

**Captive through Philosophy vs. Complete in Christ
Col 2:8-15 (Part 7)
Intertestamental Period**

I. What happened in the 400 yrs between the OT & NT?

A. "Intertestamental Period"

1. 400BC – 4BC

B. Get to the NT and MUCH has CHANGED!

1. Synagogue?
2. Pharisees?
3. Sadducees?
4. Romans?

Where did these all come from???

II. OT closed

A. with Ezra / Nehemiah

B. Jews UNDER the PERSIANS

1. Some in Babylon
2. some in Judah – Jerusalem

C. Small Temple rebuilt

D. Priesthood functioning again

E. Remember

1. Persians didn't mess with Jew's Religion
2. Malachi – Jews messed themselves up!

III. Hellenistic Period (334-166 BC)

A. = Big change in the Intertestamental Period

B. Hellenistic = Period of the Greeks

C. Alexander the Great

1. Trained by Aristotle
 - a) Aristotle trained by Plato
 - b) Plato trained by Socrates
2. Defeats the armies of Persia (empire then collapses)
3. 332 enters into Palestine
4. He committed to New World Order
 - a) Based on Greek Culture
 - b) = "Hellenization" = Policy of Alexander's
 - (1) = Language
 - (2) = Greek Philosophy, society (polis = City)
 - c) Felt god's were leading him to setup this new order!

- d) Man-centered (vs. women)
 - (1) Man superior
 - (2) Home for raising sons
 - (3) Sports / army / thinking / literature / theatre
 - (4) FOR MEN!
 - e) Gave us “Urban centers” / “Urban planning”
 - (1) “agora” (mkt. place) = malls of today, etc.
 - f) Note: Our world is VERY Hellenistic today
 - (1) Just beginning to change away!
 - (2) Sports, armies, etc. only becoming coed in recent decades.
5. Alexander dies in 322 – not long enough to have great impact on Judah

D. 322-166 slower movement toward Hellenization

- 1. Broken up by the Maccabean rebellion!

E. Next Key: Dividing up Alexander’s Empire!

Divide among 4 generals (3 are primary) –2 we need to know about!

1. Seleucid’s –

- a) Held the area of Syria (north of Judah)
- b) Key City: Antioch

2. Ptolemy’s –

- a) Background
 - (1) Greek family
 - (2) House in Egypt
 - (3) JUDAH UNDER the Ptolemy’s
 - (4) BTW – Cleopatra was NOT native Egyptian – was a Ptolemy = GREEK!
 - (5) Key City of Ptolemy’s = Alexandria in Egypt
- b) Policy: Allowed for Split culture
 - (1) I.e. Allowed Judaism / no command Hellenization
 - (2) More subtle!

3. Key Events:

- a) Jews Summoned to Alexandria
 - (1) Jews there were losing language!
 - (2) Sponsored a translation of the OT to Greek! - called Septuagint!
 - (3) Josephus: 72 scholars translated in 70 days as a miracle of God!
 - (4) Septuagint – becomes the translation of the Gentiles and Jews OUTSIDE of Palestine
 - (5) LOTS of JEWS were losing their language!
 - (6) Jews back in Jerusalem stuck to Hebrew. BUT
 - (a) Cultural battle in Jerusalem
 - (b) Had Jews, Greeks, Gentiles in general

- (c) Subtle Hellenization taking place.
 - (i) Jews outside Jerusalem were getting Hellenized
 - (ii) Jews IN Jerusalem stayed more “pure” Jewish
- b) 198 BC – war between Seleucids and Ptolemy’s – Seleucids WIN
 - (1) Antiochus III (the great)
 - (2) VERY LOYAL Greek Family
 - (a) MORE SO than Ptolemy’s
 - (b) WHY MATTER?
 - (3) Romans were getting stronger!
 - (a) Seleucids INCREASED their POWER BASE to withstand ROME!
 - (4) Seleucids wanted EGYPT
 - (a) Bread basket of the Ancient world!
 - (b) Son – Antiochus IV now in power
 - (c) Attacks Egypt
 - (d) Gets in / Defeats Ptolemy
 - (e) On the OUTSKIRTS of the great city of Alexandria – capital of the Ptolemy’s
 - (f) VERGE of GREAT VICTORY!
 - (g) BUT – Roman Navy comes into the harbor
 - (h) Tells Antiochus to leave
 - (i) Draws a line for him to not cross
- c) What just happened?
 - (1) Brilliance!
 - (2) Rome NOT strong enough YET to conquer ONE or BOTH
 - (3) STEPS in AND KEEPS BALANCE of POWER!
 - (4) Seleucids CAN’T beat PTOLEMY’S AND ROME!
 - (5) Rome – wants to keep families feuding BUT getting weaker
 - (6) Rome – STRONG ENOUGH to KEEP ANYONE from GETTING STRONGER than them!
- d) Next – Antiochus GOES HOME THROUGH Jerusalem!
 - (1) Defeated, mad – I HATE THE JEWS TOO!
 - (2) Can’t stand resistance to Hellenization
 - (a) Remember – His family were the LOYAL GREEKS!
 - (b) Ptolemy had left Jewish Culture alone!
 - (3) 167 BC – DESCRATES THE TEMPLE!
 - (a) Rededicates it to Zeus!
 - (b) Puts a statue of Zeus in the Holy of Holies!
 - (c) Sacrifices PIGS on the ALTAR!
 - (4) And
 - (a) Prohibits the observance of the Sabbath, Jewish Festivals and Holy

Days!

