

Journey *to the Cross*



MEMORIAL DRIVE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



MEMORY VERSE

**Whoever wants to be My disciple
must deny themselves
and take up their cross
and follow Me.**

Mark 8:34b



Journey
to the *Cross*

**THE KINGDOM COMES
WITH A CROSS**



WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to His blood.

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were a present far too small
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my live, my all.

What do Madonna, Elton John, Miley Cyrus and Justin Beiber have in common?





Wall Art



Earrings



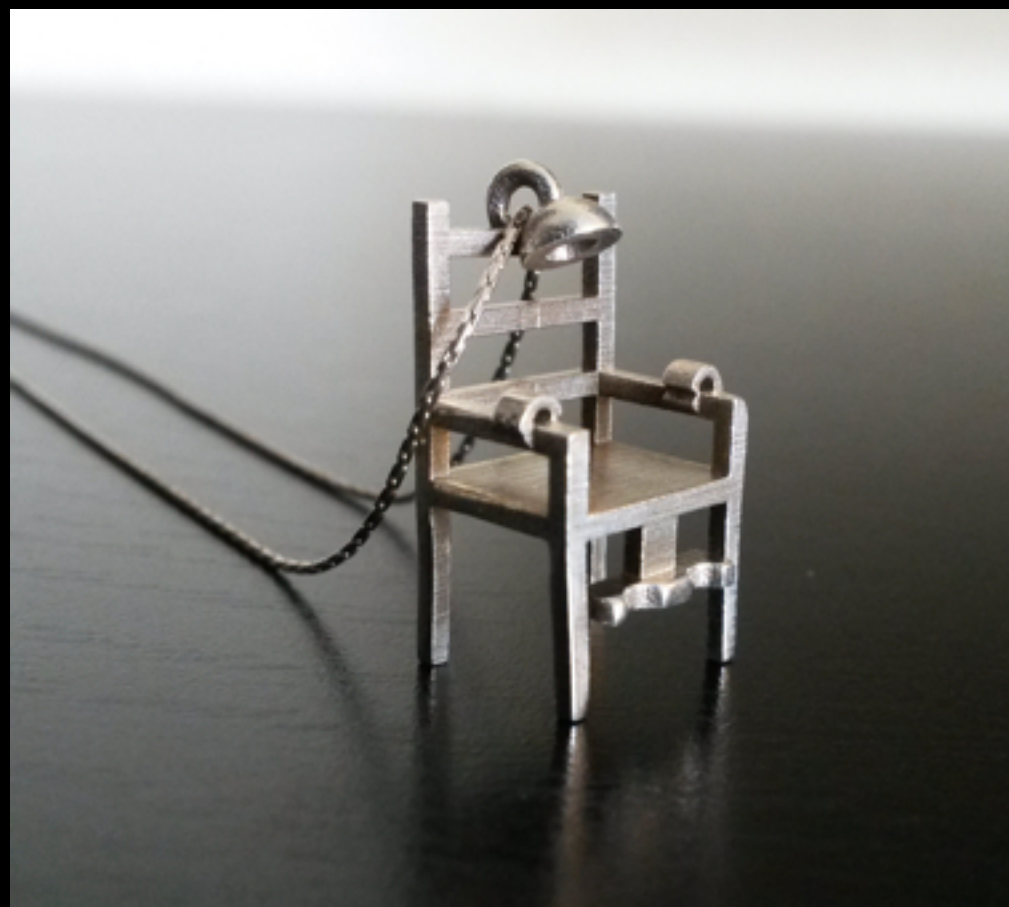
Necklaces



Car Emblem



Embroidery



WHY WEAR A CROSS ?

- the logo of Christianity
- Half of Mark's Gospel is about Jesus' death
- The rest of the NT explains why he died
- The central service of the church is all about the broken body, the shed blood of Jesus

