

From Malachi to Christ

The Intertestamental Period

The “Period of Silence”

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The 400+ year period of history that intervened between the close of the Book of Malachi (the Old Testament) and the beginning of the Book of Matthew (the New Testament), has been referred to as:
1. The Intertestamental Period — (the period in-between the two testaments)
 2. The “Period of Silence” — (God was not providing direct revelation to man)
- B. When the Old Testament Canon closed a remnant of the Jews, chiefly of the tribe of Judah and survivors of the priests and Levites that had returned to Palestine under the leadership of Zerubbabel, and about eighty years later another company under Ezra, was established in their land with the Temple rebuilt and their religious institutions organized.
1. The greater part of the Jewish people were scattered throughout the Persian Empire.
 2. We are again reminded that the success of God’s will does not depend on numbers.
- C. The last three historical books of the Old Testament (Ezra, Esther, and Nehemiah) give us the history of this period for about a hundred years following the decree of Cyrus permitting the Jews to return to their land (536-432 B.C.).
1. Thus from Nehemiah to the beginning of the New Testament is a period of a little more than four hundred years.
 2. During this time no historian or prophet appeared. Thus the designation as the “Period of Silence.”
- D. In coming to New Testament times it is important that we know the facts relative to the chosen people from the time of Nehemiah and Malachi.
1. During the extended period there have been great happenings in the world’s history. The seat of world power has passed from Asia to Europe, and bound up in these events are the fortunes of the Messianic people.
 - a. In the later books of the Old Testament Asia was prevalent with the Babylonian Empire followed by the Empire of the Medes and the Persians.
 - b. In the New Testament Europe is prevalent with the Medo-Persian kingdom having given way to the Macedonian or Grecian Kingdom during the Intertestamental Period, and the Grecian kingdom having

given way to the Roman Empire which we find in place as the New Testament Book of Matthew opens.

c. A tremendous amount of transition occurs during the 400-year period of silence.

2. For these facts we must rely upon:

a. Greek historians.

b. Latin historians.

c. Josephus

d. Some books of the Apocrypha.

E. Before detailing the events of the period from Malachi to Christ, let's take a moment to review Daniel's explanation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the great image as recorded in

Daniel 2:31-45 - "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

32 "This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,

33 "its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

34 "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

37 "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;

38 "and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all-- you are this head of gold.

39 "But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

40 "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

41 "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

42 "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.

43 "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

45 "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold-- the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

1. The four kingdoms represented by the great image.
 - a. The head of gold represented — The Babylonian Empire (612-539 B.C.) Lasted about 73 years.
 - b. The breast & arms of silver represented — The Medo-Persian Kingdom (539-331 B.C.) Lasted about 208 years.
 - c. The belly thighs of brass represented — The Grecian-Macedonian Empire (331-167 B.C.) Lasted about 164 years.
 - d. The legs of iron and feet part iron and part clay represented — The Roman Empire (63 B.C. - 476 A.D.) Lasted about 413 years.
- B. Here is where it all comes together.
 - a. All the years of the Babylonian Empire took place during the Old Testament period.
 - b. About half of the Medo-Persian kingdom years took place during the Old Testament period and the other half during the Intertestamental Period.
 - c. All of the years of the Grecian-Macedonian kingdom took place during the Intertestamental years.
 - d. The early years of the Roman Empire took place during the Intertestamental period and moved into the New Testament period.

THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE

- A. In 538 B.C. Medo-Persia brought an end the Babylonian Empire.
 1. At the close of the Old Testament, the Medo-Persian kingdom had existed for about 100 years.
 2. The Medo-Persians were mild and tolerant of and to the Jews.
 - a. They allowed the high priest to exercise his religious functions.
 - b. After Palestine was annexed to Syria, the high priests, under the governors of Syria, enjoyed considerable political power in the government of the country.

