

BIBLE MINOR - NEW TESTAMENT LITERATURE

Dr. Michael McKay

Session 2: The Bible as Story (part 2) Interlude (part 1) (47:53)

Review: 2 Significant Points (22:28)

1. Reading the New Testament and Old Testament as one unified story is incredibly profitable and needful for making sense of what's going on in God's revelation.
2. The Old Testament can be viewed through the lens of a 6 act play, all pointing to the Gospels.

ACT 1: CREATION - Genesis 1-2

ACT 2: THE FALL - Rebellion of Humanity - Genesis 3-11

ACT 3: ISRAEL - Redemption Initiated - Genesis 12 to Malachi

And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." Luke 24:25-27

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Messiah), the Son of God. (OT titles) As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, Mark 1:1-2

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
Matt 1:1*

C. Act 3 The King chooses Israel: Redemption Initiated (Gen 12- Malachi).

1. Scene 1: God chooses a people.
 - a. God makes a covenant with Abraham to bless him, to make him a blessing, to make a nation from him, and to give him land.
 1. God rescues Abraham's descendants from Egypt and makes them a nation.
 2. God makes a covenant with Israel - the Law.
 3. God gives Israel a mission: to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Ex 19:1-6).
 4. God dwells with his people and provides a way for them to be in his **presence** - the Tabernacle.
2. Scene 2: God provides a land for his people.
 - a. Israel enters the Promised Land and God fights for them.

- b. God provides David as King and makes a covenant with him concerning a perpetual lineage.

*Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." But... the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house (**temple**) to dwell in?... In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"... When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house (**dynasty, lineage**) for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son... And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'" 2 Sam 7:1-17*

- c. The kingdom divides into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. (line of David)
- d. Ultimately, both Israel (Assyria) and Judah (Babelonia) rebel against the Lord and are exiled from the Land.
- e. However, God restores Israel to their land from exile. (Nehemiah, Ezra, 516 B.C. a new temple is built... lacking the presence of God)

INTERLUDE (OT ends - NT begins)

ACT 4: COMING KING - Redemption Accomplished - The Gospels

ACT 5: MISSION OF THE CHURCH

ACT 6: RETURN OF THE KING: Redemption Completed

II. How does the OT end? It is an unfinished story.

A. The prophetic expectations.

- 1. **Torah** - the Law will be written on their hearts and they will obey in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. Ez 36:26-27 (They would be obedient)

2. **“Turf”** - Israel will be restored to their promised land with Jerusalem as their capital and all the nations will come to Jerusalem and worship the Lord. (Isa 2:1-4) (Independent, not enslaved)

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. Isa 2:1-4

3. **Throne** - a King from the line of David will rule. (The Messiah)
4. **Temple** - the presence of God will return to be with his people.

*‘Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes? Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work, for I am with you,... And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts.... The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts.’”
Haggai 2:3-4, 7, 9*

The Old Testament ends with the expectations of what God was going to do for the Jewish people: Provide them a king, independence in their own land, His presence via a temple, and give them the ability to obey Him by the Holy Spirit and a new heart.

B. Promised individual:

1. A “serpent-crusher” will be from the line of Eve (Gen 3:15)

*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” Gen 3:15
(Deliverer)*

2. A prophet like Moses (Deut 18:15-19)

*“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’
And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’
Deut 18:15-19*

3. A suffering servant (Isa 52:13-53:12) who will be crushed for the sin of the people.

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind... he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him... he was despised, and we esteemed him not... But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed...

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth...

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt,... by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. He was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. Isa 52:13-53:12

4. A “son of man” (Dan 7:13-14) who will establish an eternal kingdom.

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. Dan 7:13-14

5. A ruler from Judah (Gen 49:8-10) from the line of David (Isa 9:6-7); Jer 33:15-16) to be born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2-4).

“Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. Gen 49:8-10

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon] his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. Isa 9:6-7

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’ Jer 33:15-16

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth, then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. Mic 5:2-4

The Old Testament tells us what the Messiah is supposed to look like.

In the New Testament we see that Jesus is the one who meets the description of the Messiah.

Interlude: The Intertestamental Period (25:25)

Roman Catholic - Greek Orthodox Apocryphal books are included in some canons of the Old Testament (i.e., Tobith and Judith)

Where did all the institutions come from in the New Testament that are absent in the Old Testament? (i.e., How did the Romans become in charge of Israel and ultimately crucify Jesus?) Where did the Synagogues in the (OT) or groups like the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Hasmoneans come from?

