***Preparing for the Gospels***

*The Intertestamental Period*

*and an Introduction to the Book of Matthew*

1. 400 Years of Waiting – so….what happened?
2. Where did we leave off?
   1. Nehemiah 13:4-30(433 BC)Genesis/1440BC
   2. Malachi -reading (430 BC)
3. the “Intertestamental Period” –
4. politics in Israel from Malachi to Matthew
   1. **Persian kingdom** ruled Judea another 100 years (539-332 BC) –
   2. (334- 331 BC) **Alex. the Great** *-*  Hellenism
   3. the Great died at 33, his **general Ptolemy 1** – ruled from Egypt (301- 198 BC) – economic oppression/religious freedom
   4. **Antiochus of Syria**  defeated Egypt in Israel (198-143 BC) – began w/religious tolerance, but w/regime change in 175BC – Jewish religious celebration/worship was outlawed, Torah destroyed.
   5. War broke out from (166 – 142BC) led by Jewish priest – **Maccabean Revolt** – Jews gained independence (and Chanuka) from Syria with the help of Rome –
      1. Pharisees: Sadducees:
   6. **Rome** took control of Israel – General Pompey – (63BC)

(37BC) Herod the Great appointed king of Judea.

2. Where was God? Daniel 2:23-45, John MacArthur

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***Book of Matthew***

1. Israel’s Expectations defined - Isaiah 9 –
2. Caeser – culture of God/King/military leader
3. The Book of Matthew – Who did God send?
4. Geneology Matthew 1:1-15 –expectations met?
5. Birth – expectations met?
6. Ministry –
7. Jesus answers: Lords Prayer Matthew 6: 7-15

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Questions for Consideration

1. Was Jesus what was expected?
2. What are you praying for? Are you in the 400 years? Has he sent an answer but you are not recognizing it?

How do we recognize God in our lives?

1. How does The Lords Prayer impact your thoughts on your prayers?
2. When God answers in ways we don’t understand or recognize, ways that are disappointing or unwanted- what then?

Supporting Scripture

“My thoughts are not your thoughts..” Isaiah 55:8-9

“ I will stand at my watchpost…” Habakkuk 2:1-4

“ Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind..” Job 38-42

“ Finally brothers and sisters…” Philippians 4:8