

The New Testament: An Historical Timeline

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Just to start us off

- **Have you ever read the book of Malachi?**
- **In relation to Jesus' ministry, do world events leading up to his time matter?**
- **If they mattered then, with respect to God's mission, do world events matter now?**

Malachi

- **Written in 430 BC**
- **Israel, the nation, had again turned from the LORD**
 - Malachi's prophecy was one of repentance
- **Malachi prophesied of:**
 - A messenger to prepare the way (3:1)
 - The return of Elijah (4:5 and Luke 1:17)
 - John the Baptist's response (John 1:19-23)

Big events:

430 BC to 4 BC

- **Alexander the Great:**
 - ~330 BC
 - Greek Language
- **Antiochus IV Epiphanes**
 - Dec 167 – Dec 164 BC
 - Pagan statue (Zeus) and pigs in the Temple
 - Judas Maccabaeus led a revolt
 - Dec 164 rescinded, allowed Jews to worship
 - Hanukkah: Rededicate the Temple, Oil miracle

Big events: 430 BC to 4 BC

- **Pompey**

- Roman General
- Occupied Jerusalem in 63 BC
- Entered the Holy of Holies

- **Julius Caesar**

- Friend of Jews
- Emperor 49-44 BC
- Assigned Antipater as praefectus/procurator of Judaea
- Assassinated March 15, 44 BC (Ides of March)

Big events: 430 BC to 4 BC

- **Antipater**

- Rescued Caesar in Alexandria
- Caesar made him a Roman Citizen
- Prefect/Procurator of Judaea
- Had two sons – Phasael and Herod (The Great)

- **Octavian and Antony**

- Co-ruled Rome
- Antony teamed up with Cleopatra of Egypt
- Octavian achieved the “Pax Romana”
- Handed Republic back to Senate and People (kind of)
- Changed name to Augustus

Big events:

430 BC to 4 BC

- **Herod The Great**

- Ruled for 33 years (37 – 4 BC)
- Good friend of Marcus Agrippa, Augustus' son-in-law
- Fantastic Builder – cities, Temple expansion
- Caesarea took 12 years, artificial port
- Temple – 1000 Levites trained, services continued
- Temple – Stage One 10 years, finished 63 AD
- Tried to be a Jew, but built pagan temples
- Declared “King of the Jews” by Senate in 40 BC

Big events: 430 BC to 4 BC

- **Herod The Great**

- 3 wives, many sons, many “deaths”
- Split territory into 3
- Antipas (Galilee), Philip (North), Archelaus (Judaea)
- Antipas (Herod) – 42 years; Philip – 37 years
- Archelaus – Really bad, removed by Augustus in 6 AD
- 6 AD Judaea became a Roman Province
- Roman garrison and prefect installed
- Died March of 4 BC (Matthew 2:16)

New Testament Dates

- **6 – 4 BC: Birth Of Jesus**
- **30 or 33 AD: Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, ascension**
- **50s to Early 60s: Letters of Paul**
- **Late 60s to Mid 90s: Gospels and Acts**
- **90s: Letters of John and Revelation**

New Testament Authors

- **Matthew and Mark did not sign their gospels**
- **Luke and John signed their gospels**
- **Paul wrote his letters (probably...)**
- **Hebrews and Jude are unknown**
- **James is the brother of Jesus**
- **1, 2, 3 John and Revelation from the Apostle John**

Purpose

- **Gospels:**
 - Tell Jesus' story
 - 1/3rd of them focus on his passion
- **Letters:**
 - Occasional in nature
 - Written in response or for a specific reason
- **Acts:**
 - History of the early church
- **Revelation:**
 - About Jesus
 - Jesus wins!

Extrabiblical Writings

- **Clement of Rome: Bishop of Rome, died 99 AD**
- **Polycarp: Last man alive disciplined by an Apostle**
- **Ireaneus: Knew Polycarp, early theologian**
- **Ignatius: Roles of Bishops, Sacraments, ecclesiology**
- **Tertullian: Coined the term *Trinitas***
- **Origen: 2000 works! *First Principles* and *Hexapla***

Historical Writings

- **Neronian Persecution**
 - Written by Tacitus in 64
 - Pg. 1 of “Documents of the Christian Church”
- **Pliny (the Younger) and Emperor Trajan’s exchange**
 - Written by Pliny and Trajan in 112
 - Pg. 4 of “Documents of the Christian Church”

Questions?