

The Lord is Always Making the Way
2023-10-22

Habakkuk 1:5

“Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.

Route 66, Story of Redemption **wayside stop...blank page** between Old Testament and New Testament... is **foundational!**

- Called “**period of silence**”: **400 years no prophet spoke or wrote but God was busy.**
 - **Main Point:** Lord **always sovereignly**, wisely, **in background** making the **way to glorify** His name **through the nations** and in **your life!**

Old Testament closes with **Persian rule** and **return** of Jews from **Babylon exile** 400 BC.

- In **332 BC** Jerusalem **fell to Greeks** led by **Alexander the Great.**

Alexander Hellenization policy: **new world bonded** together by **Greek language and culture.**

- 285-250 BC **70** noted **Hebrew scholars translated Old Testament into Greek...called Septuagint** and means “**70**” hence **Roman numeral LXX.**
 - **Old Testament scripture available to entire Greek-speaking known world.** *Psalm 135:5-6*

Around **200 BC: Seleucid Empire** (modern Iraq, Iran, Syria) **seized Palestine.**

- **Blasphemous policies** trigger **Maccabean revolt ...166-142 BC.**
 - **164 BC occupy Jerusalem and rededicated temple:** celebrate at **Hanukkah.**

During this time two sects of **Pharisees and Sadducees** emerged.

- Almost **nothing in common** in religion, politics, socially...in **constant opposition.**
 - But **both emphasized superficial and nonessential....no concern for genuine inner spiritual life or welfare of others.**
 - **Spiritual commonness** cause **speak of as one group:** Pharisees and Sadducees

Also...third religious sect had **little influence** in **their society**, **not even mention** in **New Testament** but **direct impact** in **20th century.... you and I.**

- **200 BC-68 AD Essenes secretive Jews** in **isolated, exclusive communities.** Spent much time **copying Old Testament Scripture.** 1 Corinthians 1:27-28

In **1947** some of **their manuscripts** were **found** in **ceramic pot** in **cave** by **Arab shepherd boy** while **look for lost goat** south of **Jericho.... Dead Sea Scrolls.**

- **11 caves** discovered **1947-1956** produced over **600 scrolls & 40,000 fragments.**

- About **30% fragments** from **every Old Testament book** in Bible, **except Esther**.

Until Dead Sea Scrolls, oldest Old Testament manuscript copies from 900 BC....1000 year gap!

- **Amazingly: manuscripts almost identical.... accuracy of transmission!**
- Dead Sea Scrolls **ended argument of Old Testament prophecies of Jesus' birth and death added after fact.**
 - **More confidence our Old Testament are words given to Mo, Dave, prophets.**

Lord made **Old Testament avail all**, preserve thru Dead Sea Scrolls, then **way Gospel spread** world-wide.

- **300 BC Romans began 250,000-mile road network...Appian Way. Map**
 - Roman roads **Lord's tool spread Gospel around known world!**
- With **prep done**, promised **Messiah comes at perfect time** in history and in **perfect atoning way....** fully God and man! Micah 5:2, Luke 2:1-7a, Galatians 4:4-5

Blank page represents Lord's behind-scenes prep for first coming. Space between Jude and Revelations represents Lord's behind-scenes work making way for Jesus' second coming.

- **Hope for today: Lord always sovereignly, wisely, in background make way glorify His name through the nations and in your life! Israel 43:16, Acts 17:26-27, Ephesians 1:11**

Ask for faith to believe even when Jesus seems silent, inaction, distant...He loves you and is working for your good...our stories are not yet complete!

- You will **find hope** in His **Word if you have ears to hear.**
 - A.W. Tozer, Isaiah 55:8-11, Habakkuk 1:5, Proverbs 3:5, Matthew 11:28

"The Bible is not only a book which was once spoken, but a book which is now speaking." A.W. Tozer