



ON
EARTH
AS IN
HEAVEN



Daily Wisdom for
Twenty-First-Century Christians



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Edited by Oliver Wright



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Chronological Outline of Jewish History



The whole point of Christmas is that God came into the middle of ordinary, messy, dangerous human history. Here is how that history can be laid out. It encourages us to reflect on ways in which God comes, today, into the ordinary, messy, and often sad history of our own lives.

BABYLONIAN PERIOD: 597–539 BC

- 597 Jerusalem taken by Nebuchadnezzar II
- 587 Jerusalem destroyed, people exiled to Babylon
- 539 Fall of Babylon

PERSIAN/GREEK PERIOD: 538–320 BC

- 538 Return of (some) exiles; rebuilding of Temple
 begun (completed 516)
- 450s/440s Ezra and Nehemiah in Jerusalem
- 336 Alexander the Great comes to power
- 332 Alexander conquers Palestine
- 323 Alexander dies; empire divided

EGYPTIAN PERIOD: 320–200 BC

Ptolemies of Egypt rule Palestine; local government
by high priests

SYRIAN PERIOD: 200–63 BC

- 200 Antiochus III defeats Egyptians
- 175 Antiochus IV Epiphanes enthroned

- 171 Menelaus (high priest) favors Antiochus; Jews revolt
- 167 Antiochus desecrates Temple, builds altar to Zeus Olympus
- 166 Judas Maccabeus (“Judah the Hammer”) leads revolutionary group
- 164 Judas cleanses Temple
- 160 Death of Judas
- 160–63 Quasi-independent rule of Maccabean (Hasmonean) dynasty

ROMAN PERIOD: 63 BC ONWARD

- 63 Pompey (Roman general) takes Jerusalem
- 44 Death of Julius Caesar; Roman civil wars
- 37 Herod established as “King of Judaea”
- 31 Octavian (Augustus) wins civil war, transforms Roman republic into an empire
- 7–4 BC (?) Birth of Jesus of Nazareth
- 4 BC Death of Herod; civil unrest and “messianic” movements
- 4 BC Herod’s kingdom divided: Antipas rules Galilee; Archelaus, Judaea
- AD 6 Archelaus deposed after protests; Judaea ruled by “prefects”
- AD 14 Death of Augustus; accession of Tiberius
- 26–36 Pontius Pilate “prefect” of Judaea
- 30 (33?) Crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth

—*Simply Jesus* 62

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