

Session 9

I. PRAYER/REVIEW

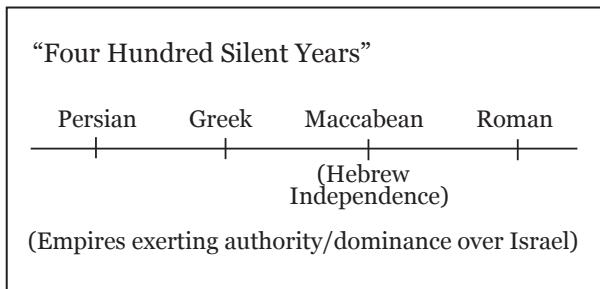
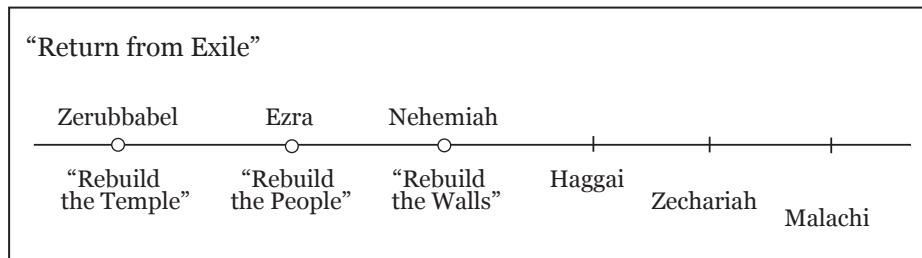
A. Flow of 12 Movements (through Scriptures)



— Movements #1-9 — — Movements 10-12 —

1. “Prologue”	4 Key Events	10. “Life of Christ”
2. “Patriarchs”	4 Key People	11. “Church Age”
3. “Redemption”	3 Key Events	12. “Final Consummation”
“Wanderings”	1 Major Rebellion	
4. “Conquest”	3 Key Events	
5. “Apostasy”	1 Cycle of Sin	
6. “Kingship: United Monarchy”	3 Kings	
7. “Kingship: Divided Monarchy”	2 Kingdoms	
8. “Exile”	3 Main Points (LEP)	
9. “Return from Exile”	3 Key People	
“400 Silent Years”	4 Empires	

B. Timeline (Movement #9: “Return From Exile”)



C. Historical Review

1. “United Monarchy” (1051-931 BC)
 - a. Three kings: Saul, David, Solomon
 - b. End: Death of Solomon
2. “Divided Monarchy” (931-586 BC)
 - a. Israel (north): 931-722 BC (Assyrian Captivity)
 - b. Judah (south): 931-586 BC (Babylonian Captivity)
3. “Exile” (Deportations to “Return from Exile”)
 - a. Length: 70 Years
 - b. Empires: Babylonian, Medo-Persian
 - c. Prophets: Ezekiel, Daniel (Jeremiah)

II. BACKGROUND: LEADING TO THE “EXILE”

A. Fall of Jerusalem (to the Babylonians)

1. Historical setting
 - a. Judah is in decline.
 - b. Judah is a vassal state of Babylon.
 - c. God’s messengers/prophets have been ignored.
2. Biblical account

2 Chronicles 36:15-19

*The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place.¹⁶ But **they kept mocking the messengers of God**, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy.*

*¹⁷ Therefore he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged. He gave them all into his hand. ¹⁸ And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon. ¹⁹ And they **burned the house of God** and **broke down the wall of Jerusalem** and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels.*

Insight:

- (1) The people are rebellious/hardhearted (15-16); they need to be “rebuilt.”
- (2) The temple has been destroyed (19); it needs to be “rebuilt.”
- (3) The walls of Jerusalem are broken down (19); they need to be “rebuilt.”

B. The Babylonian Captivity

2 Chronicles 36:20

He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia came to power.

Insight:

In 539 BC Cyrus II of the Medo-Persian empire defeated the Babylonians. The Persian army was led by Cyrus' General, Gubaru.

C. Persian Rule

1. Biblical account

2 Chronicles 36:20-23 NIV

He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his successors until the kingdom of Persia came to power.