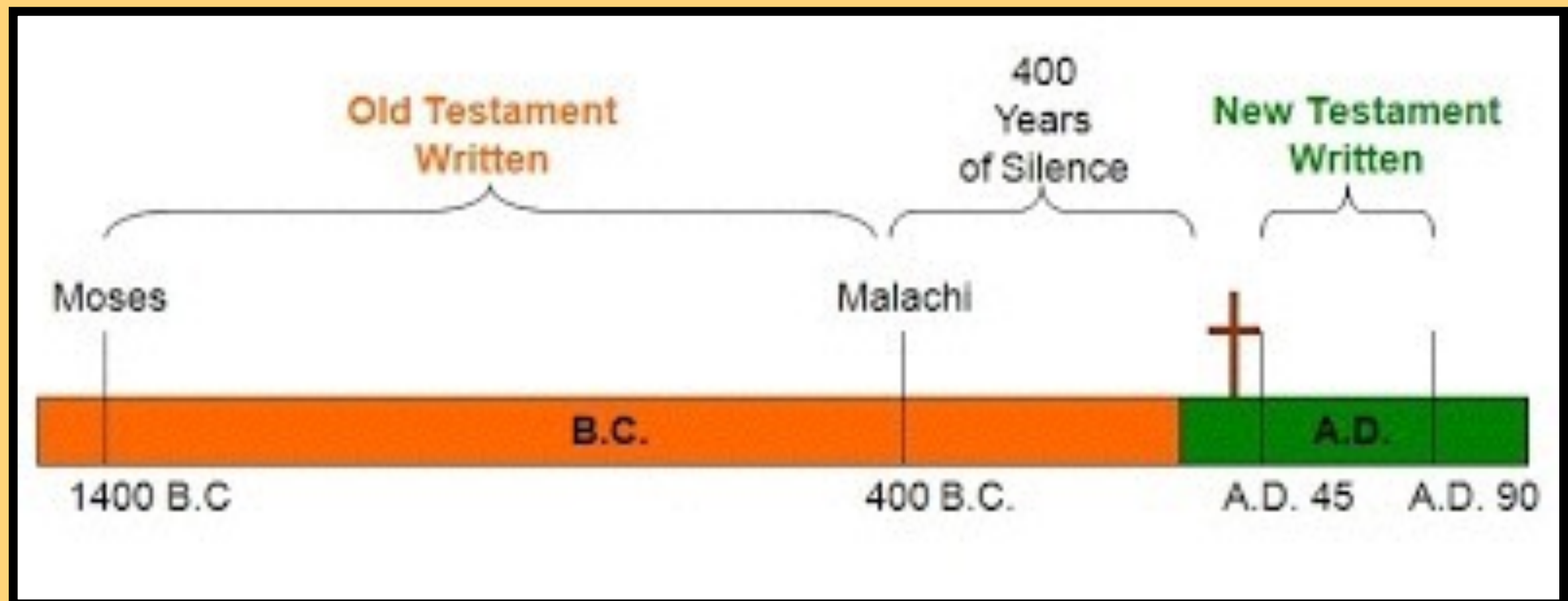
Everything you ever wanted to know about the Inter-Testamental Period

400 Years of History in 10 Minutes!



INTER-TESTAMENTAL ERA: **400 BC TO 45 AD**

BIBLE TIMELINE



HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD?

- **Some Apocryphal books**
- **Latin Historians**
- **Scattered Greek References**
- **Works of Josephus, 1st century
Jewish historian**

PERSIAN EMPIRE

- **Persian Empire controlled Israel at time of Nehemiah's rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls: 444 BC**
- **Persian Empire conquered by Greeks under Alexander the Great in 331 BC**
- **Alexander wanted to unify the ancient world under the Greek language, philosophy and culture**

DIVISION OF GREEK EMPIRE

- **Alexander dies 327 BC**
- **Kingdom divided between his generals**
- **Palestine at first controlled by the Ptolemy dynasty of Egypt—annexed 320 BC**
- **In 198 BC Palestine comes under control of Antiochus III, who ruled the Syrian empire**

SIGNIFICANCE

- **Antiochus III wanted to Hellenize the Jews**
- **In response, Pharisees rise up to preserve their Jewish traditions, to be zealous and obedient to every aspect of OT law**

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

- **In 175 BC, Antiochus Epiphanies believed he was a God**
- **Made Sabbath observance, circumcision and possession of Hebrew scriptures capital crimes**
- **Sacrificed a pig to the god Zeus on the altar of the Temple in Jerusalem**
- **Daniel 9: 26-27 and Matthew 24:15-16**

MACCABEAN REVOLT: 174 BC



- http://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/926577/jewish/Rebellion-in-the-Holy-Land.htm

HASMODEAN RULE

- **Simon Maccabeas, one of the Maccabbean brothers, became a military commander and high priest after the revolt**
- **Simon expelled the Syrians**
- **Simon became a hereditary ruler and began a period of Palestinian independence**

- **The Hasomeaneans began fighting among themselves after about 75 years of rule**
- **Pompey, a Roman General, offered to mediate**
- **SURPRISE! Pompey settled the disputes by conquering the area and in 63 BC Israel came under the domination of Rome**

ENTER THE ROMANS



LIFE UNDER ROMAN RULE

- **Jews generally fared well**
- **Romans gave them a lot of independence and respected their religious customs**
- **Rome appointed Herod in 37 BC as a puppet king**
- **Herod was a great builder and in 20 BC began a reconstruction of the Temple in Jerusalem on a large scale**

MESSIANIC EXPECTATIONS

- **Essenes expected a messiah who was both military leader and a priest who would reform the Temple.**
- **Pharisees believed the messiah would remove Rome, the foreign invader**
- **Sadducees had no messianic expectations—they limited their cannon to the Torah**

**WHAT DO WE EXPECT
FROM JESUS?**

Get me out of tough situations

Give me advice

Tell me how to earn my way to heaven

To always be nice

To share my moral/political views

To give me what I want

To never rock the boat

To be like my expectations

Cheap grace is the grace we bestow upon ourselves.

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession...

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

**Cheap grace is grace without
discipleship, grace without the cross,
grace without Jesus Christ, living and
incarnate.**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

Costly Grace

It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner.

Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son...it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life...

**If your God never
disagrees with you,
you just might be worshipping
an idealized version of yourself.**

—Tim Keller



**I am not
ashamed of
the gospel
because it is
the power of
God that
brings
salvation to
everyone who
believes.**

Romans 1:16

APPLYING THE LESSON IN YOUR LIFE

**What do you expect of Jesus?
What does Jesus expect of YOU?**



*Journey
to the Cross*

**THE KINGDOM COMES
WITH A CROSS**

