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| Date | Person/Event | Description |
| 722 - 721 BC | Assyrians  **Assyrian exile of Israel** | * Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel and forced them into exile (2 Kings 17:6) * The conquest and exile led to Gentiles being placed in Samaria and intermingling with Jews, which led to the stressed relationships in the NT between Samaritans and Jews. |
| 606 – 539 BC | **Babylonian Period** | * The Jews were led to focus more on the moral dimension of God’s law because they lost their central place to meet and worship. * Jews learned through this exile and turned from their idolatry which they had been an issue in the past |
| 331 - 320 BC | **Conquest of Alexander the Great** | * The Jewish people were influenced heavily by a series of Greek Kings who believed in cultural superiority * The Jewish people had to shift their ways of life and even language |
| 167 BC | **Statue of Zeus in Jerusalem** | * Antiochus tried implying that he was the incarnation of Zeus and became very interested in the temple because of its finances. * Led to a lot of behind the scene deals that put priests in the temple that would give money to Antiochus. |
| 31 BC – 14 AD | **Rule of Augustus** | * Characterized as the “Roman Peace” led to unification of the empire. * Ruled during Christ’s Birth, took a census of the Roman world. * Built roads which helped with the spread of the Gospel |
| 14 – 37 AD | **Rule of Tiberius** | * Reigned during the lifetime of John the Baptist and Jesus. |
| 54 – 68 AD | **Rule of Nero** | * Reigned during the time of the fire in Rome, which devastated many. * Was responsible for a lot of martyrs |
| 70 AD | **Destruction of the Jewish Temple** | * 4 major Jewish sects * The Sadducees (Wealthy, aligned with the Pharisees) * The Pharisees (Religious Leader, focused on tradition) * The Essenes * Zealots * The Sanhedrin (Jewish Council) * They had say over religious and political matters. * They falsely accused Jesus and put Him to death. * More worried about man than God. |
| 81 – 96 AD | **Rule of Domitian** | * Thought of himself as divine * Responsible for persecution within the early church, did not like other Gods that took over his spotlight |