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FELLOWSHIP

The Intertestamental Period
“The Silent Years”

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Developments in Judaism

- **Diaspora:** Jewish people living outside the Holy Land. Scholars estimate that 80% of Jews in the NT era lived outside the Holy Land.
- **Sanhedrin:** Jerusalem senate that handled most Judean affairs.
- **Synagogue:** Local Jewish assembly halls used for community meetings, public prayers, reading of Scripture.
- **Rabbis:** Jewish sages who were knowledgeable in the law.

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Literature of the IP

- **Septuagint:** Greek translation of the OT (250-125 BC)
- **Apocrypha:** Books accepted in the Catholic but not Protestant canon; written during the IP
- **Pseudepigrapha:** Word means “false title”; not written by author to whom attributed
- **Dead Scrolls:** Collection of OT books, apocryphal/pseudepigraphal writings, sectarian documents discovered in 1947

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Books of the Apocrypha

- Tobit
- Judith
- 1 Maccabees
- 2 Maccabees
- Wisdom
- Sirach
- Baruch

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Chapters of the Apocrypha

- **Additions to Book of Esther**
 - Dream of Mordecai, Haman’s Letter, Prayer of Mordecai, Esther’s Reception by the King, Ahasuerus’ Letter, Fulfillment of Mordecai’s Dream
- **Additions to Book of Daniel**
 - Susanna’s Virtue
 - Bel and the Dragon

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Succession of Empires

- **Babylonian Period:** (586-539 BC)
- **Persian Period:** (539-331 BC)
- **Hellenistic Period:** (331-164 BC)
 - Ptolemaic (Egyptian) Period (320-198 BC)
 - Seleucid (Syrian) Period (198-164 BC)
- **Hasmonean (Maccabean) Period:** (164-63 BC)
- **Roman Period:** (63 BC-AD 135)

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Antiochus IV

The Seleucid king who made a concerted effort to Hellenize the Jewish people. He prevented religious observances, desecrated the temple by offering a pig on the altar, and erected a pagan altar to honor Zeus. Jerusalem was transformed into a Greek city with a gymnasium and theater. The inhabitants adopted Greek dress and circumcision was forbidden.

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Maccabees

In the village of Modein, an agent of Antiochus IV urged an elderly priest named Mattathias to offer sacrifice to a pagan god, but he refused. One of the Jewish leaders tried to appease the Syrians by offering a sacrifice. Mattathias killed him and the agent and fled to the mountains with his sons. Other zealots joined them. A guerilla army was formed which defeated the Syrian army and liberated Jerusalem.

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Timeline of the Maccabees

- 198 – Seleucids gain control over Judea
- 174 – Antiochus IV deposes the high priest Onias III
- 168/167 – Antiochus IV loots and desecrates the temple in Jerusalem
- 167/166 – Mattathias and sons lead the revolt against Antiochus IV
- 164 – Judas “Maccabeus” purifies the temple – Hanukkah

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Hasmonean Rulers

- Judas (166/165-160)
- Jonathan(160-143)
- Simon (143-134)
- John Hyrcanus (134-104)
- Aristobulus I (104-103)
- Alexander Janneus (103-76)
- Salome Alexandra (76-67)
- Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus II (67-63)

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Family of Herod the Great

- Herod the Great (37-4 BC)
- Archelaus (4 BC-6 AD)
- Herod Antipas (4 BC-39 AD)
- Philip (4 BC-34 AD)
- Herod Philip
- Herod Agrippa I (37-44 AD)
- Herod Agrippa II (48-70 AD)

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Influential Thinkers/Writers

- Philo: First-century Jewish philosopher who sought to articulate Judaism in a manner appealing to a Greek philosophic setting.
- Josephus: Educated first-century Jewish historian who wrote especially about Jewish history, partly to defend his people and to present them favorably to Gentiles.

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Influential Thinkers/Writers

Epicureans and Stoics were the chief rivals for the allegiance of educated people in the Hellenistic Age. (Acts 17:38)

- Epicureanism: Greek philosophic school viewing pleasure as the highest good, denying an afterlife and traditional Greek deities
- Stoicism: Most popular philosophic sect in the 1st century. Allowed for continuing the popular practice of religion but reinterpreted its meaning for intellectuals.

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Sects of Judaism

- Sadducees: Sect aligned with Jerusalem’s aristocratic priests and profiting from their position in the social order.
- Pharisees: Reputed for their piety and meticulous interpretation of the law according to ancestral tradition.
- Essenes: strict sect, group of them became monastics in the wilderness. Dead Sea Scrolls attributed to them

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Other Jewish Groups

- Scribes: Trained interpreters of the Torah, devoted to understanding the law and principles for determining lawful/unlawful actions
- Zealots: Jewish nationalists dedicated to the overthrow of Roman power
- Herodians: small minority of Jews who supported the Herodian dynasty

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Samaritans

A people who claimed that they were descendants of Jacob but whom Jews considered to be of mixed blood. They worshiped Israel’s God but only accepted the Pentateuch as Scripture. They insisted that Mount Gerizim, not Jerusalem, was the proper holy site for worship.

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