- c. Owing to its geographical position, Palestine suffered greatly from the wars between Persia and Egypt.
- B. At the close of the Peloponnesian War, when Athens was overthrown by the victorious Spartans, the Greeks attempted to place Cyrus, brother of Artaxerxes Mnemon, on the Persian throne. They were defeated by Artaxerxes and wars followed.
- C. Persia fell to Alexander the Great at the battle of Arbela in 331 B.C.

THE GRECIAN-MACEDONIAN EMPIRE

- A. Up to this time the great powers of the world had been in Asia (Assyria, Babylonia, and Persia) and Africa (Egypt). But looming ominously on the western horizon was the rising power of Greece.
 - 1. The beginnings of Greek history are veiled in myth.
 - 2. It is thought to have commenced about the 12th century B.C., the time of the Biblical Judges.
 - 3. Then came the Trojan War, and Homer, about 1000 B.C., the age of David and Solomon.
 - 4. The beginning of authentic Greek history has usually be reckoned from the First Olympiad, 776 B.C.
 - 5. Then came the:
 - a. The Formation of Hellenic States, 776-500 B. C.
 - b. The Persian Wars with its many famous battles, 500-331.
 - b. The era of Pericles, 456-429 B.C., and Socrates, 469-399 B.C., contemporaries with Ezra and Nehemiah.
- B. The ambitions of Philip of Macedon were realized by his illustrious son, Alexander . . . Better known to history as Alexander the Great.
 - 1. In 336 B.C. (during the Intertestamental Period), at the age of 20, assumed command of the Greek army, and, like a meteor, swept eastward over the lands that had previously been under the dominion of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and Persia, in altering the course of human history.
 - 2. By 331, only five years later, the whole world lay at his feet.
 - 3. On his invasion of Palestine in 332, B.C., he:
 - a. Showed great consideration to the Jews.
 - b. Spared Jerusalem.
 - c. Offered immunities to the Jews to settle in Alexandria.
 - 4. He established Greek cities all over his conquered domains, and along with them Greek culture and the Greek language.
 - 5. After a brief reign of some thirteen years, Alexander the Great died in 323 B.C. at the age of 33.

6. Alexander's efforts provided an important preparation for the reception of Christianity.
7. Within the remarkably brief period of his reign, Alexander became the master of Greece, Asia, Egypt, and Syria.
8. By encouraging the Jews to settle in various centers throughout his realm, the truths of the Old Testament and their anticipation of a coming Messiah, was spread as well.
9. After conquering Egypt, he founded the city of Alexandria which became the meeting place of the East and the West
 - a. Alexandria is where the Septuagint (the translation of the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek) would take place. This would be the version common during the time of Christ.
 - b. **Acts 18:24** - "Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus."
 - c. As a pupil of Aristotle Alexander was trained by the master mind in matters of philosophy.
 1. He gave the world a universal language and a universal culture.
 2. This language and culture would later enable Christianity to flourish.
 - d. Alexander appreciated the intelligence, industriousness and steadiness of the Jewish people, and in placing them in Alexandria and other centers, they were brought into worldwide contacts. This would later prove helpful for spreading the Gospel of Christ.
 1. Away from Jerusalem, from the sacrificial part of their worship, greater attention was given to the Law and the prophets and the result was that in the countries of their dispersion the expectation of the coming Messiah widely spread.
 2. God was readying the world for the coming of Christ and for the spread of the kingdom He would establish.

PERIOD OF THE PTOLEMIES

- A. On Alexander's death in 323 B.C., as predicted by Daniel, his kingdom was separated into four parts and divided between four generals.
 1. Daniel had predicted that the great horn would be broken and in its place would rise four horns.
 2. God's word is forever true.
- B. Egypt, and later Palestine, fell to Ptolemy.
 1. Great numbers of Jews were settled in Egypt.
 2. Ptolemy Philadelphus treated them kindly, and during his reign their sacred Hebrew writings were translated into Greek in a translation to be called the Septuagint.
 - a. It was made at the request of Ptolemy Philadelphus.
 - b. 70 Jews, skilled linguists, were sent from Jerusalem to Egypt.

