

CHAPTER 11

TIME BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

The Old Testament ends with Israel back in their land and the Temple worship restored.

HISTORY

The 400 years between the Old and New Testaments are an important time in the history of Palestine. Events occurred during this time period which prepared the way for the coming of Christ.

From 331-167 BC, Alexander the Great conquered the whole world and established Greek cities throughout the empire. Greek culture flourished throughout the empire and the Greek language became the universal language. Later, the New Testament was written in Greek.

The Roman period was from 63 BC to the time of Christ. Rome conquered Palestine under Pompei and Pompei showed favor to the Jews by rebuilding the temple. The Romans were famous for their highway systems. They built roads throughout the Roman Empire and later these roads were used to get the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ out into the world.

NOTE:

Have you ever been to a play? The curtain comes down in the middle of the play and there is an intermission. During the intermission, the stage is changed to a different scene and then the curtain is raised and the play continues with the same theme. This is exactly what happened during the 400 year intermission between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The curtain came down and there was an intermission for 400 years. During the intermission, the scene was changed. The Romans were now in control. The Greek language was the universal language spoken throughout the Roman Empire. Later, the New Testament would be written in Greek. The temple was rebuilt. Roman roads were built throughout the empire. The good news of Jesus Christ later would quickly reach the ends of the empire. Now, the stage and scenery were set for the birth of Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews. The four hundred year intermission was ended and the curtain was raised.

The theme of Israel anticipating the promised King and Kingdom continued.