²¹ *The land enjoyed its **sabbath rests**; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the **seventy years** were completed in fulfillment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah.*

²² *In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to **fulfill the word of the Lord** spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing: ²³ “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up, and may the Lord their God be with them.’”*

2. Theological questions

- a. Why “seventy years” of captivity?
- b. What is the “sabbath rest”?

EXCURSUS (NIV)

- Discipline for disobedience
- Sabbatical years and discipline for ignoring sabbatical years

Leviticus 26:27-28 “If in spite of this you still do not listen to me but continue to be hostile toward me, then in my anger I will be hostile toward you, and I myself will punish you for your sins seven times over.”

Discipline for Disobedience

Leviticus 25:2-4 “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the LORD. For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards.’”

Sabbatical Years

Leviticus 26:34-35 “Then the land will enjoy its sabbath years all the time that it lies desolate and you are in the country of your enemies; then the land will rest and enjoy its sabbaths. All the time that it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not have during the sabbaths you lived in it.”

Land will lie desolate; Sabbath years of rest regained

Leviticus 26:38-39 “You will perish among the nations; the land of your enemies will devour you. Those of you who are left will waste away in the lands of their enemies because of their sins; also because of their ancestors’ sins they will waste away.”

Discipline will bring deportation and captivity

Jeremiah 25:11-12 “This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt,” declares the LORD, “and will make it desolate forever.”

Captivity will last 70 years - why? (70 sabbatical years not kept?)

Leviticus 26:40-45 “But if they will confess their sins and the sins of their ancestors—their unfaithfulness and their hostility toward me, which made me hostile toward them so that I sent them into the land of their enemies—then when their uncircumcised hearts are humbled and they pay for their sin, I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land. For the land will be deserted by them and will enjoy its sabbaths while it lies desolate without them. They will pay for their sins because they rejected my laws and abhorred my decrees. Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking my covenant with them. I am the LORD their God. But for their sake I will remember the covenant with their ancestors whom I brought out of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I am the LORD.”

Confession of sin will bring restoration; deserted lands will have their sabbath rests.

2 Chronicles 36:21 “The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah.”

1 year of captivity = 7 year cycle

III. RETURN TO THE LAND

A. Background: Covenantal Promise

1. Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 13:14-15

The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.

2. Comment: Irving Jensen, Survey of the Old Testament, 217.

“For Israel, it showed that God had not forgotten His promise to Abraham concerning the land of Canaan (e.g. read Gen. 13:15 and note the strength of the phrase ‘forever’).”

B. Return: Prophetic Promise

1. Length of exile/punishment of Babylon

Jeremiah 25:11-12

*This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon **seventy years**. ¹² Then after **seventy years** are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, declares the Lord, making the land an everlasting waste.*

2. Promises related to the return

Jeremiah 29:10-14

*“For thus says the Lord: When **seventy years** are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.*

Lessons from Jeremiah 29:10-14

1. The Babylonian Captivity would last 70 years...
2. But the LORD has not forgotten His people...
3. Yet the Captivity was the LORD's judgment...
4. And repentance (confession) must precede restoration/return.

BUT REPENTANCE OF SIN HAS NOT OCCURRED. WHO WILL
CONFESS SINS ON BEHALF OF THE NATION?

C. Daniel's Prayer and the Return

1. Situation before Daniel
 - a. Daniel is a prophet/administrator during the "Exile" (Movement #8).
 - b. Daniel is reading Jeremiah (cf. Dan. 9:1-2) and realizes that the seventy years of exile are near completion.
 - c. Daniel understands the broad principle: repentance (confession) precedes restoration.
 - d. Daniel needs to pray (confession/repentance) on behalf of his people.

Insight:

For similar prayers see Ezra 9 and Nehemiah 9. Daniel's prayer will begin with an appeal to God's steadfast (loyal) love and His covenant promise to the nation (9:3-5).