- b. The Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy) was first translated. Later the rest of the Old Testament books were added to the translation.
- c. It was called the Septuagint from the 70 translators who were reputed to have begun it.
- d. The Septuagint took place in about 285 B.C.
- e. Greek was the language of the world at that time.
- f. The Septuagint was the version in common use in the days of Christ..
- g. The New Testament was written in Greek. Many of its quotations for the Old Testament are from the Septuagint.
- h. The significance of the Septuagint version cannot be overestimated.
 1. Not only were the Scriptures translated into the remarkable language of the Greeks, but could be read and known by the whole Greek-speaking world.
 2. Great predictions had already been fulfilled to the letter which would establish the certainty of future fulfillments of prophecies.
 3. The predictions of the coming Messiah would lead to a greater than merely Jewish expectation of Him.

C. The Syrian monarchy now arose.

1. Seleucus, another of Alexander's generals, founded Antioch which became the western capital of his kingdom, and nearly all of Asia came into his possession.
2. Antioch of Syria would become one of the great centers of Christianity.
 - a. It would be the home base of much of Paul's work.
 - b. The three missionary journeys would begin from there and two would return there.
 - b. **Acts 11:26** - "And when he (Barnabas) had found him (Saul), he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."
3. Seleucus also induced the Jews to settle in the new cities. Note: Now you know why Jews came from so many places to assemble in Jerusalem in Acts.

D. In the conflicts between Syria and Egypt, Antiochus the great was defeated by Ptolemy Philopator who took possession of Palestine. Under this rule the Jews were bitterly persecuted.

THE JEWS UNDER SYRIAN KINGS (lasted about 39 years)

- A. This period lasted for 39 years (204-165 B.C.)
1. Ptolemy Philopator died and Antiochus seized Palestine and Coele-Syria.
 2. At this time the land was divided into five provinces which are familiar to New Testament readers.
 - a. Judea

- b. Samaria
- c. Galilee
- d. Trachonitis
- e. Perea

B. Antiochus Epiphanes came to the throne and then began a bitter period for the Jews.

1. He deposed Onias and placed the priesthood in the hands of Jason.
2. It was reported that Antiochus died in Egypt which caused a great rejoicing among the Jews. That report, however, turned out to be a false report, and when he returned in 168 B.C.:
 - a. He slew 40,000 Jews.
 - b. He profaned the Temple by offering a sow on the altar.
 - c. He erected an altar to Jupiter.
 - d. He forbade the people to worship in the temple.
 - e. He made the people eat the flesh of swine.
 - f. A great massacre followed.
 - g. Women and children were sold into slavery.
 - h. In terror, the people fled from Jerusalem, and for over three years the temple worship was abandoned.
 - i. The Jewish religion was forbidden.
 - j. The temple was devoted to the worship of the Grecian god, Jove.
3. Writers have referred to Antiochus Epiphanes as a monster, a type of the Antichrist, who did everything in his power to obliterate the Jewish religion . . . not the Jewish people . . . the Jewish religion.

PERIOD OF THE MACCABEES (Lasted about 100 years)

A. One of the outstanding pages of history is the revolt of the Maccabees provoked by the cruelty of Antiochus Epiphanes.

1. MATTATHIAS, the father of five sons, a priest, was the first of the Maccabees. Aroused by his patriotism and religious ardor a band of determined Jews gathered about him as their leader and began an insurrection that spread rapidly.
2. When Mattathias died, his son JUDAS became the leader.
3. In his attempt to crush the rebellion, Antiochus Epiphanes was defeated in three conflicts. While devising plans for the destruction of the Jews, he died of a loathsome disease.
4. Judas Maccabaeus now became governor of Palestine, and the period of the Maccabees lasted about a hundred years.
5. Judas won battle after battle against unbelievable odds and re-conquered Jerusalem in 165 B.C.
6. He purified and rededicated the Temple and the religious life of the people was restored.

