

Heartland Bible Institute
 Life of Christ
 Introduction
 Lesson 1 Student Study Guide

This period of 400 years has been referred to as the _____ to identify this period of history between the Old and the New Testaments as the Grecian empire (the He-Goat of Daniel's visions) has been superseded by the Roman Empire (that shape shifting beast also of Daniel's vision).

This time is also known as the _____.

God had prepared the world in the three areas of [1] _____, [2] _____, and [3] _____.

HEBREW: The Jews	GREEK: The Greeks	LATIN: The Romans
Judaism: The Jews	Hellenism: the Greeks	Romanism: The Romans
Religion	Culture	Jurisprudence
Redemption from	Inspiration in	Propagation by
Scriptures	Schools	Scepter
Jerusalem	Athens	Rome
The Center of the	The Center of	The Center of
Legalism/Ceremonialism	Mysticism/Asceticism	Skepticism/Pragmatism

The Jews

Judaism, though fraught with the traditions of men, was the _____ of the One True God in stark contrast to the mystery religions of Gentile idolatry that covered the earth.

There were three expectations of God concerning His chosen people the Jews.

[1]. The Jewish peoples were to be _____ for the One True God unto the nations in their day. Deut. 7:6; 4:6-8

[2]. The Jews were to be the _____ of God's redemption to the nations. Rom. 9:4-5; Gen. 12:2-3

[3]. The Jews were to be a _____ for God unto the nations.

The _____ by God of the seed of Abraham met two crucial needs for all of mankind. 1. Through them the _____ of God would come and dwell among men in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, and 2. The _____ of God was committed into their stewardship to be preserved for future generations and for the world.

In a very practical sense God preserved His word by means of the Jews careful stewardship so that mankind would know [1] what His _____ is concerning His plan of

reconciliation toward mankind and [2] that God's people may learn from Him His will for their

The three expectations of the Jews are similar to the same three expectations for the Church today.

1. The Church is to _____ of the Gospel to all nations.

Mat 28:19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

2. The Church is to be a conduit of _____ to all nations.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3. The Church is the _____ of the Mysteries of the Gospel of Christ.

1Co 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

The Social Impact of the "Silent Years" upon the Jewish Nation.

There were four _____ that the Jewish people experienced when they returned from their captivity in Babylon that affected their attitude towards the Gentile nations.

The Achaemenid Period: _____ 450-330 b.c.

Mal 1:6 A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where *is* mine honour? and if I be a master, where *is* my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

This cooling attitude and _____ is the subject of the book of Malachi, the last Old Testament prophet to speak to the children of Israel for the next 400 years.

The Hellenistic Period: _____ 330-166 b.c.

This persecution by this wicked man then gave rise to a _____ among the Jewish People that resulted in a new political/religious movement.

The Hasmonian Period: _____ 166 – 63 b.c.

What eventually proved to be the downfall of the Hasmonian dynasty was their rise to the office of High Priest and eventually taking on the title of a _____ more so than a _____ between God and His people; mixing the priesthood with politics.

It was this Hasmonian revolt that had _____ Rome's taking control of the Promised Land.

The Roman Period: _____ 63 b.c.

It was during this period of 400 years that the consciousness of the Jewish leadership became increasingly _____ in nature in their attitude towards the Gentile nations that they had contact with.

The Major Players

The major players of the time of Christ's first advent were [1]. The _____, [2]. The _____, and [3]. The _____. All three of these particular groups played a major role in the time of Christ's first coming.

The Five Major Players of the Religious Party.

a. _____

The word "Pharisee" means *the* _____ ones.

These rules and traditions caused them to become more _____ in their religious practices that resulted in their lack of a real heart for God.

b. _____

This faction could be termed the _____ or _____ of their day.

c. _____

The original duty of these men was to _____ the Word of God through carefully copying it.

d. _____

These were men of the tribe of Levi whose function was primarily _____ who performed the various duties and responsibilities related to Temple worship.

e. _____

These were often prominent men in their communities who held various official offices such as the ruler or elder of a _____.

Luk 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. 17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

The role of the chief elder in the synagogue would be to _____ the order of service, choose who would be called up to read from the scriptures, that would give what _____ of the Scriptures to be read and who would lead in prayers and _____ the people with a message or teaching.

The Political Party

1. _____

This group was purely _____ and whose allegiances lay with the family of Herod.

2. _____

The Sanhedrin was a _____ political and religious council made up of the priesthood, the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the rulers or elders of the synagogues. The High Priest of the day was the _____ of this council.

The Sanhedrin was permitted to possess the _____ to condemn a man to death but did not have the additional _____ by which they could carry out this sentence.

3. _____

EMPERORS OF ROME DURING THE NEW TESTAMENT PERIOD From 30 B.C. to 117 a.d.

Augustus	30 B.C. to 14 a.d.
Tiberius	14 to 37 a.d.
Caligula	37 to 41 a.d.
Claudius	41 to 54 a.d.
Nero	54 to 68 a.d.
Galba	68 to 69 a.d.
Otho	69 a.d. (3 months)
Vitellius	69 a.d. (1 month)
Vespasian	69 to 79 a.d.
Titus	79 to 81 a.d.
Domitian	81 to 96 a.d.
Nerva	96 to 98 a.d.
Trajan	98 to 117 a.d.

The Cultural Party

a. The _____

Originally this was a faction who followed one _____ of Galilee who started an ill fated rebellion against all foreign dominion in Palestine.

b. _____

The Samaritans can trace their _____ back to the days of Sargon II in 2 Kings 17:24-41.



The Jews when traveling from Judea to Galilee or visa versa the region populated by the Samaritans would be _____ due to the animosity and prejudice between the two groups.

c. _____: The Greeks – Language and Culture

God used Hellenism to provide the world unification in both _____ and _____.