- (b) Outlawed reading of the Law of Moses and ordered all copies burned!
 - (c) Circumcision outlawed
 - (d) Penalty for disobedience = death.
 - (e) Bottom Line: FORCING Hellenization on the JEWS of JERUSALEM!
- e) Leads to Maccabean Revolt
- (1) Begins with Mattathias – old priest
 - (a) Town of Modein (Modin)
 - (b) Antiochus sends commissioners through Judea to enforce his decree
 - (c) Mattathias kills one sent to enforce pagan sacrifice
 - (d) Offered a pig on the altar in town!
 - (e) Mattathias has 5 sons – start 15 year guerilla warfare!
 - (i) Within 3 years had recaptured most of Jerusalem
 - (f) Rededicated them temple
 - (i) Priests who had remained loyal to Judaism cleansed the Temple and erected new altar.
 - (ii) Jewish Tradition: Only one undefiled cruse of oil could be found.
 - (iii) Cruse contained oil for only one day.
 - (iv) BUT cruse miraculously kept burning for 8 days!
 - (v) Hanukkah (means “dedication”)
 - (a) = Jewish Festival of Lights that commemorates this miracle
 - (b) About the same time as Xmas.
 - (c) Feast is mentioned in John 10:22!
 - (2) Approx. 142 BC – Seleucids give up and Hasmoneans (another name for Maccabeans) establish their own dynasty.
 - (a) Jewish Independent state until 63BC
 - (b) Jews thought they had really won!
 - (c) BUT – Rome was watching / allowing this so that Seleucids became weaker with power spread amongst more, but smaller groups.
 - (d) Rome was not ready to come in and establish control yet.
 - (e) However, to the Jew – 166BC to 63BC was a golden period where Jews thought God had given them the land back!
 - (3) Hasmoneans realized they had to be KING and HIGH PRIEST to control
 - (a) Simon Maccabeas claims both
 - (b) Old High Priest families “mold into” the Hasmonean house.
 - (c) Becomes an aristocracy class
 - (d) BUT true believers WITHHELD their support from the Hasmoneans
 - (e) This is when Pharisees begin to arrive on the scene!
 - (f) Hasmoneans become HELLENISTIC – bad to Jew!
 - (g) Hellenism was NOT FORCED

- (i) BUT was “required” to “get ahead”
 - (a) *Socially*
 - (b) *Business*
 - (c) *Gov’t*
- (ii) Position and power to those who became Hellenistic
- (iii) Many people became “syncretic” – did both!
- (iv) Like the Romans
 - (a) *Expected Syncretism*
 - (b) *Lip service was enough*
 - (c) *Disobedience wasn’t tolerated (like Xians)*
- f) Next – 2 Sons of Hasmonean leader Janus clash
 - (1) Both appeal to Rome for help!
 - (2) Rome loves this!
 - (a) Side with one who can give best taxes!
 - (3) Pompeii sent and subdues Jerusalem after 3 month siege
 - (4) PUTS THEIR HIGH PRIEST ON THE THRONE!
 - (5) Roman begins control in 63 BC
 - (6) Antipas - father of Herod the Great
 - (a) Edomite! (descendent of Esau!)
 - (b) Power until 40BC
 - (c) Dies and Herod the Great becomes king for Rome in 37BC
- g) 37 BC
 - (1) Rome completely in Control
 - (2) Taxes in place
 - (3) Garrison in place
 - (4) Caesarea built
 - (5) Herod PLACATES Jews with Rebuild of the Temple
 - (6) REST is Hellenistic
 - (7) Herod is “client king” serving at the desire of Rome
- h) Herod the Great
 - (1) Kind at time of Jesus born
 - (2) BRILLIANTLY BRUTAL
 - (3) Kept both Rome and Jews happy
 - (4) Built Roman fortresses
 - (5) Not Jewish at all
 - (a) Therefore Matt2 all a front – never wanted to see Jesus
 - (b) He considered himself “king of the Jews”
 - (6) Became paranoid at the end of his life out of fear that his delicate balance would break
 - (a) Killed a lot of family!

i) This brings us up to time of Christ!

IV. Jewish History in the Intertestamental Time

A. Temple –

1. Ezra / Nehemiah Temple –
2. Replaced by Herod's Temple (at time of Christ)

B. Synagogues – grew out of the time of exile – NO TEMPLE in CAPTIVITY!

1. Word means “assembly”
2. During time of activity, “Scribes” appear
 - a) Experts in OT Law from time COPYING IT!
 - b) Ez 7:10 – set his heart to Know the Law
 - c) Ez considered the “protoytype” Scribe
 - d) BTW – Out of Scribes came the teaching class: Rabbi's!

C. At time of Jesus

1. Approx. 40-50K Jews in Jerusalem
2. Approx. 500K at feasts with up to 1M at Passover
3. Large number of “god-fearers” Gentiles at synagogue services (up to 1M).