This was the origin of the Feast of Dedication.

7. Hostilities were renewed by the Syrians. Judas was slain in battle and the leadership fell to his brother JONATHAN who was shortly afterwards murdered.
 8. The leadership role fell to his brother SIMON who appealed to the Romans and was placed in a position of authority.
 - a. Note: At this time Rome was a republic but not yet an empire.
 - b. This brought Palestine into contact with a new state.
 9. Simon was succeeded by his son JOHN HYRCANUS.
 - a. Under Jonathan, Simon, and John Hyrcanus, the Hasmonean line of priest-rulers was established.
 - b. It was when the two parties, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, were in bitter opposition to each other that John Hyrcanus succeeded his father.
- B. John Hyrcanus' two grandsons, Aristobulus and Hyrcanus, disputed the claims of each other the end result of which was civil war in Judea.
1. To settle the dispute, the claims were submitted to Pompey. He favored the claim of Hyrcanus over that of Aristobulus.
 2. Unwilling to submit to this decision, Aristobulus entered into a conflict with Pompey.
 3. Pompey took the city of Jerusalem and Hyrcanus was appointed governor.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE

- A. In 63 B.C., in the closing period of the Roman Republic, Rome came into possession of Palestine.
1. Julius Caesar, Pompey, and Crassus formed the First Triumvirate.
 2. While the Jews were granted full religious rights and political liberty under the Maccabees, they were required to pay a yearly tribute.
 3. Hyrcanus was made king and Antipater was appointed procurator of Judea by Julius Caesar, who also appointed Herod, son of Antipater, governor of Galilee. This was done in 47 B.C.
- B. When Caesar was assassinated the empire was divided, with Antony receiving Syria and the East.
1. Herod married Mariamne, the granddaughter of Hyrcanus, and was made king by Antony.
 2. Herod appointed his wife's brother, Aristobulus III, high priest.
 3. This was the king Herod when Jesus was born.
- C. Fearful that some member of the Maccabee family would endanger his position, Herod decided to destroy that family.
1. He began by murdering his wife's brother, then Hyrcanus, and finally Mariamne.

2. Another disturbing factor was the growing antagonism of the Jews.
 - a. There was danger of an appeal being made to Rome. Remember Pilate? “From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, “If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.” **John 19:12**
 - b. To secure their good will Herod promised to build them a new Temple.
 1. The second Temple had been in existence for about 500 years.
 2. To oversee the work, he appointed a thousand priests having architectural skill.
 3. After ten years it could be used and was dedicated. However, it would still be many years yet future to the time before work on the Temple would be completed.
John 2:19-21 - “Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
20 Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”
21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body.
3. Still dominated by the fear that his throne was not secure, Herod murdered his two sons.
 - a. Torn by these apprehensions, we can understand the terror that seized him when it was announced that the King of the Jews was born.
 - c. He ordered the slaying of all the male infants that by means the infant Jesus might be destroyed.

CONCLUSION

- A. The four kingdoms represented by the great image.
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 3. The belly thighs of brass represented — **The Grecian-Macedonian Empire** (331-167 B.C.) Lasted about **164** years.
 4. The legs of iron and feet part iron and part clay represented — **The Roman Empire** (63 B.C. - 476 A.D.) Lasted about **413** years.
- B. Here is where it all comes together.
 1. All the years of the Babylonian Empire took place during the Old Testament period.
 2. About half of the Medo-Persian kingdom years took place during the Old Testament period and the other half during the Intertestamental Period.
 3. All of the years of the Grecian-Macedonian kingdom took place during the Intertestamental years.

