

BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

The INTERTESTAMENTAL silent PERIOD from Malachi to Matthew

A. Malachi 4:4-6:

4 “Remember the Law **I** gave **My** servant **Moses** at Horeb as laws [instructions] and decrees [directives] for all Israel.

5 “**I** am going to send **you** the prophet **Elijah** before the LORD’s great and terrible **day** comes. **6** He will give the heart of the **fathers** [*the Patriarchs*] to their **children** and the heart of the **children** [*believers in the Coming Messiah*] to their **fathers**. Otherwise **I** will have to come and destroy the whole **land** with a **curse**/with **destruction**.” (Think: **Genesis 12:1-3; Matthew 23:38!**)

QUESTION: Why the mention of **Moses** and **Elijah**?

B. The Apocrypha: The Aspect of the *Intertestamental Period* **Most Recognized** by Laypersons

1. **14** writings attached to the OT, either as *separate* books or *additions* to certain OT books.

2. The **“14”** (*italics & underlined*):

a. **Historical:** 3 Esdras/Ezra; 1 Maccabees & 2 Maccabees

b. **Haggadah or Religious Fiction:** Tobit; Judith; Additions to Esther; & Additions to Daniel: The Prayer of Azariah/Abednego [“The Song of the Three Young Men”]; “Susanna”; & “Bel and the Dragon”

c. **Wisdom or Ethical Literature:** Ecclesiasticus [“Wisdom of Jesus Ben Sirach”]; Wisdom of Solomon; Baruch (including “The Letter of Jeremiah”); & The Prayer of Manasseh

d. **Apocalyptic:** 4 Esdras/Ezra

C. Dr. Andrew Steinmann: “1 Maccabees 4:46 implies that there were no longer prophets,.... 1 Maccabees 9:27 says that prophets had ceased to be among Israel.... 1 Maccabees 14:41 says that Simon [Simon Maccabee] was chosen to be high priest until a trustworthy prophet would arise (Messiah?).”

D. World & Jewish History (from c. 420 B.C. – A.D. 100) & NT Assumptions: Most Unknown Aspects of the Intertestamental Period

1. History of the Jews under various world empires & Jewish and non-Jewish rulers;
2. NT introduction of Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, and Essenes (?), plus their *additions to & twisting of* OT teachings of laws and way of salvation.

E. Resources for Our Intertestamental Study

1. “Chart of the Period BETWEEN the TESTAMENTS” (Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, Indiana, 1962) by James L. Boyer
2. *Introduction to the INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD* (CPH, 1975) by Raymond F. Surburg
3. *THE APOCRYPHA: THE LUTHERAN EDITION WITH NOTES* (CPH, 2009)
4. *THE NEW AMERICAN BIBLE FOR CATHOLICS* (NAB) (World Catholic Press, n.d.)
5. *The Works of [FLAVIUS] JOSEPHUS* (Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1987 edition)
6. *TIME BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS: Connecting Malachi to Matthew* from the BIBLE Discovery Series (Northwestern Publishing House, 2016) by Mark E. Braun

F. Our Study of the “Chart of the Period BETWEEN the TESTAMENTS” by James L. Boyer

G. Daniel 8; 10:1—12:1-3 (AAT with revisions)

DANIEL 8

The Ram & the He-Goat (See “Persian” & “Hellenistic” Periods at Top of “Chart”)

1 In the third year of King Belshazzar’s rule, I Daniel saw a vision, after the one I saw earlier. **2** This is what I saw: In my vision I was in Susa, the capital, in the province of Elam. In the vision I saw myself at the Ulai river. **3** I looked up and saw a single ram standing alongside the river. It had two horns, both of them high, but one was higher than the other, and was growing behind it. **4** I saw the ram pushing west, north, and south, and no animal could stand before him, and nobody could escape from his power. He did anything he pleased and grew very great.

