

BACK TO THE BIBLE

30 Days To Understanding
The Bible



30 DAYS
TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

BY MAX ANDERS

PART THREE FINAL



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LET'S REVIEW

The 4 Major Subjects in the **Judges Era**

SUBJECT:

1. **Judges:**

2. **Rebellion:**

3. **Cycles:**

4. **Ruth:**

DESCRIPTION:

The leaders of Israel.

The breaking of God's Law.

Repetition of Israel's misfortunes.

A model woman.

LET'S REVIEW

4 Major Subjects in the **Kingdom Era**

SUBJECT:

1. **United Kingdom:**

2. **Divided Kingdom:**

DESCRIPTION:

A new monarchy.

A civil war.

SUBJECT:

3. Northern
Kingdom:

4. Southern
Kingdom:

DESCRIPTION:

The unrighteous
kingdom.

The inconsistent
kingdom.

LET'S REVIEW

4 Major Subjects in the **Exile Era**

SUBJECT:

1. **Prophecy:**

2. **Prophets:**

DESCRIPTION:

Warning of impending
captivity.

Encouraging faithfulness of
exiles.

SUBJECT:

3. Exiles:

4. Power
Change:

DESCRIPTION:

Assimilated into the
culture.

Persian Empire
expands.

There are 4 major subjects in the **Return Era**:

1. **Disrepair**
2. **Temple**
3. **People**
4. **Walls**

DISREPAIR: Destruction from war and neglect (Nehemiah 1:1-3)

During the 70 years of captivity, the leadership of Judah has been taken into exile, and the city of Jerusalem falls into disrepair.

The city suffered the ravages of the military campaign during the initial conquest, and has fallen victim to the erosion of neglect.

The destruction from war and neglect leaves Jerusalem in a state of abject ruin.

TEMPLE: Rebuilding the temple
(Ezra 1-6).

God prompts Cyrus, king of Persia, to initiate the financing and rebuilding of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem.

Under the direction of Zerubbabel, a notable Jewish figure in Persia, the rebuilding of the temple is begun and opposition from the Gentiles is encountered.

At the urging of Haggai and Zechariah, two Jewish prophets living in Jerusalem, the restoration of the temple is complete.

PEOPLE: Spiritual rebuilding
(Ezra 7-10).

Rebuilding the temple is a direct parallel to the spiritual rebuilding of the Jewish people.

Temple worship has been discontinued for seventy years and most of the Jewish people have never seen or heard the Law of Moses.

They have to be instructed in a national reeducation program.

Ezra sets his heart to study the Law of the Lord, to practice it, and to teach God's statutes and ordinances in Israel to rebuild the people as they return from exile.

WALLS: Restoration complete
(Nehemiah).

Even though not all Jews returned
when they could have (see Esther),
many are now back home in Jerusalem.

The temple stands restored as the dominant structure in the city, but the walls of the city are still broken down.

This is a security threat as well as a source of national humiliation.

Nehemiah, another Jewish notable serving Artaxerxes, king of Persia, is burdened to rebuild the walls.

He is given permission and financing by the king of Persia to do so.

A short time later, the walls frame the noble city of Jerusalem, home of the temple of God.

Restoration is complete as the temple is rebuilt, the people are rebuilt and the walls are rebuilt.

LET'S REVIEW

The 4 Major Subjects in the **Return Era**

SUBJECT:

1. **Disrepair:**

2. **Temple:**

3. **People:**

4. **Walls:**

DESCRIPTION:

Destruction from war and regret.

Rebuilding the temple.

Spiritual Rebuilding.

Restoration complete.

There are 4 major subjects in the **Silence Era**:

1. **The Changing Guard**
2. **Political Sects**
3. **Religious Sects**
4. **Messianic Hope**

THE CHANGING GUARD:

The march of nations.

At the close of the Old Testament, Jerusalem is ruled by Persia.

Alexander the Great defeats the Persians in 333 B.C. and establishes Greek culture and the Greek language as a unifying force for that part of the world.

When Alexander dies, his kingdom is quartered, but Hellenistic (Greek) culture is still advanced and remains the dominant influence.

When Rome conquers that part of the world, roman influences are introduced but for now the Greek influence is still strong.

The march of the nations passes from Persia to Greece to Rome.

POLITICAL SECTS:

The Maccabeans and Zealots.

Throughout the four hundred Silent Years, there are militant Jews who attempt to revolt against foreign rule and make Jerusalem and the surrounding of Judea an independent country.

These include the Maccabees
and the Zealots.

RELIGIOUS SECTS: Pharisees and Sadducees.

There are two primary religious
“parties” during this time.

Neither offer much guidance in true spirituality, as they are caught up in promoting a religious “legalism” of external adherence to rules while overlooking inner motivations and attitudes.

The Pharisees are orthodox and conservative, and they foster separation between themselves and “secular” society.

The Sadducees are more liberal. They are the party of the Jerusalem aristocracy, and they use their wealth and influence to keep the political waters calm.

A ruling board, called the Sanhedrin, is made up of representatives from both the Pharisees and Sadducees.

The two groups have little in common except their desire for religious freedom and, later, their antagonism for Jesus of Nazareth.

MESSIANIC HOPE:

Expectation of a savior.

The “Messiah”, or “Savior”, is one who is prophesied throughout the Old Testament to come save the Jews.

Some feel they need spiritual salvation, and others are looking only for political salvation.

For both reasons, the expectation and hope for the coming of the Messiah is strong during the four hundred Silence years.

Events of the Silence Era seem to especially prepare the world for the coming of the Messiah.

(1) This part of the world has a common language and a common culture, which facilitates the spread of a Messianic message.

(2) The Roman Empire has brought this region military peace, an extensive system of roads and sea travel, and a common government so that people can travel extensively without interference.

(3) The Jews are suffering such religious persecution and political humiliation that widespread hope and expectation of the savior exists.

These facts make the coming of Jesus of Nazareth, claiming to be the Messiah, an event that captures the attention of the entire Jewish world.

LET'S REVIEW

4 Major Subjects in the **Silence Era**

SUBJECT:

1. The
Changing
Guard:

2. Political
Sects:

DESCRIPTION:

The march of
nations.

Maccabeans and
Zealots.

LET'S REVIEW

4 Major Subjects in the **Silence Era**

SUBJECT:

3. Religious
Sects:

4. Messianic
Hope

DESCRIPTION:

Pharisees and
Saducees

Expectations of a
savior