4. The early years of the Roman Empire took place during the Intertestamental period and moved into the New Testament period.
- C. During the Intertestamental period:
1. The last half of the Medo-Persian Kingdom. Lasted **208** years
 2. The Grecian-Macedonian Empire. Lasted some **164** years
 - a. The period of the Ptolomies (pronounced “Tolimies)
 - b. The Jews under the Syrian Kings. Lasted some **39** years.
 - c. The period of the Maccabees. Lasted some **100** years .
 3. The beginning of the Roman Empire in 63 A.D.
- D. Remember:
1. **During these 400+ years there was no direct revelation from God to man.**
 2. **Nonetheless, history involving God’s chosen people was not standing still.**
- E. During this period a number of major events took place that not only continued the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, but new foundations were laid for events that would occur during the New Testament.
1. During this period the second world empire (Medo-Persia) passed away falling to Alexander the Great at the battle of Arbella in 331 B.C.
 2. Alexander’s empire (Grecian-Macedonian), the third of the four predicted by Isaiah arose and fell apart. At his death it was divided among four of his generals, just as the Scriptures had predicted.
 3. Palestine passed through some perilous times.
 - a. The period of the Ptolemies.
 - b. The Jews were under Syrian kings.
 - c. The period of the Maccabees.
 - d. The Roman republic ended and the Roman Empire, the fourth world empire prophesied by Daniel, began.
 - e. The Jews had the murderous Herod to deal with.
 4. The Jews settled among the nations. Remember **Acts 2:5-11** - “And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs- - we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”
 6. The two parties, Pharisees and Sadducees, arose.

7. The Hebrew Scriptures were translated into Greek (The Septuagint) to be read by the world during the time of Christ and the 1st Century.
 8. During the first reign of the first monarch of the Roman Empire, Augustus Caesar, the world was at peace when the Edenic promise of the seed of the woman was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, the long looked-for Messiah, the Savior of the world. **Genesis 3:15** - "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."
 9. The providence of God was at work during the Intertestamental period.
- F. The 400+ years of the Intertestamental Period comes to a close with the opening of the New Testament. God's 400+ years of silence is broken as John the Baptist is sent forth to proclaim the coming of the Lamb of God.

Supplementary Materials Leading into the New Testament Period

Roman Roads

The Roman road system was quite remarkable in its extent - from throughout Britain in the west, to the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers (today Iraq) in the east, and from the Danube River in central Europe to as far south as North Africa. The total length of hard-surfaced highways constructed by the Romans has been estimated to be well over 50,000 miles (80,000 kilometers), much of which is still visible today after so many centuries.

Some of the most famous Roman Roads right in Italy were the 160 mile (260 kilometers) Via Appia, or Appian Way, which ran southeast from Rome down through Tarentum, then straight to the Adriatic coast; the Via Aurelia, running northwest up to Genoa; the Via Flaminia, that ran northeast to the Adriatic; the Via Aemilia, that crossed the Rubicon; the Via Valeria, eastward from Rome; the Via Latina, that ran southeast. With Rome as the "hub" of the system, came the now-famous saying that "All roads lead to Rome."

The Roman Roads were also noted for the high quality of their construction. Most were straight, solid-surfaced, and cambered for drainage just as modern highways are today. Along with natural stone, they often used a form of concrete made from volcanic ash and lime.

The vast Roman Road system facilitated Roman military conquest. Back then there were of course no transport aircraft or trucks, so the Roman legions traveled primarily on foot. The clear road system enabled troops to move relatively quickly across what was then still the wilderness of Europe. It also made possible the efficient administration of the conquered territories.

The Roman Roads also served Christianity. Although the early Christians often suffered tremendous persecution from the Romans, the Roman Roads permitted the apostles and many of God's people (particularly those who held Roman citizenship) to travel much more easily, while protected by patrolling Roman troops from detachments who were stationed along the way. It's actually quite ironic that the infrastructure of the empire that attempted to destroy Christianity also made possible its spread to the very farthest frontier regions of the then-known world.

