

The World Behind the Word: A Background to the New Testament

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Overview

What happened in the 400 years between the Old Testament and the New Testament – and why should we care? How exactly are these Testaments connected and how does that affect our reading of the scripture? In this class we will delve into the events of the "intertestamental period" from both a historical and cultural context. We will explore the first century Jewish culture and how it differs from the Jewish culture of the Old Testament; as well as our Christian culture today. The goal of this course is to provide the broad strokes of this transitory period in order to equip us with tools to understand our text, both old and new, through the lens of it's original audience with all of the context of their day.

Useful Resources

- BEMA Podcast
- Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament - J. Julius Scott Jr.
- The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown - Andreas J. Köstenberger

Major Topics

- Intertestamental History
- 1st Century Jewish Culture
- Connecting the Old Testament & New Testament

Outline

Week 1. . Into Babylon	Week 9. . Herodians
Week 2. . Out of Babylon	Week 10. . Essenes
Week 3. . The Persion Period	Week 11. . Zealots
Week 4. . The Hellenistic Period	Week 12. . Pharisees
Week 5. . The Hasmonean Period	Week 13. . Synagogue
Week 6. . Hopes of a Messiah	Week 14. . Bonus: Special Topics
Week 7. . The Roman Period	Week 15. . Bonus: Special Topics
Week 8. . Sadducees	Week 16. . Bonus: Special Topics