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Historical Background

- ✓ Second Temple Period (538 BC 70 AD)
- ✓ Four basic periods:
 - ❖ Persian Period (538–332 BC)
 - Hellenistic Period (332–142 BC; Alex the Great, Ptolemies, Seleucids)
 - ❖ Maccabean/Hasmonean Period (166–163 BC)
 - * Roman Period (63 BC onward)

Five Major Jewish Crises

- ✓ Reestablishment: of Israelite population, of Jerusalem, of temple, of proper worship
- ✓ Collapse of Persian Empire and Influence of Hellenism
- ✓ Violent Persecution by Antiochus Epiphanes (168–164 BC)
- ✓ Domination of Palestine by Rome (63 BC 70 AD)
- ✓ Roman Destruction of Jewish States and Second Temple (66-73 AD)

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Social Background

In Palestine ...

- ✓ Aristocrats—"Elders"
 - ❖ Non-religious land owners
- ✓ Religious Establishment
 - Chief Priests
 - Scribes
- ✓ People of the Land—"multitude"

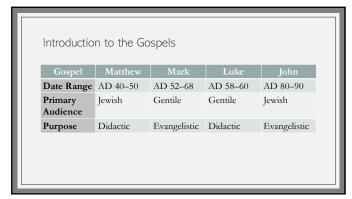
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Social Background

The Diaspora (the dispersed 80% of Jews)

- ✓ Hebraists (Acts 6:1)
- ✓ Hellenists (Acts 6:1)
- ✓ Proselytes (Acts 2:10; 6:5; 13:43)
- ✓ God-fearers (Acts 10, 13, 16, 17, 18)

	Religious Background The Places	
	✓ Temple	
	✓ Synagogues ❖ Centers of religious and social life	
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	Religious Background	
	The Parties ✓ Hassideans (Hassidim)	
	✓ Pharisees ✓ Sadducees	
	✓ Zealots	
	✓ Sicarii ✓ Essenes	
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	Introduction to the Gospels	
	✓ Multiple Accounts	
	 Historical Weight Old Testament precedent 	
	 ❖ Will of the Holy Spirit ✓ Literary Genre(s) (type[s]) 	
	❖ History❖ Memoirs	
	BiographyGospel	



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Introduction to the Gospels

Summary of Relationship

- ✓ Matthew for Jewish Believers
- ✓ Mark for Gentile Unbelievers
- ✓ Luke for Gentile Believers
- \checkmark John for Jewish Unbelievers

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