

## **From Malachi to Christ**

### Lesson # 10 Between Testaments

The Persians would only rule for about 100 years until it was gored by the “he goat” of Daniels prophecy which was Alexander the Great. At the age of 20 Alexander’s dream was to transplant the seeds of the Greek civilization and culture. He gave the world a universal language that paved the way for the beginning of Christianity. He gave special treatment to the Jews and set them in high places and important centers in his empire. Because these Jewish centers of influence reached throughout the empire, expectations of a coming Messiah was widely spread. The Old Testament scriptures would be translated into Greek (called the Septuigent) for all to read.

In 204-165 BC Palastine came under the rule of Syrian Kings. Antiochus IV, one of those kings, set out to destroy the Jews. In 168 he came to Jerusalem and killed 40 thousand and desecrated the temple by sacrificing a sow upon its alter. (Some think this is the abomination that causes desolation mentioned in the NT) He devoted their temple to foreign god’s.

A band of pious Jews, led by Mattathias (a priest) and his sons, revolted and Antiochus failed to crush these rebels called Maccabees. Judas Maccabee entered Jerusalem in 165 BC purifying the temple and reestablishing worship. Judas after Antiochus had died became governor of Palastine. The Maccabean rule lasted about 100 years until 63 BC when Rome came to power.

Rome was ruled by governors (until the monarchy of Augustus Caesar). Herod the Great was appointed governor of Galilee and would be the cruel monster would try to have the baby Jesus killed.

Finally the world was ready for the Messiah!