



Grades 4–5 • Unit 12 • Lesson 119

400 Years of Waiting

Daniel 8:20–24; Mark 7:1–8

The 400-year period between the Old and New Testaments was an eventful time in history, but the details below have been mixed up! Fix the historical account by finding the correct word from the word bank and writing it above each incorrect bold word. Then read your correct version.



WORD BANK

GOAT
GREECE
JERUSALEM
JESUS
LANGUAGE
PERSIANS
PHARISEES
LANGUAGE
ROMAN

Name _____

God gave Daniel a vision of a ram and a 1) **bull**. The ram with two

_____ horns represented the Medes and the 2) **Russians** rising to power.

The goat defeating the ram stood for 3) **Rome** defeating the Medes

and Persians. Things happened just as God showed Daniel. Alexander

the Great conquered the known world and made Greek the common

_____ 4) **art**. The Greek influence in Israel made the 5) **Sadducees** upset.

The Sadducees and Pharisees fought for power until the Romans

_____ defeated 6) **Antioch** in 64 BC. It was during this time, when the Jews

_____ were under 7) **Greek** rule, that God chose to send 8) **Elijah** to earth.

Answers: 1) goat, 2) Persians, 3) Greece, 4) language, 5) Pharisees, 6) Jerusalem, 7) Roman, 8) Jesus

Memory Verse

How well do you know the memory verse? Fill in the blanks by memory or look up the verse for help.

I will _____ the fortunes of Judah and the _____ of Israel, and _____ them as they were at first. I will _____ them from all the _____ of their sin against me, and I will _____ all the guilt of their sin and _____ against me. **JEREMIAH 33:7–8**

What You Heard *In the Word*

- God was in control of the rise and fall of the Persian, Greek, and Roman Empires leading to the time of Jesus.
- The Pharisees and Sadducees were two Jewish groups that formed with different views about Greek influence on their people.

OutWord *For Family Discussion*

Suppose your friend says she obeys her parents and teachers and is kind to others, so she thinks God will let her into heaven. **What could you say?**

That's great that you are obeying and being kind. But the Bible is clear that salvation is the gift of God received by faith, not gained through our good works. God cares about our heart attitude, like if we are really sorry for the wrong things we've done. Nothing we do can take away our sin problem except turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus and what he did on the cross to take the punishment we deserve. People in Jesus' day, called the Pharisees, thought they were righteous and good because they obeyed a whole bunch of rules related to the laws in the Bible. But Jesus saw their heart attitudes like jealousy, lying, hatred, and pride. Until they confessed those sins to God and believed in Jesus, they would not enter heaven. The good news about Jesus is that salvation is a gift. You don't have the pressure and worry of working your own way to heaven. You just need to accept what Jesus has already done!



HomeWord *For Parents*

The 400 years between the last Old Testament prophet Malachi and the coming of Jesus to start the New Testament was a tumultuous time in history. In Daniel 8, Daniel records a vision of a ram and a goat, revealed to represent Medo-Persia and Greece. Medo-Persia fell to Greece under the leadership of Alexander the Great. Greece was later divided into four kingdoms ruled by Alexander's generals after his death.

One of Alexander's generals, Seleucus, reigned in Syria. Eventually, Jerusalem fell under Seleucid control. One of the Seleucid kings, , sacked Jerusalem in 167 BC, setting up a statue of Zeus in the temple and offering pigs as a sacrifice on the altar. In response, a group of zealous Jews rebelled against the Greeks. This revolt came to be known as the Maccabean Revolt under the leadership of Judas Maccabaeus. This group retook Jerusalem, though greatly outnumbered, and purified the temple. The Jewish feast of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, was first celebrated and is commemorated to this day. The Jews remained relatively independent until 64 BC, when the Romans took Jerusalem. It was under this government that the New Testament opens.

God was in control of the rise and fall of empires as he prepared the world for the Messiah. The Greek Empire united the world, spreading a common language and culture. It was due to the Greek love of scholarship that the Septuagint was compiled, gathering the Hebrew scriptures and translating them into Greek. It was also in response to Hellenization, among other factors, that the Jewish sects (Pharisees and Sadducees) arose as rival parties. Under Roman influence, great roads and infrastructure were built, paving the way for the spread of the church. It was during this time that Herod the Great rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem.

For 400 years, the Jews waited with no new revelation from God, enduring great conflict and cultural tension. "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" (Galatians 4:4-5).

