

"The Interval." 400 Years Between Testaments

1-During these centuries:

- 1-During these centuries the voice of the inspired Hebrew prophet was silent.
- 2-The pen of the inspired historian dried up.

2-For our knowledge of Jewish affairs during this period we depend upon three main sources:

1-The Old Testament Apocrypha.

- 1-Greek word: Apokryphos; Hidden or spurious; Not genuine; Not proceeding from the true source.

2-These writings;

Throw considerable light on the history of the time, but fall far below the canonical books of the Bible.

3-The apocryphal writings are proved:

- 1-To abound in anachronisms, and other historical and geographical errors.

4-The historical accuracy of the Scripture records confirmed by:

- 1-The monuments of Egypt.
- 2-The inscribed bricks of Babylon.
- 3-The clay tablets of Nineveh., and a multitude of other discoveries.

2-The writings of Josephus:

- 1-Josephus was a Jewish historian born A. D. 37.
- 2-He survived the siege and destruction of Jerusalem by Titus and wrote two very important works:

- 1-"The Antiquities of the Jews," a complete history of the Jews from creation.
- 2-"The Jewish Wars," which gives an account of his own people from B. C. 170 to his own time.

3-Greek and Roman writers to numerous to mention.

3-Political periods-Six.

- 1-The Persian Period-B. C. 538-332; 206 years.
- 2-Temple on Mt. Gerizim came in this period. 400 Built about 400 B. C. John 4:20.

2-The Macedonian Period: B. C. 332-323; 9 Years.

- 1-Josephus tells: After Alexander captured Tyre he swept down through Palestine on his way to Egypt. Jaddua, the High Priest met Alexander just outside of Jerusalem.

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3-The Egyptian Period: B. C. 323-204; 119 years.

- 1-This century under the Ptolemies was, in the main, a period of prosperity for the Jews.

2-The most noteworthy event:

- 1-The translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek

2-This work was done under the order of Ptolemy Philadelphus, for the great Alexandrian library.

3-The work is known as:

- 1-The Septuagint, from the traditional number of translators. 72 men did work.

4-The Syrian Period: B. C. 204-167; 37 Years.

- 1-Antiochus Epiphanes was the most notorious among tyrants:

2-Returning from defeat in Egypt:

- 1-He vented his vengeance on Jerusalem.
- 2-He massacred forty thousand Jews.
- 3-He stripped the temple of its treasures, and outraged the religious sense of the Jews by sacrificing a sow on the altar.
- 4-He shut up the temple and on pain of death, prohibited the Jewish religion.

5-The Maccabean period: B. C. 167-63; 103 Years.

- 1-Judas, reopened, cleansed and rededicated the temple in honor of which the Feast of Dedication continued to be kept-John 10:22 And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.

6-The Roman Period: B. C. 63-A. D. 70; 107 Years.

4-The rise of the Herodian family in this period:

- 1-A momentous century which witnessed the birth and work of Christ-And the founding of the church

5-Religion of this period may be thus summarized:

- 1-Rise of the Synagogue: O. T. mentions one time in Psalms 74:8; They have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land.

2-Rise of Jewish Sects:

- 1-Pharisees: Held to an oral law of Moses handed down by tradition. Taught the doctrine of resurrection and future life.

3-Rise of the Sadducees: opposed the Pharisees in all points.

- 4-Rise of the Essenes: Sect of ascetics, did not marry, retired from society, Jewish hermits.

5-Idolatry for ever disappears.

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