

The Adventus Christi (Pt. 1)

The *Advent of Christ* Training

Monday, September 14, 2026

7:00PM

How to Teach the *Blank Page of Advent:* The *Intertestamental Period* When God was Silent

SLC

The Servant Leaders' Classroom



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- I. The Last O/T Message of God from the Prophets (Malachi 4)
 - A. _____ of “The Day” (vss. 1-3)
 - B. _____ for the People of God (vs. 4)
 - C. God’s _____ to Send the Prophet Elijah (vss. 5-6)

A. The Prophecy of “The Day” **Malachi 4:1-3**

2 Peter 3:10

B. Malachi 4:4

Questions: Since *Malachi 4:1* says that a “New Day” was coming, why would God instruct the Israelites to remember an “old” law He had given to Moses?

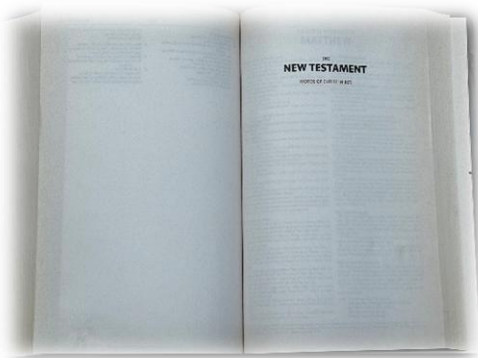
Why not create a “New Law” for a “New Day”?

C. God’s Promise to Send the Prophet Elijah (Malachi 4:5-6)

Question: To Whom is God Referring as “Elijah” in Malachi 4:5?

- A. The Prophet Elijah Resurrected
- B. A New/Different Prophet Elijah
- C. Jesus Christ
- D. John the Baptist

II. The End of the Old Testament: The Blank Page Between the Old & New Testaments in Your Bible



A. Understanding the Blank Page Between the Testaments

Represents the *Intertestamental Period*

Inter = _____

Testamental = The 2 _____ of the Bible

Today, to move from the Old to the New Testaments, we simply turn the pages of our physical Bible, do a word search for a text on the internet, or we key in the book, chapter, and verse into our electronic device.

In reality, the blank page in between the testaments took the Israelites _____ years to turn. It represents 4 centuries of _____ and _____ endured by the people of God as they prayed and prepared for the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Events of the Blank Page Between the Testaments represent the _____ period, the _____ for the _____/_____ of Jesus Christ. God used “The _____ Page” period to provide major reformation and changes in political power, language, and religion.

The Advent of Christ Could Not Happen until the “_____” time, the “_____” time, the “_____ of time” had come. 400 Years of “No Word from God” Between the Old & New Testaments

The Intertestamental Period: The Time Between the Testaments

Galatians 4:4

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son... (New International Version)

But when the right time came, God sent his Son... (New Living Translation)

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son... (New King James Version)

B. The Intertestamental Period Life In-Between the Testaments

The Intertestamental Period was a time of violence and continuous overthrowing of governments with no Word from the God.

1. A Time of “_____”

An “Intertestamental Period” is a time when you are caught between who you are and what God is calling you to be. You’re in a state of “Becoming” where you are living in one reality, but you know that God has created you to be and become something different and better in your life.

Question: In what area of your life are you in a state of “Becoming”?

2. A time when the community was filled with civil _____ and riots. Governments were _____ and the residents, their neighboring provinces, and the community leaders were in a constant state of danger and being _____ by their enemies.

3. Your _____ with _____ In-Between Your Testaments You have a strong belief in God, but all around you, there is nothing but suffering, torment, and death. As you suffer, God is _____. There are no preachers to preach and no prophets to prophecy. There is just hardship in life with no guidance and encouragement from the Lord.

C. 6 Transitions of Governments During the Silent Years of God

1. The _____ Era (397-336 BC): Jews were allowed to return to Palestine, but many chose to stay in Babylon. (61 years)

2. The _____ Era (336-323 BC): Brought Greek culture and Greek language. (13 years)

3. **The _____ Era (323-198 BC):** Some Jews were deported to Egypt. (125 years)
4. **The _____ Era (198-165 BC):** An oppressive government. The temple was destroyed. (33 years)
5. **The _____ Era (165-63 BC):** Established a Jewish king and established a Jewish homeland. (102 years)
6. **The _____ Era (63-4 BC):** Almost every person in the New Testament was placed under Roman rule. (59 years)

D. 4 Intertestamental Changes that Prepared the Way for the New Testament

1. The rise of the _____ that God would send a righteous “king” to _____ and redeem Israel from foreign oppression and internal corruption.
2. _____ became the common language of what would become the “new” Testament’s _____, commerce, and scholarly teaching.
3. _____ became easier and safer because of the system of roads and shipping created by the Romans.
4. _____ became the religious institution attended by “God Believers” and “God Fearers”.

III. Life In Between the Your Personal Testaments: When God is Silent

_____ change is sometimes brought forth through “_____ times”. Not only is change difficult, it is also painful to endure.

A. Questions:

1. *Describe how it feels to live In Between Your Testaments.*
2. *What impact can a personal Intertestamental Period have on your relationship with God?*

B. Remember...

1. Just because God is silent, it does not mean that God is _____. God does not need to “speak” in order for Him to make _____ in your life.
2. The “silence of God” should not be misunderstood as the “_____ of God”. God is still _____ even when you cannot hear Him.
3. During your Intertestamental Period, God might be silent, but He is still busy _____ on your behalf.

C. When God is silent, call to mind God’s last _____ (commands) to you. God’s Last Message to the Israelites Before the Silent Years

Malachi 4

- Prophecy of “The Day” (vss. 1-3)
- Instructions for the People of God (vs. 4)
- God’s Promise to Send the Prophet Elijah (vss. 5-6)

Change had to take place in the Israelites and the stage had to be “reset” in order for the time to be right for the coming and birth of Jesus Christ.

Questions:

1. Before your personal Years of Silence began, what was God’s last message, instruction to you on what He would have you to do in and with your life?
2. Why do you believe that God is so silent in your personal life while you endure so much suffering?
3. Today’s religious community is in a transition that appears to be an Intertestamental Period.
4. Before the religious community’s Years of Silence began, what was God’s last message, instruction to the Church on what He would have the Church to do?
5. Why was God Silent for 400 years?

D. When God is Silent, He is Letting You Know that...

1. Some part of your current life is not _____ or _____ to Him.
2. He is about to do something _____ in your life.
3. He is “_____ the stage” to provide you with a new life and better way of living.
4. The life He has created for you cannot be accomplished with your current “_____”. Change MUST BE MADE in order for you to become “new”.

IV. In Closing: God’s Promise of Presence

The silence of God does NOT mean the absence of God. God has a purpose for everything, even what appears to be His silence. God’s silence does not negate His “Promise of Presence.”

^{5b} “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” ⁶ So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

Hebrews 13:5b-6 (NIV)