In contrast to the despotic Suzerains a more _____¹ style of rule was introduced.

¹ A global democratic system belonging to all the people rather than only belonging to separated entities of independent districts answerable to none but themselves.

The Greek language was the ideal medium for communicating the truths of the New Testament due to [1] its _____ to capture abstract and sophisticated thought (as testified by its many philosophers as Plato, Socrates and others) and [2] its _____ through out the Roman Empire (much like English today is the global language).

d. _____ : The Romans – Government and Stability.

God used Rome to bring the Mediterranean world under one central government and thus establish a period of relative peace known as the _____² or Roman Peace.

Why Four Gospels?

_____ was the religion used to bring the Gospel into being, Greece unified the _____ of the world so that the Word would be accessible for all to read about the Gospel and Rome's government, military and road ways brought peace and _____ as well as the means of travel to deliver and _____ the Gospel of the living Word to the world.

The four Gospels present the Life of Jesus Christ _____.

Chart of the Gospels and Paul's Epistles Outlining Portrait of Christ

Writers	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John	Paul
Portrait of Christ	King	Servant	Perfect Man	Mighty God	Lord and Savior
Emphasis of Writer	His	His	His	His	His
Genealogical Record	Yes. A king must have one. Traces His regal line through David and Solomon to Joseph, the step-father of Jesus	No. A servant/slave does not require a genealogy	Yes. A perfect man should have one. Traces his physical line through David and Nathan to Mary the mother of Jesus.	No. God does not have one.	Yes. From the foundation of the world it was God's plan to redeem mankind.

² The terms of peace imposed by Rome on any in its domain.

Approximate Date of Writing	37 a.d. The events of this book cover approximately 38 years.	57-63 a.d. The events of this book covers about 3 1/2 to 4 years	63-68 a.d. The events of this book covers approximately 39 years.	85-90 a.d. the events of this book cover about 3 1/2 to 4 years	54-66 a.d. The events of this book are continuing even today.
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Topical/Thematic Chart of the Four Gospels

MATTHEW (The Promised Mighty)	MARK (The Lowly)	LUKE (The Ideal)	JOHN (The Son of)
“Behold thy King” Zech. 9:9	“Behold my Servant” Isa. 42:1	“Behold the Man” Zech. 6:12	“Behold your God” Isa. 40:9
The Four Beasts Rev.4:7;Ezk.1:10 Like a Lion	The Four Beasts Rev.4:7;Ezk.1:10 Like a Calf/Ox	The Four Beasts Rev.4:7;Ezk.1:10 Like a _____	The Four Beasts Rev.4:7;Ezk.1:10 Like an _____
Branch Jer.23:5,6 A righteous branch and a King	Branch Zech.3:8 My servant the Branch	Branch Zech.6:12 Behold the _____ whose name is the Branch.	Branch Isa. 4:2 The Branch of the Lord, Beautiful and glorious.
Culture Jewish	Culture Roman	Culture Greek	Culture Church/World
Emphasis Prophetic Matt. 5:17	Emphasis Practical Mark 10:45	Emphasis Factual/Historical Luke 1:1-4	Emphasis John 3:5;4:24
The _____: A man of deep religious feeling looking for a sign.	The Roman : A man of action looking for strength of will.	The Greek : A man of reason looking for factual proof.	The Church : A child of God looking for a fuller relationship. The World : A child of darkness looking for meaning and significance in life.
Matthew 28 Ends with Christ's resurrection and the Churches commission	Mark 16 Ends with Christ's ascension	Luke 24 Ends with Christ's ascension and the promise of the Holy Ghost	John 21 Ends with Christ's promise to return
Theme Christ the King Matt. 2:2	Theme Christ the Servant Mark 10:45	Theme Christ the Ideal Man Luke 23:47	Theme Christ, God manifest John 1:1,14,18
Doctrine	Doctrine	Doctrine	Doctrine
Christ seen as Prophet/King	Christ seen as Ministering Priest	Christ seen as Savior of all mankind	Christ seen as the Eternal Son of God
Demonstrates the Promised Savior	Depicts the Powerful Savior	Declares the Perfect Savior	Describes our Personal Savior
Genealogy	Genealogy	Genealogy	Genealogy

Of the King Matt. 1	None A Servant warrants none	Of a Man Descendant of Adam the first man Luke 3	In the beginning John 1
Perfectly	Perfectly	Perfectly	Perfect in

Five “needs” have been identified in which the written record of the life, words and works of Jesus Christ were to meet.

[1]. There was the _____ need.

Matthew's intent was to provide the _____ with proof that Jesus was indeed their Messiah of the seed of Abraham and of the seed of David and that Jesus was the Christ (Messiah), the fulfillment of the covenant promises of God to his people.

[2]. There was a _____ need.

The Romans were a tireless and industrious people and Mark's portrait of Jesus as the tireless _____ of the _____ with his snapshot like accounts emphasizing the _____ of Christ more so than his words met this need of Roman pragmatism.

[3]. There was the _____ need.

Luke's Gospel portrays Christ as the Son of man, (mentioned 25 times) as the ideal and _____ of all men.

[4]. There was a fourth need; a Gospel that was addressed to the _____.

Out of the four Gospel records of the Life of Christ it is John's Gospel that has the most _____ as it not only presents Jesus Christ as the Creator of the world but the Savior of the world also.

[5]. A Fifth need, the writings of Paul to the _____

It is this _____ initiated by the shed blood of Jesus Christ and _____ by the indwelling Holy Spirit of God in individual believers which make up the corporal body of Christ that Paul declares, teaches, instructs, exhorts, admonishes, and edifies through his Epistles, coupled with the writings of the other New Testament writers which make up the “_____” that Paul preached unto the world.