



Bible History

The Years of Silence

I. THE TIME

A. The Captivities and Returns

1. The northern kingdom of Israel went into captivity to Assyria ~ year 3,502 with no mass return.
2. The southern kingdom of Judah went into captivity to Babylon beginning ~ year 3,616 followed by three returns to the land of promise.
 - a. The first return ~ year 3,686
 - (1) Under Zerubbabel
 - (2) To build the temple
 - b. The second return
 - (1) Under Ezra
 - (2) To rebuild the spiritual condition
 - c. The third return
 - (1) Under Nehemiah
 - (2) To rebuild the wall

B. The Final Prophets

1. Haggai
 - a. He ministered as late as ~ year 3,706 (Ezra 6:15).
 - b. He encouraged the completion of the temple (Haggai 1:1-4).
2. Zechariah
 - a. He ministered ~ year 3,702 and beyond.
 - b. He too encouraged the completion of the temple (Zechariah 4:6-10).
3. Malachi
 - a. He ministered after the temple was complete ~ year 3,706 (Ezra 6:15).
 - b. He likely worked alongside of Ezra seeking restore spiritual worship to the southern kingdom of Judah.

C. The Look Ahead

1. The Book of Daniel declares that seventy weeks were appointed to God's people and to Jerusalem (Daniel 9:24).
 - a. These weeks were multipurpose.
 - (1) To finish the transgression
 - (2) To make an end of sins
 - (3) To make reconciliation for iniquity
 - (4) To bring in everlasting righteousness
 - (5) To seal up the vision and prophecy
 - (6) To anoint the most holy



- b. These weeks were unique.
 - (1) The weeks were prophetic at the time given.
 - (2) The weeks were each a seven-year period of time.
 - (3) All total, this would include 490 years.
2. The seventy weeks are divided into three unique periods (Daniel 9:25).
 - a. Seven weeks or forty-nine years
 - (1) This period began with the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem ~ year 3,686.
 - (2) This period ended at the conclusion of the Old Testament canon of scripture ~ year 3,735.
 - b. Sixty-two weeks or four hundred and thirty-four years
 - (1) This period begins at the closing of the Old Testament canon of scripture ~ year 3,735.
 - (2) This period concludes with the CRUCIFIXION of Christ ~ year 4,169 (Daniel 9:25-26).
 - c. One week or seven years
 - (1) This period begins with the removal of the church.
 - (2) This period concludes with the second advent of Christ to establish His millennial kingdom.
3. Doing the math on the time between the testaments
 - a. The time between the testaments is found WITHIN the sixty-two-week period of time identified by Daniel.
 - b. This period should be divided into two segments.
 - (1) The time between the testaments
 - (2) The life of Christ
 - c. In order to discover the number of years between the testaments, one must be able to calculate the age of Christ at His crucifixion and any time that passed between the opening of the New Testament and the birth of Christ.
 - (1) The time passing between the opening of the New Testament text and the birth of Christ (~ 1 year and 3 months)
 - a) Chronologically, the New Testament began just prior to the conception of John the Baptist (Luke 1:24).
 - b) Six months later, the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive Jesus (Luke 1:26).
 - c) Around nine months later, Jesus was born (Luke 2:6-7).
 - (2) The time passing between Christ's birth and the beginning of His earthly ministry (~ 30 years) (Luke 3:23)
 - (3) The time passing between the beginning of Christ's earthly ministry and His crucifixion
 - a) A Passover at the beginning of Christ's ministry at ~ 30 years of age (John 2:13, 23)
 - b) A second Passover in Christ's ministry at ~ 31 years old (John 6:4).
 - c) Christ died on the day of the Passover ~ 32 years of age (Matthew 26:2, 17, 18, 19; Mark 14:1, 12, 14, 16; Luke 22:1, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15; John 13:1; John 18:28, 39; John 19:14).



- d) It is commonly suggested that there is another Passover of which we are not told in scripture. If that were so, this would mean that Christ's final Passover occurred when He was 33.
- d. Running the math
 - (1) 434 years = Daniel's sixty-two weeks
 - (2) - 1 year 3 months = Opening of the N. T. to the birth of Christ
 - (3) - 32 years 6 months = the life of Christ
 - (4) = 400 years 3 months

II. THE CIRCUMSTANCES

A. The Introduction of Religious Sects

1. Pharisees (Acts 26:5)
 - a. They opposed eating with publicans and sinners (Matthew 9:11).
 - b. They fasted often (Matthew 9:14).
 - c. They were concerned about one's conduct on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:2).
 - d. They were concerned about eating with unwashed hands (Matthew 15:1-2).
 - e. They were strict concerning the tithe (Luke 18:12).
 - f. They confess (Acts 23:8)
 - (1) Resurrection
 - (2) Angels
 - (3) Spirits
2. Sadducees
 - a. Much less is known of the Sadducees.
 - b. They were considered the less strict sect.
 - c. They denied (Acts 23:8)
 - (1) Resurrection
 - (2) Angels
 - (3) Spirits

B. The Introduction of Traditions

1. They had introduced many non-Bible based traditions (Matthew 15:2).
2. Their traditions transgressed the commandments of God (Matthew 15:2).
3. They made the word of God of none effect (Matthew 15:6).

C. The Ignorance of God

1. There was a hypocritical clinging to supposed righteousness (Matthew 23:1-39).
2. The religious leaders were blind and ignorant concerning sound doctrine (Matthew 16:6-12).
3. They did not know God (John 3:10; John 8:42; John 16:3).