribes of **Israel**...never returned.

701

Assyrians attacked **So. Kingdom of Judah** & had it not been for the ministry of **Isaiah** they would have destroyed **Jerusalem**.

660

So that we can be warned of just how brief a revival can last.

In **660 Nahum** the prophet of **Southern Kingdom**, prophesied of the fall of **Nineveh**, just some 100 years after its great revival, which lasted one generation of people

Read Nahum 1:1-5; & 2:8-10; & 3:4-5

When **Nahum** prophesied the fall of **Nineveh**, the city was at the height of her power & yet **Nahum** prophesying its utter destruction. To the people this was impossible! (USA is at its height of its power & yet it has no place in the Tribulation. How can this be? *This cannot be!*)

GOD now moves to the fulfillment of His prophecy.

626 GOD raised up a genius named **Nabopolassar** who was able to unite the 5 tribes of the **Chaldeans**.
Nabopolassar became king of the new **Babylonian** empire which had extended back 1000 year before **Nabopolassar**.
He will rule from **625 to 605 B.C.**

625 **Nabopolassar** conquered the city of **Babylon**.
Assyrians attempted to regain **Babylon** but failed to do so.
Nabopolassar had a son named **Nebuchadnezzar** who is considered one of the greatest generals in all world history. (CAH)

Story of **Daniel** begins

620 While all these things are occurring in **Babylon** **Daniel** is born in **Judah**

614 **Nebuchadnezzar** made an alliance with **Medes** & the **Scythians** & attacked **Nineveh**.

612 **Assyrians** went into their walls & laughed at this army laying siege to **Nineveh**. In the book of **Nahum 1:8** tells how **Nineveh** would be destroyed. Secular history tells how this happened. **Nabopolassar** & **Nebuchadnezzar** and the forces they had gathered besieged the city of **Nineveh**, but had no real plans for taking it, but only containing it. Then **GOD** sent an unbelievable rain that caused the **Tigris** river to over flow, & it washed away a big portion of the wall. And led by **Nebuchadnezzar** the attacking force made their way through this portion of the city and utterly destroyed the great city-state of **Nineveh**.

	<p>Nahum 3:11- become hidden. After this battle in 612 B.C. the city was completely lost until A.D. 1842 when archeologist stumbled on the ancient site. That is some 2500 years later was this city even found. Hidden from history, as GOD prophesied.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">There are no Assyrians left today but there are Jews. There are no Babylonians left today but there are Jews. There are no Chaldeans left today but there are Jews.</p>
	<p>Since the time of the Exodus Satan has tried to destroy the Jewish race: Egypt—Hitler is just one <i>helper of Satan</i> who tried to do this.</p>
	<p>Even today Egypt & Iraq & Iran have declared that they will exterminate the Jews, and yet they are still here.</p>
612	<p>Nineveh is overthrown by the Babylonians & the Medes, which terminates the Assyrian Empire & brings Babylon into prominence as they sought to make conquest of all the Assyrian Empire which they had completed by 610 B.C.</p>
608	<p>At this time Jehoiakim was put on the throne of Judah in place of Jehoahaz.</p>
606-605	<p>Nebuchadnezzar was pursuing Pharaoh Necho 606-605 B.C.</p>
	<p>The Babylonians defeated Pharaoh Necho at the second battle of Carchemish.</p>
	<p>As Nebuchadnezzar traveled northward toward Carchemish in 606 B.C.</p>
	<p>Nebuchadnezzar (greatest military general in all history), traveled through Jerusalem for the first time.</p>
	<p>But in 605, after defeating Pharaoh Necho at the 2nd battle of Carchemish, Nebuchadnezzar heard of the death of his father, Nabopolassar.</p>
	<p>Nebuchadnezzar returned from Carchemish to Babylon to ascend his father's throne in Babylon.</p>

Nebuchadnezzar will rule from 605 to 562 B.C.

