



## Rejection in Nazareth | 6:1-6

- *Jesus travels to the region where he grew up, Nazareth (1:9, 24). Like a Rabbi, Jesus travels with his disciples as he is in the final stages of preparing them for ministry.*
- *On the sabbath, Jesus was given the opportunity to teach in the Synagogue. This would have been the same place he had been teaching when he was left at 12 years old.*
- *The entire congregation was astonished at his doctrine, miracles and casting out demons.*
  - *They may have harbored suspicions voiced by the scribes (3:22) that Jesus was not formally trained and was a carpenter by trade.*
  - *They knew his family well and by name. They were not exceptional, so why should Jesus be? Only two choices as to the source of his authority, God or Satan.*
  - *In no other gospel is Jesus designated a carpenter. Here it is a term of derision, a common worker with his hands, not a trained teacher.*
  - *And only in Jewish derision do you call a man the son of his mother. Maybe rumors had circulated the Jesus was illegitimate.*

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- *Jesus again responds with a proverb which has numerous Jewish and Greek parallels. He is taking the role of prophet and the rejection that goes with it on himself. He is also anticipating the ultimate rejection of Israel. (Matt 23:27-38)*
- *In the presence of gross unbelief, Jesus restricts his activity to only healing a few individuals.*
  - *It was not that he could not do more, it was that he was not free to exercise his power in these circumstances.*
  - *“He marveled. . .” Apparently Jesus did not anticipate the reaction of the people.*
  - *This rejection anticipates the rejection Jesus predicts in sending out the 12.*

## When the Old Testament ends . . .

1. *The Persians are in control of Jerusalem and Judea.*
2. *The Israelites are in captivity having been exiled by their God for idolatry.*
3. *Solomon’s temple has been destroyed (first temple).*
4. *Few are looking for the Messiah.*
5. *There are no local synagogues, no Pharisees, no Sadducees.*
6. *There is no prophetic voice after Malachi, a period of 400 years before Christ was born called “the silent years.”*

## When the New Testament starts with Christ . . .

1. *Rome is in control of Jerusalem and Judea.*
2. *There is virtually no idolatry in Israel.*
3. *The “Second Temple” now stands in place of Solomon’s temple.*
4. *Everyone is looking for the Messiah.*
5. *There are synagogues in many Jewish towns and cities. Pharisees and Sadducees in control.*
6. *John the Baptist becomes the first prophetic voice since Malachi.*

*Though no prophet is speaking, the years between the Testaments are anything but quiet. What happens between the OT and the NT to prepare for Christ?*

## Between the Testaments | From Babylon to Rome

- *The time between 515 BC when Zerubbabel builds the second temple – AD 70 when Rome destroys it = “Second Temple Period”*
- *The Second Temple Period = 5 eras of different occupational forces governing Palestine.*
- *Each of these 5 periods ends with catastrophe and crisis for the Jewish people that informs the national consciousness at the time Christ was born and ministered.*
- *For much of this period, Judea was essentially a “temple state” under the control of the high priests who were under the control of foreign governors or rulers. This includes the time of Christ and the early church.*

## Between the Testaments | The 5 Eras

PERIOD	DATES	CRISIS	RESULT
1. Babylonian Period	606-539 BC (67 years)	Solomon's Temple destroyed. The Exile.	Despair - Loss of the Temple Loss of national sovereignty
2. Persian Period	539-331 BC (208 years)	Collapse of the Persian Empire by Alexander	Hellenization begins - Loss of Jewish identity
3. Greek Period	331-167 BC (164 years)	Persecution by Antiochus IV Epiphanes	Rise of Jewish mercenaries and Jewish hopes
4. Jewish Self-Rule	167-63 BC (104 years)	Domination by Rome	Loss of national sovereignty - Again
5. Roman Period	63 BC - 70 AD (133 years)	Destruction of the Second Temple	Loss of the epicenter of Judaism

## Between the Testaments | Babylonian Period

- *Babylonian Period (606-539 BC)*
  - *606-605 BC | Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judea*
  - *587-86 BC | Solomon's temple destroyed, Judah goes into exile, origin of synagogues*
  - *539 BC | Babylon falls to Cyrus the Great of Persia, exiles return to Jerusalem*
- *Preparation for the Christ*
  - *With the destruction of Solomon's Temple, the captives establish synagogues to gather and study the law.*
  - *Realizing their idolatry had caused Yahweh to reject them, they give up idolatry and return to their religious roots.*
  - *The Jews language changed. Closely related language to Hebrew, Aramaic was the language of the Babylonian empire. It soon took the place of ancient Hebrew. Thus by the time of Christ, Aramaic was the basic language of Palestine.*

## Between the Testaments | Synagogues

— According to the Gospels, Jesus often taught in synagogues – Capernaum (Mark 1:21-28), Nazareth (Mark 6:1-6). Paul also taught in synagogues (Acts 17:1-2).

— “Synagogue” is Greek for a gathering of people but also refers to the place of assembly.



— Served a variety of communal needs –

- Schools (Josephus, Antiquities 16.43)
- Meals (Antiquities 14.214-216)
- Hostels
- Courts (Acts 22:19)
- Collect and distribute charity (Matt 6:2)
- Political meetings (Josephus, Life 276-289)
- Reading and interpreting the Torah and Prophets (Acts 15:21)
- Prayers (Matt 6:5, Josephus, Life 280-295)

## Between the Testaments | Persian Period

— Persian Period (539-331 BC)

- 515 BC | Second temple dedicated (Zerubbabel, Haggai, Zechariah)
- 400 BC | Last OT prophet, Malachi, John the Baptist predicted

— Preparation for the Christ

- The completion of the OT occurs in the Persian Period with the completion of Malachi. The impact of the OT on NT Christianity cannot be overstated. These 39 books knit Judaism and Christianity together.

