

God silently prepared the world for His gift of the Messiah Savior.

1. Four Transitions of World Empires Demonstrated Everyone's Need for Salvation.

- a. Israel's exiles were under Assyria (722 B.C.) and Babylonian / Medo-Persian (586 B.C.).
- b. Macedonia's Alexander the Great felled Persia in 330 B.C. raising the Greek Empire.
- c. Rome became a world empire, and Palestine-Judea became a vassal, in 63 B.C.

"Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: 'Peace be multiplied to you. I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions,'" Dan. 6:25-27

2. Insecurity was Everywhere; Languages Converged; Cultures Advanced; Hope Ensued.

- a. Israel's exiles scattered God's people everywhere with their hope for a Messiah Savior.
- b. The Greek empire brought Hellenistic philosophy and a common western language.
- c. Rome brought peace, roads for global travel, and military for mass communication.

"...it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 'Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel,'" Luke 2:26-32

3. "Pax Romana," Roman peace, was the Perfect Scene for a New Savior, King and Gospel.

- a. Under Roman rule, Jerusalem had religious autonomy under economic dependency.
- b. The political system allowed the courts to find Christ innocent, yet let Jews crucify Him.
- c. Military travel expedited God's gospel of Christ to an alert, listening, hungry world.

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God," Gal. 4:4-7

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