Introductory Lecture
"The Fullness of Time"

Introduction

- *The Fullness of Time*
  - *Intertestamental Period*
  - *Historical Background*

The Fullness of Time

1. *For the World*
   - Universal peace
   - Universal language
   - Universal culture
   - International highway system
   - International postal system
   - World in spiritual vacuum

The Fullness of Time

2. *For the Jew*
   - Jewish dispersion
   - Identity crisis
   - Political changes
   - Language changes
   - Social changes
   - Samaritan nation
   - Scribism
   - Torah emphasis
   - Pharisees, synagogues
   - Oral tradition
   - Apocalyptic writings
   - Sanhedrin
   - New doctrines
   - Alexandrian philos.
   - Sectarian groups

Introduction

Intertestamental Period

1. *The Time Frame*
2. *The Resources*
   - Biblical: 1–2 Chron., Ezra, Neh., Esther, Hag., Zech., Malachi
   - Religious: Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Qumran
   - Rabbinic: Mishnah, Talmud, Targums
   - Historians: Josephus, Polybius, Tacitus, Suetonius, Livy
   - Secular writers: Philo, Pliny the Younger, Strabo, philosophers, dramatists

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Introduction

Historical Background

1. *Assyrian Period (722 B.C., racial issues)*
   - Jewish kingdom
     - Establishing Davidic kingdom (David, Solomon)
     - Splitting Davidic kingdom
       - Israel = Northern Kingdom (Jeroboam)
       - Judah = Southern Kingdom (Rehoboam)
   - Assyrian Captivity (722 B.C.)
     - Sargon II: deportation, resettlement, nation lost
     - Sets up racial issues (Samaritans)

Historical Background

2. *Babylonian Period (586 B.C., captivity issues)*
   - Judah's eventual fall (605–539 B.C.)
     - Three catastrophic rebellions
   - Babylonian Captivity (586 B.C.)
     - Nebuchadnezzar II: temple destroyed, nation lost, Babylonian captivity
     - Sets up captivity issues
       - new Jewish thought and emphasis on law
       - new institutions (synagogue)

> Jehoahaz (605)
> Jehoiachim (597)
> Zedekiah (587)

Historical Background

3. *Persian Period*
   - Dependent status (539–332 B.C.)
   - Return issues