

Six Periods of Rulers over Palestine

Persian rule 535-333 BC – Jews allowed to return to Palestine, but many stayed in Babylon, and travelled to other lands. Aramaic commonly spoken.

Greek rule 333-323 BC – brought Greek culture and Greek language.

Egyptian rule (Greek descent – Ptolemies) 323-204 BC – some Jews deported to Egypt. Septuagint translated and compiled.

Syrian rule (Greek descent – Seleucids) 204-165 BC – became an oppressive ruler of Palestine. Temple desecrated.

Jewish independent rule (Maccabees / Hasmoneans) 165-63 BC – revolted against Seleucids. Established a Jewish homeland and king again.

Roman rule 63 BC - c.650 AD – almost every person mentioned in NT (4BC to 68AD) came under Roman rule. Allowed Jews a degree of self government.

“When the time had fully come, God sent His Son ...” (Galatians 4:4)

Spiritual Activity in the Early New Testament

Order of events ...

- * Zachariah is visited by an angel – “you will have a son” - Luke 1:5-17
- * Mary is visited by an angel – “you will have a son” - Luke 1:26-35 (cp. Luke 2:21)
- * The Holy Spirit "overshadows" Mary - Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:18
This is the first documented activity ascribed to the Holy Spirit after 450 years of no interaction with mankind.
- * Joseph is visited by an angel – “Mary will have a son, conceived by the Holy Spirit” -
Mathew 1:18-21
- * Mary visits Elizabeth who is filled with the Holy Spirit and speaks a blessing. Luke 1:39-45
- * John is born (Luke 1:57), and is filled with the Holy Spirit from birth
- Luke 1:15, 76; 7:24-28
- * Zachariah is filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesies - Luke 1:67
- * The baby Jesus is born (Luke 2:6,7), and an angel visits shepherds to announce this
- Luke 2:8-15
- * Simeon - Holy Spirit upon him, revealed by the Spirit to him that he would see the Christ before he died, led by the Spirit to the temple. - Luke 2:25-29
- * Anna - a prophetess (ie, speaking as moved by the Holy Spirit, prophecy came not by the will of man ... 2 Peter 1:21)- Luke 2:36-38