5 As I was watching closely, there was a he-goat coming from the west over the whole world without touching the ground, and the goat had a horn standing prominently between his eyes. **6** He was coming toward the two-horned ram that I saw standing alongside the river. With his furious power he ran at him. **7** I saw him coming closer to the ram

and in a bitter rage attack him. He struck the ram and smashed both of his horns. The ram did not have the strength to stand up against him. He was thrown down on the ground and trampled on, the ram having nobody to rescue him from his power. **8** The he-goat did some very great things, but when he had grown powerful, the big horn was broken and in its place there grew prominently four horns pointing in the four directions of the sky. **9** Out of one of them came a horn that started out small but grew very big toward the south, the east, and toward the Beautiful Land.] **10** It grew bigger until it reached the army of heaven [believers], and some of the army and these stars of heaven it threw down on the ground and trampled on them. **11** Then it grew so big it reached the Ruler of the army and took away from Him the daily burnt offering and wrecked His Temple and army. **12** And it reckoned the daily burnt offering as an offense and threw truth on the ground. So this is the way it acted and was successful.

13 Then I heard **a holy one** speaking. And **another holy one** said to whoever was speaking, “How far ahead does this vision reach—about the daily sacrifice, the wrong that destroys, the surrender of the holy place, and the army being trampled on?”

14 “For 2300 evenings and mornings,” he told me. “Then the holy place will be purified.”

15 Now when I Daniel saw the vision and tried to find out what it meant, there stood before me one who looked *like a man*. **16** And I heard the voice of **a man** between the banks of the Ulai calling and saying, “**Gabriel**, tell this man what the vision means.”

17 He [Gabriel] came near where I stood, and when he came, I felt terrified, and I bowed down on the ground.

“Understand, son of man,” he told me, “that the vision is about the time of the end.” **18** As he spoke to me, I fell into a deep sleep on the ground, but he touched me and made me stand up straight. **19** He said, “I will tell you what will happen in the latter part of the time when God is angry because the set time has an end.” **20** The ram you saw with the two horns means the kings of Media and Persia. **21** And the hairy he-goat is the king of Greece, and the big horn between his eyes is the first king. **22** After it was broken, four horns grew in its place; so four kingdoms will come out of the nation but not as strong as he was.

23 In the later part of their rule when wrongdoers have finished their work, a king, bold and crafty, will come forward. **24** He will be very

strong but not by his own strength and will destroy in an extraordinary way. He will be successful in what he does and destroy those who are powerful and some of the holy people. **25** He will succeed in all his clever and treacherous ways. In his own opinion he will do great things and destroy many when they do not expect it. He will stand up against the Ruler of rulers, but he will be broken and *not* by a human hand.

26 And the vision of evenings and mornings that was told is true. But you, keep the vision because it is about something far in the future.” (**Compare Numbers 24:17**” “**I see Him who is not here now; I behold Him but not soon/near.**”)

27 I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for some days. Then I got up and worked for the king. The vision amazed me, and nobody understood it.

DANIEL 9

20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sins and the sins of my people Israel, and humbly laying before the LORD my God my plea for mercy for the holy mountain of my God, **21** while I was expressing the prayer, **the man Gabriel** whom I had already seen in a vision came to me flying swiftly, about the time of the evening sacrifice. **22** He instructed me and said, “Daniel, this time I have come to give you insight and understanding. **23** When you started pleading a message went out and I have come to tell it to you because you are loved very much. So examine the message and understand the vision.

DANIEL 10

God’s Messenger

1 In the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia, a message was revealed to Daniel, who was called Belteshazzar. The message was true. He was under a great strain as he paid close attention to the message and understood the vision.

2 In those days I Daniel mourned three whole weeks. **3** I did not eat any tasty food or put any meat or wine in my mouth. I did not anoint myself until the three whole weeks were over.

4 On the 24th day of the first month, I was by the great river Tigris. **5** When I looked up, I saw **a man** (maybe Gabriel, many say **Jesus**) dressed in linen, and **he** had around **his** waist a belt of gold from Uphaz. **6** **His** body was like a precious stone, **his** face looked like lightning, **his** eyes were like flaming torches, **his** arms and **his** legs looked like gleaming

brass, and when **he** spoke, **he** sounded like a noisy crowd. **7** I Daniel alone saw the vision. The men with me did not see the vision, but they started to tremble violently and tried to get away by hiding (cp. Act 9:7b with 22:9). **8** So I was left alone to see this grand vision, but there was no strength left in me. The healthy color left my face so that it looked marred, and my strength slipped away. **9** I heard **him** speak, and as I listened to **him**, I fainted face down on the ground.