2. Resolve of Daniel: Daniel 9

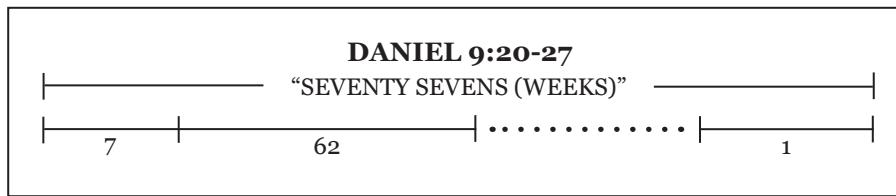
DANIEL 9:1-27			
9:1	When: "first year of Darius" (539 BC) Who: Daniel → Scriptures (Jeremiah) What: "desolation" (captivity) = 70 years		Occasion of the Prayer
9:2			
9:3	So... I turned to the Lord God └─ pleaded └─ fasted		Contents of the Prayer
	<u>Adoration:</u>	<u>Confession:</u>	
	<u>Supplication</u> (16-19)		
9:19			
9:20	Gabriel appears (20-23) Gabriel speaks (24-27) • Decree → Anointed One (7 sevens + 62 sevens)		Answer to the Prayer
9:27	• After 7 + 62 sevens → Anointed One "cut off" • Final seven → Abomination of Desolation		

3. Results of Daniel's prayer

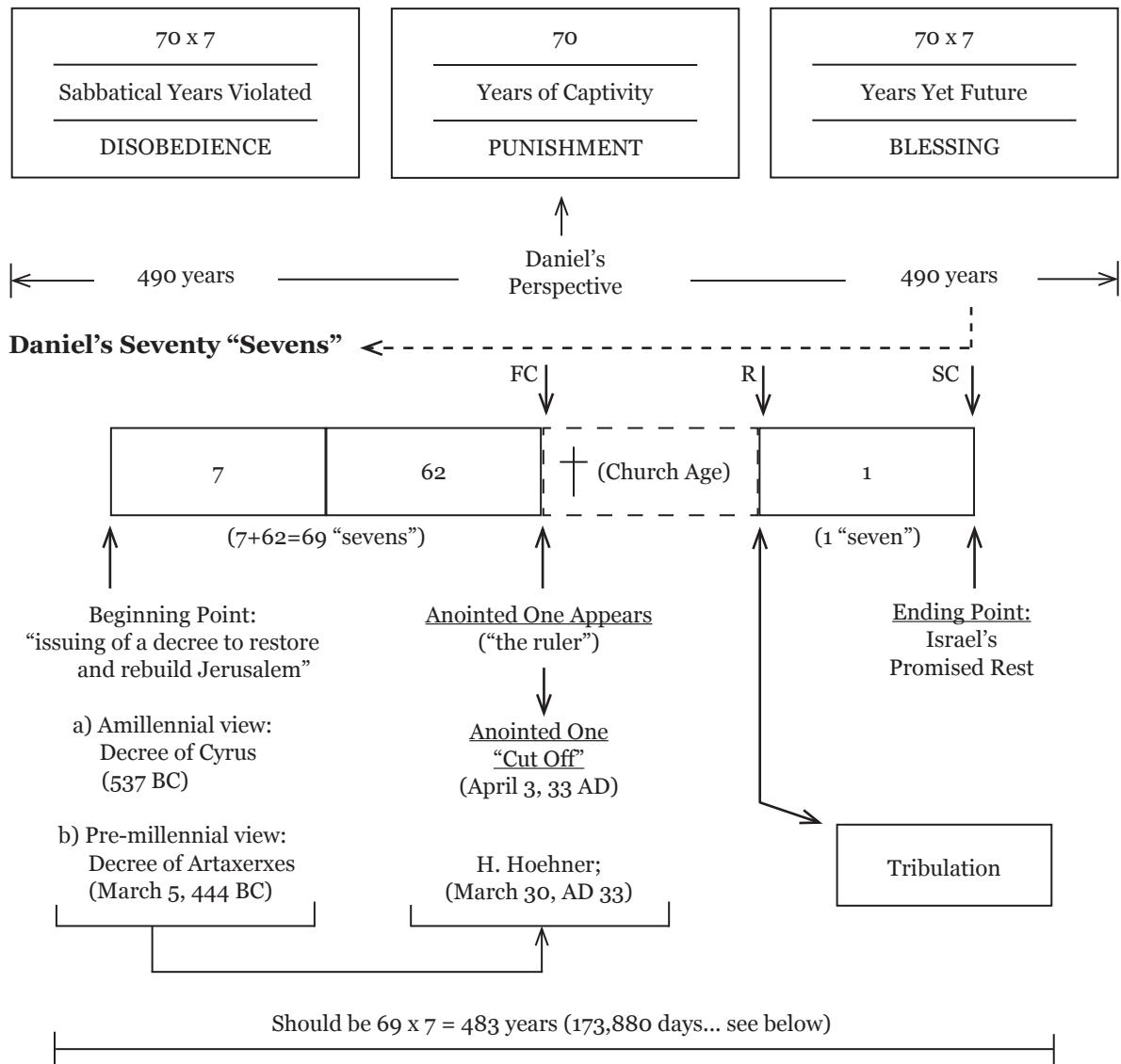
- a. Confession has been made (by Daniel for himself and the nation)
- b. Confession has been heard: Gabriel appears
- c. Now, restoration will come... but Gabriel reveals much more!