As he traveled, he passed **Jerusalem** again, he remembered something that was written in the history of the **Chaldeans** –about 150 years ago — that one of his ancestors, his great-great grandfather had visited **Jerusalem** at the time of **King Hezekiah**, during the time of the **Prophet Isaiah**. That **Hezekiah** had asked his **GOD** for more years to his life and was granted 15 more years. But it had been better had he not had these extra years for he did not use them for **THE LORD**. King **Hezekiah** showed **Nebuchadnezzar** ancestor all the treasures of **Judah**, kept in the Temple. **Isa. 39:1-8** (prophesied in 701 B.C.) So **Nebuchadnezzar** knew that **Jerusalem** contained great wealth. So he went into **Jerusalem** & besieged the city in 606-605. **Fulfilling this prophecy by Isaiah**, some 100 years before these events took place.

The exactness of various prophecies in the Bible has caused many to challenge the dates they were written, because they do not believe that **GOD** is in control of history, especially to the point of such exact prophecies. This was the first invasion of **Jerusalem** by the **Babylonians**.

In this first invasion **Nebuchadnezzar** was kind to **Jerusalem**; while he did take it's treasury back to **Babylon**, he left king **Jehoiakim** (609-598) on throne subject to **Babylon**—but **Nebuchadnezzar** took a large part of the wealth of **Jerusalem** & he also took members of the Royal family back to **Babylon**.

This is when **Daniel** was taken to **Babylon**.

King **Jehoiakim** rebelled against **Nebuchadnezzar** and **the Word of GOD** and made an alliance with **Egypt**. Which **GOD** told him not to do. This was against the warnings of both **Jeremiah** (627-580) and **Ezekiel** (592-570)

606

Daniel 1

It was at this time that **Daniel** and **his 3 friends** were brought from **Jerusalem** to **Babylon** by **Nebuchadnezzar** along with other hostages from the royal families of **Jerusalem**.

Daniel was about 15 years of age

We do not hear about any of the others who were brought captives, why not? They did not continue to trust **THE LORD**; up against great intimidation, they turned from **THE LORD**. But **Daniel** & his 3 friends continue to trust **THE LORD** & all 4 will be used by **THE LORD** in a mighty historical way. **Daniel** continued to be a top advisor from circa **602-603** all the way through the remainder of the **Babylonian** empire until the **Medo Persian** empire took over & he will become a top advisor in that period of history. From **603-530** **Daniel** will be a top advisor.

There would be no book of **Daniel** had he not remained faithful to **GOD** & to all he knew of **GOD**.

603-597
Daniel 2

Archeologist have discovered so many tablets, describing how **Nebuchadnezzar** was consolidating his empire, enriching his capital city of **Babylon**, building temples & bringing **Babylon** into world prominence.

606

1st invasion

598

2nd invasion of Jerusalem by the **Babylonians**;

This was a violent siege of **Jerusalem**

2 Kings 24-25 tells of the events **before** this invasion and during the invasion itself. **Fulfilling of prophecy**

2 Chron. 35-36 **Nebuchadnezzar** returns to **Jerusalem** to put down the revolt of the **Southern Kingdom**.

King **Jehoiakim** died during the siege. One of his sons **Jehoiachin** was put in charge but he lasted only about 100 days before the siege ended and **Jehoiachin** and all his family were taken captive back to **Babylon**.

At this time **Zedekiah** was appointed to succeed as king of **Judah**, **2 Kings 24:17**, he will be the last king of **Southern Kingdom**, but **Nebuchadnezzar** again did not destroy **Jerusalem**. There was still something left, there were the walls & the Temple & some of the people, where they could worship **JEHOVAH**.

Jeremiah continued to warn the people but a group of false prophets began to multiply in **Jerusalem** & the people much preferred the message of the false prophets over that of **Jeremiah**. The false prophets told the people lies & that

GOD was not going to destroy them & so the people **refused to listen to Jeremiah**.

Much like the political & news media & voices today, declare that America is doing fine & we will recover & be mighty again, even though we do not listen to **Word of GOD** saying: there is no **GOD**, & we will be great even though we are vastly immoral & anti **GOD** & anti **JESUS CHRIST** & anti **WORD OF GOD**. We better listen to the **Word of GOD**, as individuals and as a nation.

There was, also, another true prophet: **Ezekiel** who was about 3-4 years older than **Daniel** and **Ezekiel** began to warn them as to what was going to happen if they did not return to **JEHOVAH. (YEHWEH)** He gave the same basic message as **Jeremiah**.