10 Then a hand touched me and roused me to get up on my hands and knees. **11** “Daniel, a much-loved man,” **he** said to me, “pay attention to what **I** am telling you and stand up straight because **I** have now been sent to you.” When **he** said this to me, I stood up trembling. **12** “Do not be afraid, Daniel,” **he** told me. “From the first day when you made up your mind to understand, humbling yourself before your God, what you said was heard, and **I** have come because you spoke. **13** The prince of the Persian kingdom opposed **me** 21 days, but then **Michael**, **one of the leading princes** [who will become the chief **Prince** after His resurrection], came to help **me**, and **I** have left him to oppose the kings of Persia

14 and have come to help you understand what will happen to your people in the last days because there is still a vision for those days.”

15 When **he** said this to me, I looked at the ground and was silent.

16 And there was **one** who looked *like a human being* touching my lips. I opened my mouth to talk and said to **him** who was standing before me, “My **lord**, because of the vision my pains have overwhelmed me, and my strength has slipped away. **17** How can I, my **lord**’s servant, talk to my **lord**? I have now no strength left, and no breath remains in me.”

18 Then the **one** *looking like a man* touched me and strengthened me.

19 “Do not be afraid, you are much loved,” **he** said, “may everything be well with you. Be strong; yes, be strong!” And as **he** talked to me, I felt myself strengthened. “Speak, my **lord**,” I said, “because **you** have strengthened me.”

The Angel-Messenger Reveals the Future to Daniel

20 “Do you know why **I** have come to you?” **he** asked. “**I** will now go back to fight with the prince of Persia, but while **I** am out there fighting, the prince of Greece will come. **21** But I will tell you what is inscribed in the true writing. **Concerning these things there is nobody uniting his**

strength with mine but **Michael**, your **Prince**.

DANIEL 11

1 “In the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood to strengthen and defend him [Darius/Cyrus].”

Dynastic Events of Persia, Greece, the Ptolemies and Seleucids: This prophesy came true as follows:

2 “Now I will tell you the truth. Three more kings will come in Persia, then a fourth who will get much richer than all the others, and as he gets to be strong by his wealth, he will stir up everybody against the kingdom of Greece. [**v. 2 After the Persian kings, Cambyses, Smerdis, and Darius Hystaspis, there came the fourth, Xerxes, who raised an army of 2½ million men against Greece. He met disaster at Salamis in 480 B.C.]**”

3 “Then a soldier king will come who will rule over an immense area and do as he pleases. [**v. 3 Alexander the Great conquered the world.]**”

4 But he will hardly be established when his kingdom will be broken in pieces and divided in four directions, but his descendants will not get it, nor will it be ruled as he ruled it since his empire will be torn up and go to others. [**v. 4 Alexander the Great died at age 32. His two sons Hercules and Alexander were murdered 13 years later. The empire was then divided into four parts.]**”

5 “The southern king will become strong, but one of his officers will get stronger than he and rule over a large kingdom. [**v. 5 A Macedonian, one of Alexander’s best generals, became Ptolemy I of Egypt. Seleucus, another officer in Alexander’s army, became king of Babylonia.]**”

6 After some years they will join one another when the southern king’s daughter will marry the northern king to make peace, but she will not keep her power, nor will his power continue; she will be surrendered, she and her escort, and her child, and the man who married her. [**v. 6 Antiochus II divorced his wife Laodice to marry Berenice, the daughter of Ptolemy II. Each of the two women had a possible heir to the throne. When Ptolemy II died, Antiochus divorced Berenice and remarried Laodice. But Laodice poisoned her husband Antiochus and had her son murder Berenice and her child.]**”

7 “At that time a shoot will grow from her roots in place of her father. He will attack the army and enter the fortification of the northern king and will prevail over them. [**v. 7 Berenice’s brother, Ptolemy III attacked**

Syria under Seleucus II and killed Laodice.] 8 And he will take as loot back to Egypt the metal images of their gods and their precious utensils of silver and gold. **[v. 8 Ptolemy III brought back to Egypt 40,000 talents of silver and 2,500 precious vessels and images of the gods.] 9** Then for some years he will keep away from the northern king, who will invade the southern kingdom but then go back to his own country. **[v. 9 Seleucus II, the northern king, marched against Ptolemy III of Egypt, was defeated, and came back with only a remnant of his army.]**