Daniel 9:24-27 (NIV 84)

Seventy “sevens” are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.²⁵ Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven “sevens,” and sixty-two “sevens.” It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.²⁶ After the sixty-two “sevens,” the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.²⁷ He will confirm a covenant with many for one “seven.” In the middle of the “seven” he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.



- Seventy sevens for people (Jews) and place (Jerusalem) to accomplish 6 things (Dan. 24)
- After seven + sixty-two sevens, Anointed One, the ruler “cut off” (Dan. 25-26)
- Final seven (70th of 70 sevens) will bring desecration and abomination (Dan. 27)

EXCURSUS: Sabbatical Years and Daniel 9:24-27

- 1) Ancient civilizations including the Jews used a 360 day year (not solar = 365.24...)
- 2) 483 (prophetic) years x 360 = 173,880 days
- 3) 444 BC to AD 33 = 476 solar years x 365.24... = 173,855 days
- 4) March 5 to March 30 (Triumphal Entry) = 25 more days
- 5) $173,855 + 25 = \underline{173,880 \text{ days}}$

IV. THREE (3) KEY MEN: “RETURN”

A. Described: Their Major Task

1. Zerubbabel	Rebuild the Temple
2. Ezra	Rebuild the People
3. Nehemiah	Rebuild the Wall

* Refer back to Insight on 2 Chronicles 36: 15-19, p. 156

B. Context: Historical Biblical Books

1. Book of Ezra

EZRA			
Return under “Zerubbabel”		Return under “Ezra”	
1	6	7	10
Cyrus’ Proclamation		Return to Jerusalem	
1		7	8
Census of the People			
2			
Construction of the Temple	6	9	10
3			

2. Book of Nehemiah

NEHEMIAH			
Rebuilding the Walls		Reviving the People	Reforming the Nation
1	6	7	10
Return to Jerusalem		Registry of the People	Rep populating Jerusalem
1	2	7	11
			12
Reconstruction of the Walls		Reading of the Law	Rededication of the Walls
3	6	8	12
		Repentance of the People	Reprimanding the People
	9		10
			13

C. Zerubbabel and the Temple

1. The decree of Cyrus (Ezr. 1:1-11)
 - a. Allowed for Jewish exiles to return
 - b. Allowed for the rebuilding of the Temple
 - c. Allowed for return of captured vessels for worship
2. The task of Zerubbabel
 - a. Stated: rebuild the Temple
 - b. Reason? re-establish proper worship of YHWH
3. The opposition to the task
 - a. People moved to go rebuild the Temple (Ezr. 1:4-5).
 - b. People stop due to opposition (Ezr. 4:6-23).

Ezra 4:24

Then the work on the house of God that is in Jerusalem stopped, and it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

4. Prophetic encouragements

Haggai 1:1-2

In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest:

*² “Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to **rebuild the house** of the Lord.”*

Haggai 1:7-8

*Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁸ Go up to the hills and bring wood and **build the house**, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord.*

Haggai 1:12

Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him. And the people feared the Lord.

