

# The 400 Silent Years

## *“Between The Testaments”*

- Introduction:
1. The period between the testaments is often uncharted territory.
  2. Many think it is unimportant.
  3. However, to fully understand several matters covered in the New Testament, one must have a basic understanding of the events between the testaments.
  4. Let’s engage in an overview of this period and see its relevance.

### I. Things Explained By This Inter-Testamental Period.

- A. The Feast of Dedication (John 10:22).
- B. Why Jesus was loved (the Triumphal entry), then so soon hated.
- C. Where did the Pharisees and Sadducees come from?
- D. Where did the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers come from?
- E. Where did the synagogue come from?
- F. What did Paul mean when he said “concerning the law, he was a Pharisee?”
- G. What did Jesus mean when he said the Sadducees erred not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God?
- F. Where did the Herod’s and Caeaser’s come from?
- G. The answer to all these questions are found in the Inter-Testamental period.

### II. The Importance Of The Inter-Testamental Period In God’s Grand Scheme

- A. (Daniel 2:44).
- B. (Galatians 4:4).
- C. (Romans 5:6).

### III. The Inter-Testamental Period Can Be Summed Up By The Following:

- A. **Scattering** of the Jews - Dispersion.
  1. The Jews had been dispersed through Babylon captivity.
  2. Some returned to Jerusalem, but others, like Esther remained in the lands where they were dispersed.
  3. The result of this scattered caused the gentiles to learn that there was a Messiah coming.
- B. **Synagogue.**
  1. The synagogue was a place where people could gather together, read and discuss the Scriptures.
  2. Jesus and the apostles utilized this opportunity over and over.
  3. (Luke 4:18-21; Isaiah 61:1-2).
  4. (Acts 13:39)
- C. **Septuagint.**
  1. The Septuagint (LXX) is a Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament.
  2. This translation was done completed around 280 B.C.

3. Thus, the Bible was taken from the Hebrew language and put in the language spoken by most people in the world at that time.

#### **IV. Miscellaneous Facts About The Inter-Testamental Period**

- A. Epicurean and Stoic Philosophers (Acts 17).
    1. Epicures - 375 B.C. - Taught man was wholly mortal.
    2. Stoics - Zeno, Athens, Greece - taught we should be good for the sake of good.
  - B. Socrates - 350 B.C. - taught the Greeks to think for themselves.
  - C. Plato - taught not only to think, but to think on a spiritual level.
  - D. Aristotle - wasn't concerned about "what" to think, but "how" to think. He gave the world the greatest rules of logic.
  - E. Alexander the Great - Daniel 7.
    1. Antiochus IV Epiphanes - Jews called him "A Mad Dog."
    2. Desecrated the temple on December 25, 168 B.C.
    3. Maccabean revolt retook Jerusalem exactly three years later to the day, 165 B.C.
    4. From this we get the "Feast of Dedication" - (John 10:22).
    5. "Resurrection of Judith Maccabees" and the Triumphal Entry.
  - F. Sadducees & Pharisees
    1. Part of the division was over selling the priesthood.
    2. The Sadducees compromised.
    3. The Pharisees "separated ones" wouldn't stand for it.
    4. The Pharisees were the best sect of the Jews at the time, though they were hypocritical and added over 1100 traditions to the law, their desire to keep the law was why Paul called himself a Pharisee of Pharisees.
  - G. Caesar & Herod.
    1. 46 B.C. Antipater, an Edomite was given rule over Judea by Julius Caesar.
    2. Antipater's son was Herod The Great.
- Conclusion:
1. When one stands back, he can't help but see the providence of God at work.
  2. Although there is no revelation from God during these 400 years, we see how these years brought about the fulness of time, in which Jesus would be introduced into the world.