

BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

The Silent Years and Intro to the N.T. and the Gospels

The period between the close of the Old Testament and the opening of the New Testament covers approximately _____ years. The Old Testament closes with a believing remnant re-establishing the nation, rebuilding the Temple, rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, struggling to become a people more obedient to the command of God who called them into existence as a nation. Politically, they are still dominated by and under the watchful eye of the _____ Empire.

I. POLITICAL CHANGES

A. Prophesied through Daniel in the vision of the beastly kingdoms. (Daniel 7)

1. The lion with wings was Babylon.
2. The bear was Persia.
3. The four headed, four winged leopard was Greece.
4. The terrible beast was _____.

B. During the silent years, rule of Palestine shifted from Persia to Greece.

1. Alexander the Great conquered Persia and its territories.
2. When Alexander died, the kingdom was divided between his four generals.
3. Palestine was often a battleground as the descendants of two of these clans, the Ptolemys and the Seleucids, fought for control.
4. The tragedy of this period reached its peak as Antiochus Epiphanes defiled the Temple in 168 B.C. by sacrificing a _____ on the altar.
5. This act led to a revolt by the Jews led by the priestly family known as the Macabees. Two books in the Old Testament Apocrypha bear their name.

C. After the revolt, Rome conquered.

1. General Pompey defeated Judah, and Judah became a vassal of Rome.
2. Palestine was divided into the administrative districts called Judea, Samaria, and _____.

3. The family members of Herod were made kings of territories.
4. The _____, a council of 71 members composed of priests, nobles, elders, and family heads, was allowed to govern matters not considered important to Rome.

II. RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENTS

- A. Religious life centered around the Temple in Jerusalem, elegantly remodeled by King Herod (and thus known today as Herod's Temple).
- B. Religious teaching and worship on a local level was done in _____, which developed during the Babylonian captivity.
- C. The most religious sect of the day was called the _____. They were concerned with the keeping of traditions that had developed around the law. Teachers were called _____.
- D. The secularists of the day were called _____. They did not believe in angels, resurrection, heaven, hell or the hereafter.
- E. Those who translated and studied the Old Testament Scriptures were called _____.
- F. The people in general longed for the coming of Messiah, but they wanted and expected a conquering King to rid them of the Roman yoke, not a suffering Servant to take away their sin.

III. LITERARY DEVELOPMENTS

- A. No Scripture was given during this period, thus this period is call the Silent Years.
- B. The _____ was written in this time.

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

Dominating all the New Testament is the characteristic thought and concept of _____. Matthew, from the beginning, sets out the keynote twelve times:

Matthew 1:22 So all this was done **that it might be fulfilled** which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

Matthew 2:15 and was there until the death of Herod, **that it might be fulfilled** which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Matthew 2:17 **Then was fulfilled** what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

Matthew 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, **that it might be fulfilled** which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Matthew 4:14 **that it might be fulfilled** which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

Matthew 8:17 **that it might be fulfilled** which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."

Matthew 12:17 **that it might be fulfilled** which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

Matthew 13:35 **that it might be fulfilled** which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."

Matthew 21:4 All this was done **that it might be fulfilled** which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

Matthew 26:56 "But all this was done **that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.**" Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Matthew 27:9 **Then was fulfilled** what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced,

Matthew 27:35 Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, **that it might be fulfilled** which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."

Our Lord's first words as He began His ministry were:

Matthew 3:15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for **thus it is fitting for us to fulfill** all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**

Mark records:

Mark 1:15 and saying, "**The time is fulfilled**, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Luke recorded:

Luke 4:21 And He began to say to them, "**Today this Scripture is fulfilled** in your hearing."

John repeats the theme seven times:

John 12:38 **that the word** of Isaiah the prophet **might be fulfilled**, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"

John 13:18 "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but **that the Scripture may be fulfilled**, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.'

John 15:25 "But this happened **that the word might be fulfilled** which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

John 19:24 They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," **that the Scripture might be fulfilled** which says: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things.

John 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, **that the Scripture might be fulfilled**, said, "I thirst!"

John 19:36 For these things were done **that the Scripture should be fulfilled**, "Not one of His bones shall be broken."

John 17:12 "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, **that the Scripture might be fulfilled**.

