

BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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New Testament Background

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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)

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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)

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Religious Background

The Places

- ✓ Temple
 - ❖ Center of Jewish worship
- ✓ 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
 - ❖ Biography
 - ❖ Gospel

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Introduction to the Gospels

Gospel	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Date Range	AD 40–50	AD 52–68	AD 58–60	AD 80–90
Primary Audience	Jewish	Gentile	Gentile	Jewish
Purpose	Didactic	Evangelistic	Didactic	Evangelistic

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Introduction to the Gospels

Summary of Relationship

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

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