

“Silent” Years Timeline

“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future.”

—Daniel 2:44-45

“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”

—Romans 5:6

539–332 BC: Persian Rule in Judah

- 539 BC: Daniel survives the lions’ den.
- 536 BC: Cyrus II allows the Jews to return home.
- 534 BC: The Temple’s new foundation is laid.
- 533 BC: Work on the Temple is halted on Persian orders.
- 519 BC: Work on the Temple resumes.
- 514 BC: The Temple is completed.
- 479 BC: Esther prevents genocide against the Jews.
- 456 BC: Ezra leads a national revival.
- 445 BC: Nehemiah rebuilds Jerusalem.

*****The Old Testament Ends*****

336–323 BC: The Reign of Alexander the Great

- 332 BC The Greeks take control of Judea from the Persians.
- 330 BC The (Achaemenid) Persian Empire falls to the Greeks.
- 323 BC Alexander dies, and his empire is eventually divided among his generals—including Ptolemy in Egypt and Seleucus in Syria.

320s BC: The Samaritans build their temple on Mt. Gerizim

250s BC: Work begins on the *Septuagint*, a Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures

200 BC: Battle of Panium: the Seleucid Greeks win control of Judea from the Ptolemaic Greeks

167–160 BC: The Maccabean Revolt

- 167 BC Antiochus IV Epiphanes defiles the Temple.
- 167 BC Mattathias, a priest, launches a rebellion in response.
- 166 BC After Mattathias’ death, his sons continue the rebellion, led by Judah the Maccabee.

- 165 BC A major victory at Emmaus helps the Jews retake Jerusalem.
- 164 BC The Temple is rededicated.
- 160 BC The Seleucids defeat the Maccabees at Elasa, kill Judah, and end the rebellion.

141 BC: Seleucids make Judea semi-autonomous under Hasmonean kings

130s BC: Jewish leadership gradually splits into factions: one generally pro-Greek (Sadducees) and one generally anti-Greek (Pharisees)

109 BC: The Hasmonean kingdom of Judea battles the Samaritans, destroying their temple at Mt. Gerizim

100s BC: The *Septuagint* translation is completed

from 63 BC: Roman Rule in Judea

- 63 BC: The Romans seize control of Judea from the Seleucids; they leave the Hasmonean Dynasty in power.
- 40 BC: The Romans remove the Hasmoneans, placing Herod I “the Great” on the throne.
- 20s BC: Herod expands the Temple.

*****The New Testament Begins*****

- 5 BC John the Baptist is born.
- 4 BC Jesus is born.