I. THE OLD TESTAMENT IS AN _____ STORY.

- A. The Seed of Woman who will conquer Satan (Gen. 3:15) had not yet _____.
- B. The Abrahamic Covenant which promised that Israel would be a _____ to all the nations of the earth (Gen. 12) was not yet totally fulfilled.
- C. The Davidic Covenant which promised One to reign on David's _____ forever was not yet complete.
- D. The Messiah promised by the prophets had not arrived to
 - 1. bear our _____.
 - 2. establish the Kingdom of God.
 - 3. bring _____ on earth.
- E. The _____ Covenant had been promised, but it had not yet been made.

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT COMPLETES THE STORY.

- A. Christ is born of a virgin and defeats the _____.
- B. Israel gives _____ to the Savior of the world.

C. Jesus promises He will _____ over all the earth from David's throne.

D. Our Lord fulfills the multitude of prophecies spoken of Him.

E. The New Covenant is offered in Christ's _____.

F. The sacrifices are finished with the One Sacrifice.

In the Old Testament, Christ is _____.

In the Gospels, Christ has come.

In Acts and the Epistles, Christ has come _____.

In Revelation, Christ is coming _____!

III. THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

A. The Gospels

B. Acts

C. Epistles (Letters)

1. Pauline

a. to the _____

b. to _____

2. Others by Peter, James, John, Jude

D. Revelation

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPELS

Why are there four gospels rather than only one? The reason is that the Holy Spirit desired us to see Christ from four _____ with four emphases that we might see Him more completely for who He is. So the Holy Spirit inspired four different men to write accounts of the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. These are the gospels, which means "good news!"

I. FOUR PERSPECTIVES

A. Remember the Living Creatures of Ezekiel 1.

Ezekiel 1:10 As for the likeness of their faces, each had **the face of a man**; each of the four had **the face of a lion** on the right side, each of the four had **the face of an ox** on the left side, and each of the four had **the face of an eagle**.

Each of these faces speaks of a characteristic.

1. The lion speaks of strength and _____.
2. The man of highest intelligence.
3. The ox of humble _____.
4. The eagle speaks of heavenliness, divinity.

B. Amazingly but not coincidentally, each of the gospels presents Jesus from one of these four perspectives.

1. _____ shows us Jesus as the Messiah-King.
2. Mark presents Jesus as Yahweh's _____.
3. Luke introduces Jesus as the Son of _____.
4. John emphasizes Jesus' _____ as the Son of God.

C. Each perspective reveals a purpose of Christ's coming.

1. As the King of Kings, Christ came to _____ and reign.
2. As a servant, Christ came to serve and _____.
3. As the Son of Man, He came to share and sympathize that he may be our _____ High Priest (Heb. 4:15).
4. As the Son of God, Christ came to _____.

Therefore, by these four inspired writers, the Holy Spirit presents to us the sovereignty, humility, humanity, and deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. FOUR EMPHASES

A. Matthew

1. Writes primarily to the _____ and draws heavily from the Old Testament Scriptures.
2. He is presenting Christ as the long awaited _____ and the King of the Jews.

3. He begins with the genealogy of Jesus showing that He is entitled to rule Israel because He is a descendant of King _____, and He is entitled to rule over the land of Palestine because He is a descendant of _____.
4. The gospel ends with the _____, the crowning proof of His Messiahship.

Matthew 28:7 "And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

B. Mark

1. Writes primarily to the _____ and shows Christ to be a miracle worker (primary proof to the pagan mind).
2. He is presenting Christ as the suffering _____ who used His power for others.
3. He begins with no genealogy because the emphasis is on what Jesus _____. It is often called "The Gospel of _____."
4. The gospel ends with the _____ showing the lowly one exalted to the place of honor and glory.

Mark 16:19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

C. Luke

1. Writes primarily to the _____.
2. Presents the matchless _____ of Christ without obscuring His deity of kingship.
3. Luke offers us details of God _____ man. He details the virgin birth, tells more of Jesus' family, and of Jesus' childhood years.
4. This gospel ends with the promise of the coming of the _____ who is to be the comforter of man.

Luke 24:49 "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

D. John

1. John writes to the whole _____.

2. He introduces Christ as the _____ of the heavens and earth who "became flesh and dwelled among us."
3. John calls to our attention that Jesus and the Father are one. That Jesus is the way, the truth, the life, and that no one comes to the Father except by Him.
4. This gospel ends with the promise of the _____ coming of our Lord. This time His identity will not be obscured by His humanity. All will recognize Him for who He is: Almighty God!

John 21:20-23 20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" 21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" 22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me." 23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"

Thus the Holy Spirit gives to us a wonderful four-fold look at our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.