So the people & the King listened to the false prophets and they rebelled again, against **Nebuchadnezzar** & **Babylon** & went to **Egypt** for help. Not to **JEHOVAH. (YEHWEH)**

Turning to **Egypt** instead of **YEHWEH**, is all through Old Testament. Putting their trust in man, rather than THE LORD.

588 The **Babylonia** army continues its control and subjugated the **Lebanon** area north of **Palestine**.

586 **Jan. 3rd & Final Invasion (2 King 5:21)** The **Babylonian** army came down to **Jerusalem**. This siege of **Jerusalem** lasted some 18 months. **Nebuchadnezzar** invaded **Jerusalem** & as prophesied, under severe drought, the Jews inside the walls of **Jerusalem** resorted to cannibalism; finally fell to **Nebuchadnezzar** in **586 B.C.**

Babylon deported a great majority of the inhabitants of **Jerusalem** & destroyed the city – Temple & walls ...the land became desolate. They took all the sacred instruments used in the Temple & carried them back to Babylon. Tens of thousands of Jews were destroyed, because they would not listen to the **Word**

	<p>of GOD.</p> <p>Think about this, with their capital destroyed and their people either killed or taken into slavery, yet the Jews remain today and in fact are back into the land. GOD controls history.</p> <p>Jeremiah prophesied the taking of Jerusalem by the Babylonians & in fact told those in the city, how to survive it. Jeremiah 21:8-10</p>
603-587	<p>In the period 603-587 there are several mentions of Daniel by Ezekiel. (Ezekiel 14:14-20; 28:3) In this period Daniel is in a place of prominence. The golden image of Daniel 3 seems to have been set up at the time of the conquest of Jerusalem in 598 B.C.</p> <p>It is significant that at the very time that Jerusalem is coming under attack, GOD is revealing to Daniel the Time of the Gentiles.</p> <p>Jeremiah & Ezekiel told them how to survive—to get out & surrender; those who stay in the city will be killed violently; false prophets told them not to go out & while a few listened... most did not listen & were destroyed.</p> <p>even in time of National disaster; time of destruction, many of those who will listen to the Word of GOD will be spared!</p>
586	<p>After the fall of Jerusalem, Babylonian army moved northward to subdue Tyre which was under Siege from 586-573 (Ezekiel 29:17-20).</p> <p>After the fall of Tyre, this meant that Babylonians controlled the territory from the, Tigris & Euphrates all through Assyrian to the Mediterranean Sea, Tyre, Lebanon, and Palestine.</p> <p>From the Euphrates all the way across: This is the land that was promised to Abraham (Genesis 15:15-17) Nebuchadnezzar has conquered & occupied the land that was originally given by covenant promise to Abraham.</p>
562	<p>Nebuchadnezzar died & was succeeded by his son, Evil-Merodach (means "servant of Merodach" one 'of the idolatrous gods) Jeremiah 52:31 & he lasted only 2 years. 562-560 B.C.</p>
549	<p>At this time there were two men competing for power in Babylon. Nabonidus</p>

Daniel 5-8	& Belshazzar who was in charge of Babylonian military. This explains why in Daniel 5 , Daniel is said to be 3 rd in charge. Daniel 5:16
539 Daniel 10-11	Babylon was captured by Cyrus of the Persian Empire .
536	First year of the rule of Cyrus , he will issue the proclamation for the return of the Jews to Palestine . They were in captivity for 70 years .
533	3 rd year of Cyrus reign we have Daniel's last vision Daniel 10:1
530	Cyrus dies
396	Jerusalem completed
	Zoroastrianism arose in Persia (morality is summed up as "good thoughts, good words, good deeds")
	Hindu Reformation in India (freedom of belief and practice)
	Confucianism arose in China Buddha started his quest & Buddhism began in India (humanism = human beings are teachable, improvable and perfectible through personal and communal endeavour)
	Buddha started his quest & Buddhism began in India (Rejection of the infallibility of accepted scripture : Teachings should not be accepted unless they are borne out by our experience and are praised by the wise::: The Four Noble Truths : that suffering is an ingrained part of existence; that the origin of suffering is craving for sensuality, acquisition of identity, and annihilation; that suffering can be ended; and that following the Noble Eightfold Path is the means to accomplish this;)
	Greek philosophy began in the West (600BC to 300BC)
	Judaism turn to its legalistic form up to today