Zechariah 1:1-3 (cf. 1:16)

*In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying,² “The Lord was very angry with your fathers.³ Therefore say to them, Thus declares the Lord of hosts: **Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you**, says the Lord of hosts.”*

Ezra 5:1-2 (cf. 6.14)

*Now the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel who was over them.² Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak arose and began to **rebuild the house** of God that is in Jerusalem, and the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.*

Commendation for Zerubbabel

1. Brought “remnant” back to Jerusalem
2. Laid foundation for re-built Temple
3. After stoppage, later completed the Temple

D. Ezra and the People

1. Unfaithfulness of the people

Ezra 9:1-4

*After these things had been done, the officials approached me and said, “The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands with their abominations, from the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.² For they have taken some of their daughters to be wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race has mixed itself with the peoples of the lands. And in this **faithlessness** the hand of the officials and chief men has been foremost.”³ As soon as I heard this, I tore my garment and my cloak and pulled hair from my head and beard and sat appalled.⁴ Then all who trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the **faithlessness** of the returned exiles, gathered around me while I sat appalled until the evening sacrifice.*

2. Confession of the Priest (Ezra)

Ezra 9:5-6

*And at the evening sacrifice I rose from my fasting, with my garment and my cloak torn, and fell upon my knees and spread out my hands to the Lord my God,⁶ saying: “O my God, I am **ashamed** and blush to lift my face to you, my God, for **our iniquities** have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens.”*

3. Repentance of the people

Ezra 10:1

*While Ezra **prayed and made confession**, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children, gathered to him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly.*

E. Nehemiah and the Walls

1. Profession: “cupbearer” (i.e. prime advisor)
2. Employer: Artaxerxes I (Persian king)
3. Major task: rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (remove the disgrace and humiliation of broken walls, broken city, broken people - cf. Neh. 1:3)
4. Model of excellent leadership

Insight:

Twenty-one leadership principles from Nehemiah 2 (from Donald K. Campbell, Nehemiah: Man in Charge).

“He established a reasonable and attainable goal
He had a sense of mission
He was willing to get involved
He rearranged his priorities in order to accomplish his goal
He patiently waited for God’s timing
He showed respect to his superior
He prayed at crucial times
He made his request with tact and graciousness
He was well prepared and thought of his needs in advance
He went through proper channels
He took time (three days) to rest, pray, and plan
He investigated the situation firsthand
He informed others only after he knew the size of the problem
He identified himself as one with the people
He set before them a reasonable and attainable goal
He assured them God was in the project
He displayed self-confidence in facing obstacles
He displayed God-confidence in facing obstacles
He did not argue with opponents
He was not discouraged by opposition
He courageously used the authority of his position.”

F. Post-Nehemiah: People backslide (by time of Malachi)

1. The question of the Lord

Malachi 1:6

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear?” says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, “How have we despised your name?”

2. The invitation of the Lord

Malachi 3:7

*From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. **Return to me, and I will return to you**, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, “How shall we return?”*

THREE (3) POST APOCALYPTIC PROPHETS

- 1. Haggai: Rebuild the Temple
- 2. Zechariah: Rebuild the Temple
- 3. Malachi: Rebuild the People (Again)

V. FOUR HUNDRED (400) SILENT YEARS

A. Description: Also called the “Inter-testamental Period”

B. Time frame: the span from Malachi (OT) to Matthew (NT)

C. Four Empires (over the now called “Jews”)

1. **Persian Period** (539-332 BC)

- a. Defeated the Babylonians (539 BC)
- b. Cyrus II, a kind benefactor: agreed to “the returns”
- c. Time of relative peace and prosperity (in exile) and poverty (in the land)

- d. Judah governed by the High Priest

2. **Grecian Period (332-167 BC)**

- a. Philip of Macedon (359-336 BC)
- b. Alexander the Great (336-323 BC)
 - Conquered the Persians
 - Defeated Darius III (331 BC)
 - Took Palestine (332 BC)
 - Died leaving his empire among his four generals:

