

Trinity Bible Church
 June 22, 2011
 Lesson 8

Dispensational Transitions From the Dispersion into Babylon To the Close of the New Testament

- I. From the Dispersion into Babylon to the close of the Old Testament
 1. The Period of Captivity in Babylon. 586-516 B.C.
 2. The Prophets' Encouragement.
 3. After the return from Babylon to their land three Old Testament Books were written concerning various events in Israel's history.
 4. The Temple Was Rebuilt.
 5. The Book of Malachi, the prophet, closes the Old Testament.
 6. The World Scene.
 - A. From 600-500 B.C.
 - B. From 500-400 B.C.
 - C. From 400-300 B.C.
 - D. From 300-200 B.C.
 - E. From 200-100 B.C.
 - F. From 100-1 B.C.
 1. The Septuagint is complete.
 2. Muskovy (Russia) has begun its rise to power.
 3. In 102 B.C. Alexander Jannaeus (3rd son of John Hyrcanus, lived 126-76 B.C.) rises to power in Palestine. His chief aim was to make Judea great and powerful. His son, Hyrcanus II, had a minister, Antipater, a Syrian, was the real power behind the throne. Antipater appointed his son Herod as prefect of Galilee. This began the Herodian Dynasty.
 4. Gaius Julius Caesar (July 13, 100 B.C.-March 15, 44 B.C.) was a Roman general and statesman who was critical in the transformation of the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire. He managed to win a civil war in the 40's and was proclaimed "dictator in perpetuity." In 46, he gave himself the title "Prefect of Morals" and had censorial powers. In 45 B.C. he began the "Julian Calendar" after consulting with the astronomer Sosigenes of Alexandria. A group of senators led by Marcus Brutus assassinated him March 15, 44 B.C., hoping to restore the constitutional government.
 5. In 65 B.C. Rome conquered the Seleucid Macedonian Kingdom in Asia under its last king, Antiochus XII.
 6. In 63 B.C. Rome begins to govern Jerusalem. Pompey conquers it.
 7. In 37 B.C., Herod the Great, an Edomite, becomes king of Palestine, who will rule until 4 B.C. In 20 B.C. Herod rebuilt Jerusalem. He greatly increased the trade routes which helped bring peace and prosperity. At times he attended the Jewish celebrations but he was hated by the devout Jews. He died of intestinal cancer, April 1, 4 B.C.

8. In 30 B.C. the Roman victory over Cleopatra VII puts an end to the last of the Macedonian descendants in Egypt.
9. In 27 B.C. Caesar (Octavius) Augustus exterminated his opponents and became the first emperor of Rome. All his rights were founded upon a constitutional basis rather than upon an arbitrary seizure of power. The "Imperial Cult" or the worship of Rome as a state was introduced into the provinces. To consolidate the empire he took a census of all people and property for the purposes of recruiting an army and taxation. His adopted son, Tiberius, would succeed him.
10. Jewish Society:
 - a. There was a wealthy Jewish aristocracy.
 - b. They controlled a large portion of the commerce.
 - c. The Sanhedrin came into existence.
 - d. There was still the moral compass of the Law.
 - e. The oral tradition of scriptural interpretation was becoming as authoritative as the written text.
 - f. There is a societal battle between tradition and Hellenization.
11. Roman Society:
 - a. Landholders became the aristocrats of the provinces.
 - b. The middle class was almost squeezed out.
 - c. The "plebs" or "poor people," were numerous.
 - d. Slaves made up a large proportion of the population.
 - e. Under Augustus was a literary revival in Rome.
 - f. The Romans produced an excellent system of roads.
 - g. In the early days of the Republic the dominant religion was animism.
 - h. The mystery religions, mostly of eastern origin, centered around a god who had died and was resuscitated.
 - i. Occultism, consisting of superstitious practices and the powers of the universe rose in prominence.
 - j. Astrology continued to be popular in the empire.
12. Roman Philosophies:
 - a. Platonism. The real world is the world of ideas of which the material world is only a shadow.
 - b. Gnosticism. God was too great and holy to have created the material world with all its corruption. Thus matter was equated with evil and renouncing the material world and seeking the invisible world was the path to salvation.
 - c. Epicureanism. In this world there is neither purpose nor design, therefore there is no absolute good other than pleasure which is defined as the absence of pain.
 - d. Stoicism. Recognized a universe controlled by Absolute Reason which was a divine will immanent and thoroughly pervading it. Conformity to reason becomes the highest good.
 - e. Cynicism. They sought to abolish desire. Cynicism arose from abandonment of the standard of ethics.
 - f. Scepticism. If knowledge rests upon experience, there can be no final standards, since the experience of each man differs.