## Between the Testaments | Greek Period

- *Greek Period (331-167 BC)*
  - *331-320 BC | Alexander the Great – defeats Persians, Hellenization begins, upon death kingdom divided into 4 parts, Ptolemies get Israel*
  - *320-198 BC | Ptolemies rule Palestine – from Alexandria, Egypt, Septuagint (LXX) Greek OT translation produced*
  - *198-167 BC | Seleucid (Syrian) rule – Antiochus III defeats Ptolemy V, rule from Antioch, 2 parties (pro-Egyptian, pro-Syrian)*
  - *168 BC | Antiochus IV type of antichrist – replaces high priest (Onias III with his brother), invades Jerusalem, sacrifices pig on the altar, incites Maccabean revolt*

## Between the Testaments | Greek Period

- *Preparation for the Christ*
  - *As much as being conquered by the Greeks, Hellenization was of equal impact.*
  - *Under Ptolemy II, the Hebrew OT was translated into Greek. Legend has it that Ptolemy engaged 70 or 72 scholars, hence the abbreviation LXX.*
    - *The translation was prepared in Egypt for Jews who understood Greek better than Hebrew.*
    - *Many quotes of the OT in the NT are taken from the LXX.*
    - *The LXX served as the Bible for early Christians.*
  - *Greek became the language of trade. Only Jews inside Palestine spoke Aramaic. Jews in the diaspora outside Palestine spoke Greek creating a gap between the two.*

## Between the Testaments | Jewish Self-Rule

- *Jewish Self-Rule (167-63 BC)*
  - *167-135 BC | Maccabees – Temple worship restored, Feast of Dedication, Judas/Jonathan/Simon*
  - *135-63 BC | Hasmoneans – John Hyrcanus I/Aristobulus 1/Alexander Janneus/Salome Alexandra/Aristobulus II*
  
- *Preparation for the Christ*
  - *Pharisees and Sadducees political parties settle into their respective roles.*
  - *As Palestine expands, the Jewish religion spreads. Both Idumea and Iturea submitted considered themselves Jews. This paved the way for Herod the Great.*
  - *Roman control dominates Jewish attention from this time forward. And determined much of the self-identification of the period.*
  - *Of the various factions that emerged under Hasmonean rule, three are of particular interest: the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes.*

	Sadducees	Pharisees	Essenes
Social Class	Priests, aristocrats	Common people	[Unknown]
Authority	Priests	"Disciples of the Wise"	"Teacher of Righteousness"
Practices	Emphasis on priestly obligations	Application of priestly laws to non-priests	"Inspired Exegesis"
Calendar	Luni-solar	Luni-solar	Solar
<b>Attitude Toward:</b>			
Hellenism	For	Selective	Against
Hasmoneans	Opposed usurpation of priesthood by non-Zadokites	Opposed usurpation of monarchy	Personally opposed to Jonathan
Free will	Yes	Mostly	No
Afterlife	None	<u>Resurrection</u>	Spiritual Survival
Bible	<u>Literalist</u>	Sophisticated scholarly interpretations	"Inspired Exegesis"
Oral Torah	No such thing	Equal to Written Torah	"Inspired Exegesis"

## Between the Testaments | Roman Period

- Roman Period (63 BC – 70 AD)
  - 63 BC | General Pompey enters Jerusalem and establishes Roman rule
  - 44 BC | Julius Caesar assassinated by Brutus, “Caesar” become generic title
  - 40-37 BC | Herod named king of Judea by Roman senate, repulses Parthians to take the kingdom
  - 31 BC | Octavian Augustus defeats Mark Antony and Cleopatra, “Golden Age” of Rome, pax Romana, emperor worship
  - 26 AD | Pontius Pilate becomes governor of Judea
- Preparation for the Christ
  - With the Roman destruction of the Jewish state and temple, the Jews were in absolute dismay and disarray.
  - With national records lost and the center of Judaism destroyed resulted in absolute despair. Rome was a burden but revolts against Rome was finally a total loss.

## Between the Testaments | Herodian Dynasty

- 40 – 4 BC | Herod the Great – Edomite vassal ruler over Palestine, slaughter of the infants in Bethlehem ([Luke 2:16](#)), 3 sons
  1. 4 BC – 6 AD | Archelaus – Ethnarch of Judea and Samaria, banished by Augustus in 6 AD, misrule caused Joseph to settle with Mary and Jesus in Nazareth after returning from Egypt ([Matt 2:21-33](#)), after 6 AD Galilee ruled by Roman governors
  2. 4 BC – 33 AD | Herod Philip – Tetrarch of northern provinces
  3. 4 BC – 39 AD | Herod Antipas – Tetrarch of Galilee, beheads John the Baptist ([Mark 6:17-29](#)), Jesus calls him “that fox” ([Lk 13:32](#)), later stood trial before him ([Lk 23:7-12](#))
- 41 – 44 AD | Herod Agrippa I – Grandson of Herod the Great, ruled Judea and all Palestine, executed James the apostle and imprisoned Peter ([Acts 12:1-3](#))
- 50 - ? AD | Herod Agrippa II – Great-grandson of Herod the Great, heard Paul’s self-defense ([Acts 25-26](#))