10 “Then his sons will get ready to fight and gather a large army that will march on like a flood, pass through, and again fight its way to his foe’s fortifications. **[v. 10 Seleucus III succeeded his father but was murdered after two years. His brother Antiochus III aimed to have an empire like Alexander the Great’s.] 11** The southern king will get furious, go out, and fight with the northern king, whose large army that he put into the field will fall into the enemy’s hands and be taken away. **[v. 11 Antiochus with 72,000 men and 102 elephants met Ptolemy III with 70,000 men and 73 elephants, and Ptolemy III defeated him thoroughly. Thus, the king of Egypt was victorious.] 12** The southern king will feel proud, and though he puts down tens of thousands, he will not continue strong. **[v. 12 The king of Egypt was proud and lazy, and did not follow up his advantage.]**

13 “And again the northern king will raise an army larger than the first, and after some years he will come marching with a large army and a lot of equipment. **[v. 13 Antiochus won the victories for which he was called Antiochus the Great.]**

14 In those times many will rebel against the southern king, and criminals of your own people will attempt to make a vision come true [think: millennialists of our day], but they will fall. **15** Then the northern king will come, put up ramparts, and take a fortified city, and the southern forces will not hold their ground; even their picked troops will not be strong enough to resist. **[v. 15 The Egyptians succeeded in taking Palestine away from Antiochus. But Antiochus again defeated the Egyptians and entered Jerusalem.] 16** The invader will do as he pleases, and nobody will be able to hold his ground against him. He will take his position in the Beautiful Land and have the power to destroy it. **[v. 16 “The Beautiful Land” is Palestine.] 17** Then Antiochus will be determined to take the whole dominion of the southern king into his power by making peace with him and giving him a daughter to marry, in order to destroy

his kingdom; but the plan did not succeed or help him. [v. 17 Antiochus gave his daughter Cleopatra in marriage to the seven-year-old Ptolemy V, as well as, Coele-Syria, Phenicia, and Judea as a dowry but gained nothing by it.] 18

Then he will turn his attention to the lands by the sea and take many places, but a leader will silence the insults made by him without insulting him in turn.

[v. 18 When most of Asia was in his hands, Antiochus started to take Greece but the Romans defeated him at Thermopylae and again at Smyrna.]

19 Then he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country and will stumble and fall and disappear.

[v. 19 Retiring east of the Taurus mountains, he searched for gold to pay tribute to the Romans.]

20 “Then another will rise to take his place and will have a collector of tribute go out in royal attire, but in a few days he will be destroyed without fury and without war.” [v. 20 Antiochus’s son Seleucus IV collected tribute from Judea to pay the Romans. His own prime minister Heliodorus had him assassinated.]

Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 B.C.) (An initial type of the Antichrist)

21 “In his place there will come a contemptible person who will *not* be given royal glory but will come to it when people are off their guard; by intrigue he will make himself king. 22 He will sweep away and crush overwhelming forces including the prince of the covenant. 23 After a treaty has been made with him, he will act treacherously and rise to power with only a few people. 24 When nobody expects him, he will invade the richest parts of the provinces and do what none of his fathers or ancestors ever did—scattering among them plunder, spoils, and goods. He will invent new ways of attacking fortifications. But it will be only for a while.

25 “With a large army he will stir up his power and his courage against the southern king, and the southern king will get ready to fight with a vast and strong army but will not hold his ground on account of schemes put to work against him. 26 Yes, those who eat the king’s food will ruin him, his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle.

27 Both kings will have in mind to do wrong and at one table will tell lies but will not succeed because the end cannot be until the time that is appointed.

28 He will come back to his country with a lot of goods. Setting his heart against the holy covenant, he will do what he likes and come back to his own country.

29 “At the appointed time he will again invade the south, but this last time will be different from the first. **30** Ships will come from the west to oppose him. Scared, he will turn back, be angry at the holy covenant, take action and again favor those who forsake the holy covenant. **31** He will send troops to defile the holy place—the refuge—set aside the regular sacrifices, and put up there the abomination that destroys.

32 In beguiling ways he will seduce those who violate the covenant to become heathen, but the people who know their God will stand firm and take action.

33 Those who teach the people will help many to understand, but for some time they will fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. **34** When they fall, they will get a little help, but many will join them hypocritically. **35** Some of the faithful who understand will fall, **but** this will refine them, purify, and make them white until the end comes, but the time appointed is still to come.”

