

Who Am I?

Unlocking and Understanding the Mystery of Christ

Week Three

Day Two

AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME

“But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under Law, to redeem those under Law, that we might receive the full rights as sons.” (Galatians 4:4-5)



Unlocking the Mystery

God didn't just wake up one morning and say, “Wow, it's getting bad down there, I better send them My Son.” God had a salvation plan since mankind fell in the Garden of Eden. Remember, time isn't an issue with God; He was preparing the world and His people for the coming of the Lord. When He knew it was time, He sent Jesus to earth as a baby to grow up with other Jews so that one day He could die for them and all mankind. In today's lesson, you will learn of the world's history that surrounded the coming of Jesus at just the right time.

Today, this section will be informative rather than looking things up in Scripture.

Use the answers in this box to complete the following questions.

Check your answers in the reading section that follows.



Understanding the Word

Malachi, 400 years of Silence, Palestine, Ezra, Greek, Nehemiah, Persia, Judah Maccabee, Rome, Alexander the Great, Antiochus, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Independence, Judah, Israel

Who was the world power that the Hebrew nation was delivered from through the exodus? _____

When the Nation of Israel was split what was the name of the Northern Kingdom? _____

What was the name of the Southern Kingdom? _____

What world power took the Northern Kingdom into captivity? _____

What world power took the Southern Kingdom into exile? _____

What world power released some of the Southern Kingdom captives back to Jerusalem? _____

What two men recorded their return to Jerusalem that ended up as books of the Bible?

Who was the last prophet to record the voice of God prior to the New Testament? _____

What was the time between the Old and New Testament called? _____

What is another name for the territory that we know as Israel? _____

What world power came into existence that changed the world culture, government, and language? _____

What "Great" Greek leader tolerated the Jews as he went about changing all avenues of society?

What Greek General was made ruler over the Syrian kingdom that conquered Palestine and detested the Jews, burned their Scriptures, and desecrated the Temple by sacrificing a pig? _____

What Jewish leader led a revolt against the world powers between the Testaments? _____

Because of this revolution the Jews experienced a time of what? _____

What world power took over Palestine and remained there at the time of the New Testament? _____

This little piece of land along the coast of Mediterranean Sea is a key piece of land. It is the gateway between Europe, Asia, and Africa. This land was conquered over and over and is still the object of war today. It appears as a fight for land, but undergirding the power struggle it is really a spiritual war. A war that Satan has lost, but continues to battle until his end has come and he is thrown into the Lake of Fire forever.

Below is a map of how the land was divided throughout those 400 years with a brief explanation of each territory and how it relates to the preparation of the coming of Jesus at just the right time.



The Northern Kingdom: Israel was captured by Assyria and was dispersed among the Assyrians. They never returned as a kingdom. Most intermarried with the Gentiles and did not live according to Jewish customs.

The Southern Kingdom: Judah was captured by Babylon and taken into exile there for 70 years. Persia conquered Babylon and then allowed Jews to return back to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the Temple. Ezra and Nehemiah were leaders of this return and of the building projects. Zerubbabel was the man that rebuilt the temple that Solomon had built prior to the divisions of the kingdoms

The Jews that came back to Jerusalem and its vicinity occupied the same territory as Judah which was now being called Judea.

Samaria was filled with mixed races of Jews and Gentiles, some of whom still tried to keep the Jewish customs. The people of Judea did not like or accept the people of Samaria at all.

Looking at the map, on the east side of the Jordan River is an area called Perea. This is primarily a Jewish nation. The area called Decapolis is an area of ten cities that were still primarily Greek.

The whole territory was ruled by the Romans eventually, but it kept many attributes of the Greek culture. Since the Greek language was universal, it was the language the New Testament was written in (the Old Testament was written in Hebrew then translated to Greek: known as the Septuagint).

After the Romans came into power, they tolerated the Jews for a while. Herod was put in as ruler over this territory and even worked on the Temple to beautify it after Ezra & Zerubbabel rebuilt it. By 70 AD, Rome had had enough of the Jews and wiped them from the territory completely. They tore down the Temple

and only a wall remains to this day. It is known as the **WAILING WALL**. The Muslims built the Dome Rock over the temple sight and the fight for the rights to that area remains a prophetic situation for the end times.



The Jews that were kicked out of Judea and Palestine altogether, became known as Diaspora, or displaced Jews. They scattered all over civilization. In 1948, Israel was once again declared a state, and many Jews went “home.” As I said before, the fight for Israel among world powers continues. Scripture says that those that stand with Israel He will bless, but those that oppose her will be cut off from Him.



It comes down to this, the Greeks established Greek as a common language. The Romans established a great network of roads. The **GOOD NEWS** about Jesus could be sent throughout the world. Just the right time had finally come!

Through the years, God had told His people about the promised Savior. He told them many details about Him, even where He would be born... He just didn't say when. The Jews were once again in bondage as they were in the time of Moses. They were crying out for the Messiah (Hebrew) or Christ (Greek) to come save them and rule as their king. Many were watching and waiting, staying faithful until that day would come. Some missed Him, some knew Him and rejected Him, some were faithful and decided to love and follow Him.

We are in a similar situation. We are desperate for His return. We are watching and waiting. Some will miss Him, some reject Him, but some stay faithful as we watch and wait. God has told us that He is coming back, He just hasn't said when. What are you doing to get ready?