

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE



RECAP

- ▶ Remember, the Old Testament is called the "TaNaK" in Hebrew. This is a type of acronym that was used to remember the different sections
 - ▶ "Ta" stands for the Torah >> aka the Law; the first five books that provide a foundation for the history of Israel
 - ▶ "Na" stands for the Nevi'im >> Hebrew word for "Prophets" which includes certain historical books that tell the story from the prophets point of view & then the actual prophets themselves
 - ▶ "K" stands for the Ketuvim >> Hebrew word for "Writings" which is a diverse collection of poetic books, wisdom books, & more narratives about the history of Israel

THE END OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

- ▶ Malachi 4:5-6 | "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."
- ▶ At the time of this warning, the Jews had returned from Babylonian captivity, but we still under the authority of the Medo-Persians. In 333 BC, Israel fell to the Greeks & in 323 BC to the Egyptians (after the death of Alexander the Great).
- ▶ Jewish persecution ramped up around 204 BC. But when the Romans gained control in 63 BC, the Roman peace (Pax Romana) brought about the next event on God's redemptive calendar.

THE FULLNESS OF TIME

- ▶ Daniel 2:21 | He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;
- ▶ Ephesians 1:7-10 | In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom & insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
- ▶ Galatians 4:4-5 | Galatians 4:4-7 | But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
- ▶ There was a "fullness of time" that prompted the Messiah's coming:

- Pax Romana >> created a kind of “interstate” road system which was perfect for the Good News to travel quickly to the corners of the known world.
- Greek Language >> Greek was not only the dominant language in common usage, but it also provided a rich arsenal of vocabulary & rhetoric to explain the most beautiful message anyone has ever heard.
- Empty Ideas >> “Historians tell us that the Roman world was in great expectation, waiting for a Deliverer, at the time when Jesus was born. The old religions were dying; the old philosophies were empty and powerless to change men’s lives. Strange new mystery religions were invading the empire. Religious bankruptcy and spiritual hunger were everywhere. God was preparing the world for the arrival of His Son.”
-Warren Wiersbe

400 YEARS IN THE JEWISH MIND

- The number of years had significance:
- Genesis 15:13 | Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.
- In the book of Exodus, God raised up a leader named Moses to lead God’s people out of the bondage of Egypt & into the Promised Land of Cana.
- Once again God’s people had been enslaved. Once again they needed an Exodus. Once & for all they needed a Deliverer.