These 400 years weren't silent at all. The Jewish people were extremely active during this time.

3 Things we'll look at:

1. Broad world history events - Rome being in charge of Israel.
2. Significant events that happened within Israel that are significant for their own independence and then loss of independence.
3. Literature prevalent during this time.

I. Intertestamental history (i.e., Second Temple history).

A. God raises up the Persian Empire to put Israel back in the land.

722 B.C. Israel is taken into exile by the Assyrians

586 B.C. The southern kingdom of Judah is taken into exile by the Babylonians

539 B.C. The Persian conquered the Babylonians - Edict of Cyrus allows the Jewish people to go back home and rebuild their temple, offer sacrifices and prayers for him, and govern themselves.

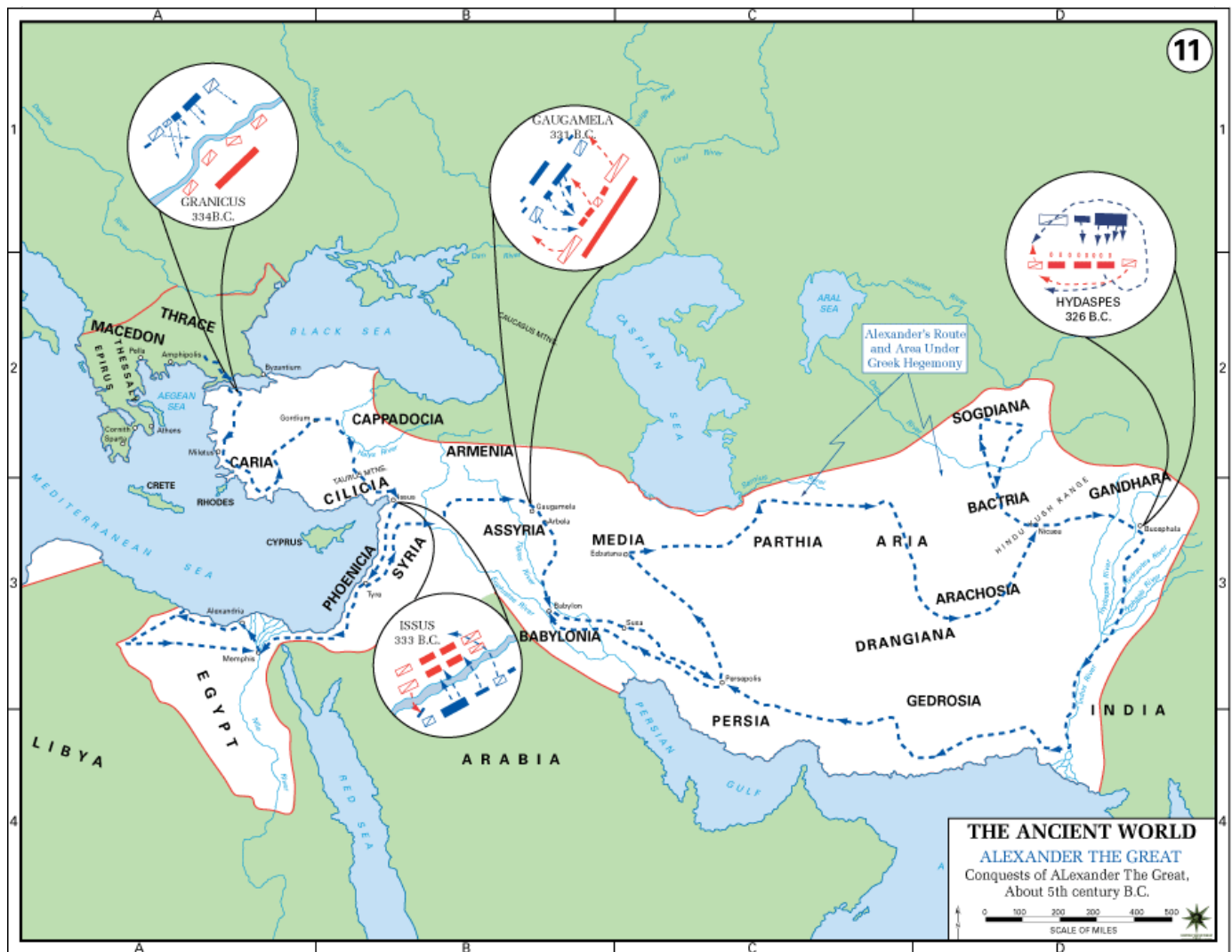
1. The OT ends with the Persian Empire (incredibly wealthy and influential) conquering Babylon and allowing the Jews to return to their land, rebuild Jerusalem's walls, and rebuild their Temple (539 B.C.). See Ezra and Jeremiah.
2. Although some Jews went back to the land, the majority stayed in Babylon where they had established themselves. (over that last 70 years)