Emperors of Rome

1. **Augustus** (Imperator Caesar Divi Filius Augustus)

- Born at Rome on September 23, 63 B.C.
- Died at Nola in Campania on August 19, 14 A.D. at age 77 from an illness
- Reigned 41 years, from 27 B.C. to 14 A.D.
- Augustus was the first Roman emperor, a grand-nephew of Julius Caesar. He reigned at the time of the birth of Jesus Christ (Luke 2:1).

2. **Tiberius** (Tiberius Caesar Augustus)

- Born at Rome on November 16, 42 B.C.
- Died at Misenum on March 16, 37 A.D. at age 79 from being smothered with a pillow while on his death bed from a terminal illness (he wasn't dying fast enough for his successor's liking)
- Reigned 23 years, from 14 to 37 A.D.

- Tiberius was emperor at the time of the ministry and crucifixion of Jesus Christ (Luke 3:1)

3. **Caligula** (Gaius Caesar Augustus Germanicus)

- Born at Antium (Anzio) on August 31, 12 A.D.
- Died at Rome on January 24, 41 A.D. at age 19 from assassination
- Reigned 4 years, from 37 to 41 A.D.

4. **Claudius** (Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus)

- Born at Lugdunum on August 1, 10 B.C.
- Died at Rome on October 13, 54 A.D. at age 64 from eating deliberately poisoned mushrooms given to him by his wife Agrippina (Nero's mother).
- Reigned 13 years, from 41 to 54 A.D.

5. **Nero** (Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus)

- Born at Antium (Anzio) on December 15, 37 A.D.
- Died at Rome on June 9, 68 A.D. at age 31 from suicide
- Reigned 14 years, from 54 to 68 A.D.
- An insane tyrant, he set the Great Fire of Rome in 64 A.D. and persecuted Christians terribly. Paul, Peter, and many thousands of others were martyred during his reign. See

6. **Galba** (Servius Galba Imperator Caesar Augustus)

- Born near Tarracina on December 24, 3 B.C.
- Died at Rome on January 15, 69 A.D. at age 72 from assassination during a rebellion among his rivals
- Reigned 1 year, from 68 to 69 A.D.

7. **Otho** (Imperator Marcus Otho Caesar Augustus)

- Born at Ferentium on April 28, 32 A.D.
- Died at Brixellum on April 16, 69 A.D. at age 37 from suicide
- Reigned less than a year, during 69 A.D.

8. **Vitellius** (Aulus Vitellius Germanicus Imperator Augustus)

- Born on September 7, 12 A.D. (birthplace uncertain)

- Died at Rome on December 20, 69 A.D. at age 57 from assassination during the Flavian Revolt, his body was dumped into the Tiber River
- Reigned less than a year, during 69 A.D.

9. **Vespasian** (Imperator Caesar Vespasianus Augustus)

- Born at Falacrinae on November 17, 9 A.D.
- Died in Rome on June 23, 79 A.D. at age 70 of illness
- Reigned 10 years, from 69 to 79 A.D.

10. **Titus** (Imperator Titus Caesar Vespasianus Augustus)

- Born at Rome on December 30, 39 A.D.
- Died at Aquae Cutiliae on September 13, 81 A.D. at age 42 of illness, possibly malaria
- Reigned 2 years, from 79 to 81 A.D.
- Before becoming emperor, he was the commander of the Roman forces that conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the Second Temple in 70 A.D. precisely as prophesied by Jesus Christ 40 years before (Matthew 24:1-2).

11. **Domitian** (Imperator Caesar Domitianus Augustus)

- Born at Rome on October 24 51 A.D.
- Died at Rome on September 18, 96 A.D. at age 45 from assassination by his own household staff
- Reigned 15 years, from 81 to 96 A.D.
- During Domitian's reign John was exiled on the island of Patmos where he wrote the Book of Revelation (Revelation 1:9)