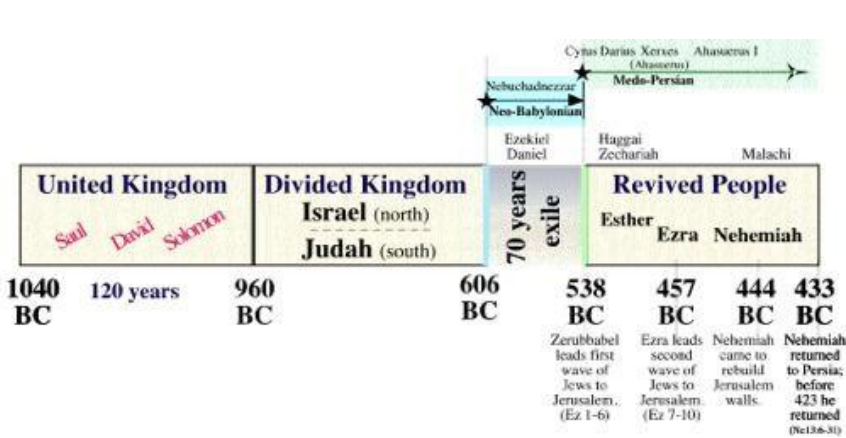


An Old Testament Glance

The Intertestamental Period - "400 Silent Years"

BRIEF HISTORY SUMMARY

Part 1



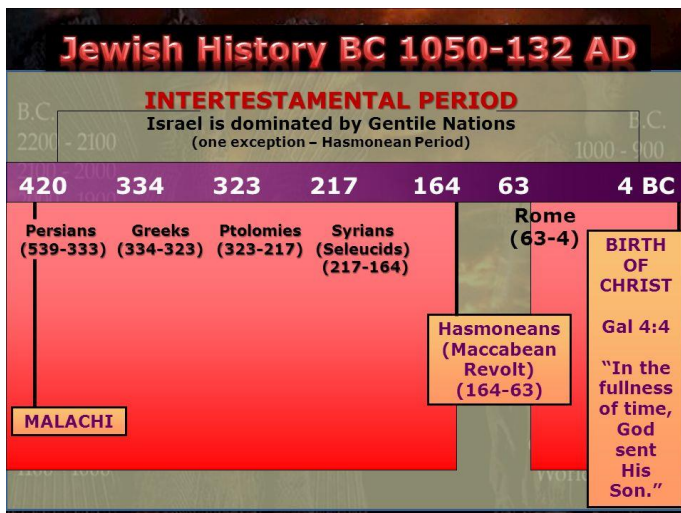
THE 400 SILENT? YEARS

1. According to the timeline chart above, who was the first king of Israel?

2. How many years between the end of the divided Israel nation (the exile) to the beginning of the return to Jerusalem? _____ years
3. On this chart, who is the last leader before the 400 silent years?

4. On this chart, who is the last prophet who preached/ministered in Judah?

So, according to history, Nehemiah (the governor of Judah) and Malachi (the last prophet of Israel) were the last Bible characters recorded in the Bible. After they died, the Bible communication went silent (possibly 420 BC to 4 BC).



The Persians were ruling all of Israel during the end of the Old Testament and for about 100 years after that. Then, the **Greeks** ruled. (11 years)

After Alexander the Great died, the Ptolemies (the Egyptians) took over all of Palestine (Israel) (about 106 years).

The Seleucids (Macedonian-Syria area) took over & reigned 53 years.

The Maccabees (Jews) had a civil war to drive out foreigners, and then the Romans took over.

5. What do you think was going on in Jerusalem & surrounding Judah?

Malachi's Final Instructions

- a. The differences between **the Godly & ungodly** in Jewish life will be seen.
- b. Follow the teachings of the **Law of Moses**.
- c. An **Elijah-type messenger** will appear the next Day of the Lord.

Nehemiah's Final Concerns

- a. Take care of the **house of God** (The Temple) & the staff.
- b. Take care to honor the **Sabbath**.
- c. Take care **NOT** to **intermarry**.
- d. Take care to maintain a pure team of **priests**.

[About An. 399.] WHEN Eliashib the High Priest was dead, his son Judas succeeded in the high priesthood. And when he was dead, his son John took that dignity. On whose account it was also that Bagoses, the general of another Artaxerxes's army, (26) polluted the temple, and imposed tributes on the Jews; that out of the publick stock, before they offered the daily sacrifices, they should pay for every lamb fifty shekels. Now Jesus was the brother of John, and was a friend of Bagoses; who had promised to procure him the High Priesthood. In confidence of whose support, Jesus quarrelled with John in the temple; and so provoked his brother, that in his anger his brother slew him. Now it was an horrible thing for John, when he was High Priest, to perpetrate so great a crime;

It's probably obvious that life in Jerusalem had hit the bottom if priests were killing each other in the temple. Plus, taxes were high, and there was a serious conflict of interest between enemy soldiers & temple staff.

6. Remember Malachi's first instruction? Write it down. _____

7. Remember Nehemiah's final concern? Write it down. _____

It appears that Malachi was right; it also appears that they paid no attention to Nehemiah.

8. Do you think God was doing nothing during the 400 years?

___Yes ___No Explain. _____

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Part 2

SILENT YEARS? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? (Thank you Rev. Yeakel)

When you hear of God's silence and feel His absence, trust His presence.

- a. There was **no word** from God.
- b. There were **no prophets** preaching.
- c. There was **no new Scripture** presented.

WHAT WAS GOD DOING? Or WHAT WAS HE ALLOWING TO HAPPEN?

LANGUAGE



Alexander the Great conquered the world for the Greeks; many learned Greek through the following years.

CONTROL



The Roman Empire conquered the known world & established a controlled society of peace.

TRANSPORTATION



The Roman Empire built a transportation system that allowed easier and faster travel.

9. Write out Galatians 4:4. _____

*Always remember that **God may be silent, but He is not absent.***

10. Write out Isaiah 7:14. _____

11. Write out Matthew 1:23. _____

*Also remember that **God does things just at the right time.***

Does what, you say? What did Israel need?

They needed a message of grace, of forgiveness; they needed a Savior. How would they hear this message? They were scattered all over the Roman Empire.

12. Write out Mark 16:15. _____

How could this command be done? God let ruling nations carry out His will.

- a. The Greeks took over & most people learned Greek (**common language**).*
- b. The Romans took over & forced peace (**common culture** – all could hear).*
- c. The Romans built the roads & ships systems (**common transportation**).*

God to Israel

All through your history you have turned away from Me, disobeyed Me, ignored Me, suffered terrible consequences and then blamed Me. You have sinned repeatedly, called Me names, spit in My face, and kicked Me in the teeth, and then turned to follow the enemy. You have done the very things I could have protected you from. You chose that for your lives not really knowing the mess you were getting into. You need help; you need a Savior to be that final sacrifice for ALL your sins.

I love you and always have. I am your Savior. The time has come. The 400 years are over. Here I come. Your wait is over.

*The 400 years were **silent** but God was **present** all the time. How incredible!!*

What about our lives? Just at the right time, the curtain will rise and you and I will be perfectly positioned to accomplish His will, His purpose, His mission, & His vision for our lives. Oh man, that is powerful. Maybe it's time for your silent years to end.

Any Comments from you? _____