FOUR GENERALS

- 1. Ptolemy Lagos (South or Egypt)
- 2. Seleucus Nicator (East or Syria/Babylon)
- 3. Cassander (West or Macedon/Greece)
- 4. Lysimachus (North or Thrace/Asia Minor)

- c. Palestine after Alexander the Great
 - Caught between the power struggle of the Ptolemies and the Seleucids
 - Initially under the Ptolemies but in 198 BC Antiochus III wrestled control from Egypt
 - Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) was very Hellenistic; antagonistic to Jewish religion; after defeat in Egypt, returned to Jerusalem amidst much Jewish derision; offered a sow on the altar in the Holy of Holies; fueled the flames of Jewish revolt

3. Maccabean Period (Hebrew Independence)

- a. Dates: 167-63 BC
- b. Mattathias: Judean priest; led a revolt against forced Hellenization
- c. Judas Maccabees (“the hammer”): military leader; cleansed and rededicated the Temple on December 25, 165 BC (Feast of Dedication or Feast of Lights or Hanukkah)
- d. Simon Maccabees: became High Priest; statesman and gifted administrator; brought prosperity and religious reform; assassinated by brother-in-law
- e. John Hyrcanus: became High Priest at death of his father (Simon Maccabees); advanced the dynastic rule of priest-rulers known as the Hasmoneans; during his time a rivalry developed between the “Hasidim” (conservative, anti-Greeks; forerunners of the Pharisees) and the “Hellenizers” (who embraced some elements of Greek life; forerunners of the Sadducees)
- f. Civil war: 69-63 BC

4. Roman Period

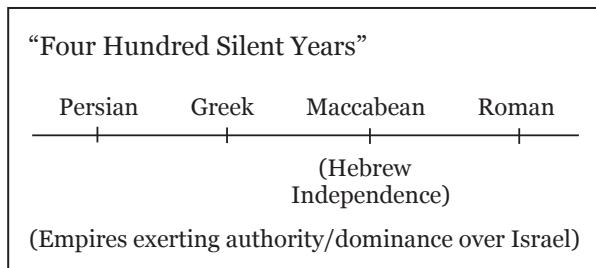
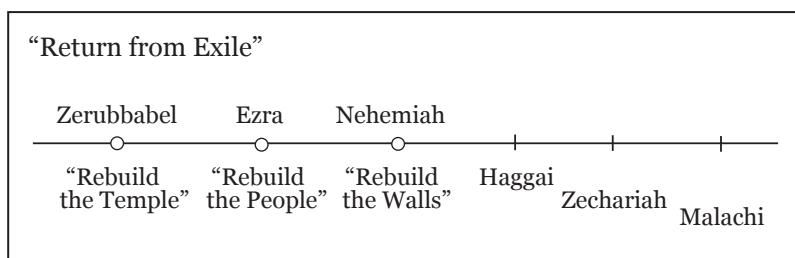
- a. Dates: 63 BC to 70 AD (as it relates to the Jews)
- b. Pompey: invaded Syria in 63 BC; enraged the Jews by entering the Holy of Holies
- c. Julius Caesar: defeated Pompey in 48 BC; not loved by the Jews, but Julius Caesar treated them leniently
- d. Death of Julius Caesar:

TRIUMPHRATE

1. Octavius
2. Antony
3. Lepidus

- e. Octavian Augustus: defeated Marc Antony; received the “switched” loyalty of Herod the Great
- f. Herod the Great: Edomite; known as a great builder (Herod’s Temple, Masada, amphitheater at Caesarea Philippi); completely unprincipled; led his own private reign of terror (“better to be Herod’s pig than his son”); the Herod of the massacre at Bethlehem

VI. TIMELINE (MOVEMENT #9)



VII. FOR SESSION 10: “LIFE OF CHRIST”

- A. Minimal Reading: Review Timeline; Mark 1-3; 11-16
- B. Maximum Reading: Review Timeline; Gospel of Mark (all)
- C. Personal Project: Take a person through the “Timeline” for this session (review previous Movements as well). Draw and explain this as best you can.