B. The military prowess of Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.) and his successors dismantle the Persian Empire.

1. Alexander the Great systematically conquers the Persian Empire. He gutted Asia Minor and unified the city-states of ancient Greece though he was Macedonian. He wept because there were no more kingdoms to conquer. He dies before returning home where his massive "empire" was divided by his generals into the Ptolemaic Empires of North Africa and Israel and the Seleucid Empire.
 - a. Alexander's conquests brought Greek language and culture to Asia (i.e., Hellenization). It explains why the NT is written in Greek.
 - b. Alexander "conquered" Israel (322 B.C.??).

"... the Samaritans and inhabitants of Judah voluntarily switched allegiance from Persia to Alexander and apparently were left virtually undisturbed."

(J. Julius Scott Jr, Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament, 79)



C. Brief Jewish independence: The Hasmonean period.

1. When Antiochus IV came to rule the Seleucid empire (175 B.C.) he tried to force the Jews to conform to Greek customs. (attempted to eradicate jewish distinctiveness for political and tax reasons)
 - a. He looted the Temple; killed many Jews on the Sabbath when they would not fight back; and outlawed circumcision, the reading of the Law, and sacrifices. (Jewish children would have attended Greek schools)
 - b. He sacrificed a pig on the Temple altar to Zeus.
 - c. Because of Antiochus' actions, the Jewish people generally turned against the Gentiles and viewed them as hostile to their Law and way of life.

2. The Maccabean Revolt (167-63 B.C.)

- a. A Jewish family rose up and started waging guerrilla warfare against Antiochus. (after Jewish sacrifices to Greek gods were required) Sons of Mattathias become prominent leadership over Israel.
- b. Eventually, they were able to gain freedom for Israel to practice the Mosaic Law and for a brief time even political independence. Hanukkah, which we associate with Christmas, is the celebration of independence during this time, and more specifically the cleansing of the temple. Could this be the Messiah?
- c. This family became rulers of Israel and were known as Hasmoneans. They began by resisting the Hellenization of Judaism, (Gentile influence) but after a few generations they whole-heartedly embraced Greek culture.

The Pharisees, Sadducees and Essenes are all responding to how the Hasmoneans have ruled. By the time we get to the New Testament, these groups of different perspectives are well known throughout Israel.

D. The dominance of the Roman Empire (63 B.C. - A.D. 135).

1. In 63 B.C. The Roman general Pompey conquered Jerusalem and made Israel to be a Roman possession. He went into the Holy of Holies in the Temple to see what was there... the ultimate sacrilege.
Tax collectors were seen as collaborating with the enemy.

Why wasn't Pompey struck dead when he entered the temple?

This was the 2nd temple, God had never returned to that particular geographic place, His presence was not there.

- Between this time... Jesus lived and ministered, died and ascended into heaven. 33 or 34 A.D.
2. The Jews rebelled against Rome in the first century (A.D. 63-70) which resulted in the Temple and Jerusalem being destroyed in A.D. 70. Zealots started attacking and killing Jewish sympathizers and Roman officials.

3. A second Jewish rebellion “Bar Kokhba” was defeated by the Romans in A.D. 135. It was illegal for Jewish people to go into Jerusalem, which was changed to a Roman name. Israel did not politically exist.

A group of Jewish rebels encamped at Masada; Herod’s summer home next to the Dead Sea. The Romans built a ramp as they surrounded Masada so they could walk up and kill everyone in it. Instead of the Jews fighting back or turning themselves in, they all committed suicide. They died on their own terms. This was the end of the rebellion.

1948 we see the Jewish people living in their land as an independent nation once again.