The Enemy of God’s People—THE ANTICHRIST (Luther)

36 “The king will do as he pleases. He will honor and glorify himself above any God; he will say monstrous things against the God of gods, and will succeed until his rage is over because what is decreed must be fulfilled.

37 He will think nothing of the gods of his fathers or the god desired by women, or of any god, because he will make himself greater than anything else. **38** Instead he will honor the god of fortresses and with gold, silver, precious stones, and other costly things honor a god his fathers did not know. **39** With the help of a foreign god he will deal with strong fortresses. He will give high honors to those who acknowledge him, make them rulers over many, and distribute the land to them as a reward.

40 “In the last time he will fight the southern king. The northern king will rush at him like a cyclone with chariots and horses and many ships, invading the countries and sweeping through them. **41** He will invade the “Beautiful Land” [the Christian Church] and tens of thousands will fall, but Edom, Moab, and the best of the Ammonites will escape from him [Christian converts]. **42** When he reaches for these countries even Egypt will not escape, **43** but he will control Egypt’s stores of gold, silver, and all its treasures; and the Libyans and Ethiopians will fall in line.

44 But news from the east and the north will trouble him [Muslims ?], and in a great fury he will leave to destroy and annihilate many. **45** He

will pitch his royal tents between the sea and the beautiful Holy Mount [the Papacy sitting in the seat of God]. Then he will come to his end with nobody to help him. **(See 2 Thessalonians 2.)**

DANIEL 12

1 “At that time **Michael**, the great **Prince**, will stand up to protect your people. It will be a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation until that time, but at that time **your people** will be saved, all who are written in the book. **2** And many sleeping in the ground will wake up, some to live forever and others to feel ashamed and abhorred forever. **3** And those who have insight will shine like the brightness throughout the sky and those who lead many to righteousness like the stars forever.

BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

SUPPLEMENT

WORLD HISTORY & JEWISH HISTORY

WORLD LEADERS & JEWISH LEADERS

**FROM THE FALL OF BABYLON UNTIL 420 B.C.,
THE END OF MALACHI**

- 605 BC** First deportation of Jews from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar: Daniel, Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego are among the captives taken.
- 597 BC** Second deportation of Jews from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar: Ezekiel the prophet and King Jehoiachin are among the captives taken.
- 586 BC** Third deportation of Jews from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar: King Zedekiah, last king of Judah, is among the captives taken; the prophet Jeremiah remains in Jerusalem.
- 586 BC** Babylonian destruction of Solomon's Jerusalem Temple by Nebuchadnezzar.
- 562 BC** Nebuchadnezzar dies.
- 548 BC** Or possibly **551 BC** as to **when Daniel received the predictions of Daniel 8.**
- 539 BC** **Fall of Babylonian Empire** (Belshazzar; "Handwriting on the Wall").
- 538 BC** **Darius the Mede/Cyrus the Persian, the king of the Median-Persian Empire rules.**
- 538 BC** **Darius/Cyrus releases all captive nations to return to their homelands.**
- 536 BC** **Daniel receives the predictions of Daniel 10—12.**
- 533 BC** **50,000 Jews return to Jerusalem** under Zerubbabel, Joshua the High Priest, Haggai & Zechariah, the prophets.
- 532 BC** Rebuilding of the Jerusalem Temple begun.
- 533 BC** The rebuilding of the Jerusalem Temple halted.
- 521 BC** **Persian King Darius I rules.**
- 520 BC** Work on the Jerusalem Temple resumes.
- 515 BC** **Rebuilding of the Jerusalem Temple is completed & dedicated.**
- 486 BC** **Persian King Xerxes, husband of Queen Esther, rules.**
- 464 BC** **Persian King Artaxerxes I rules.**
- 458 BC** **Ezra the Scribe** leads c. 30,000 more Jews back to Jerusalem.
- 445 BC** **Nehemiah** comes to Jerusalem and builds a wall around the city.
- 445 BC** Ezra reads the Torah and explains it to the Jewish people.
- 420 BC** **Proposed date for the ending of Malachi** and date when it is assumed that Ezra edited the whole OT and finalized it.
- 420 BC** **Date proposed when God's INTERTESTAMENTAL SILENCE began and then lasted until the Announcements of the births of John the Baptizer & JESUS.**