

3. After Malachi, how many years followed with out a word from God? (Study Guide, p.13)

4. What did the Pharisees believe? (Study Guide, p.13) _____

5. When Jesus came, who was the controlling government? (Study Guide, p.13)

6. What did the Sadducees believe? (Study Guide p.13) _____

7. Did the Jews worship Idols when Jesus came? (Study Guide, p.13) Yes ____ or No ____?
8. Name three people who were in God's remnant at this time (Study Guide, p.13) _____
_____ and _____
9. Name three purposes for Christ's coming. (Study Guide, p.14)
(a) _____
(b) _____
(c) _____
10. Name one complaint the Jews had about Jesus. (Study Guide, p.14) _____

THIRD STUDY

DECLINE

Among the Jewish people there was a decline after David and Solomon. God sent His prophets to restore them back to repentance and godly living: Matthew 23:31 says, Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

Acts 7:52— *Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers.*

Banishment from Canaan and removal into foreign lands began with the Northern Tribes in 721 B.C. (they had had bad kings and were in idolatry, II Kings 17:7-18), and eventually with Judah and the Southern Kingdom, in 586 B.C. (Northern Tribes - II Kings 17:4-6); Judah - II Chronicles 36:15-21). The Babylonian captivity lasted 70 years, after which, the governor, Zerubabel and Joshua the High Priest led a remnant of Jews back to Jerusalem, and the temple was rebuilt. the spiritual leadership at that time was the prophets Haggai and Zechariah. Later, Ezra and Nehemiah, with the desire to restore pure worship, led back a group. Then, as these leaders passed away, they left their faith and went into sin. In the Old Testament times, Malachi, who speaks of the sovereignty of God in 400 B.C. was the last to prophesy. He pleaded with the people who were rebels

against their covenant head. There were 400 years that followed, without a word from God. God was silent. The nation maintained an outward religion and held temple services and annual feasts, but they had no word from God. To the commandments of Moses, the Jewish leaders added a great number of regulations that Jesus called "the tradition of men," Mark 7:6-9

Look at verse 8 - *For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such things ye do.*

Acts 15:10 - *Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear.*

THE SADDUCEES AND PHARISEES

The Pharisees - a sect; a religious party among the Jews at the time of Christ who believed in the resurrection and angels.

The Sadducees - a sect ; were a Jewish religious party who didn't believe in the resurrection or angels.

THE REMNANT

God always had His remnant who looked for the redemption of Jerusalem. We find Anna in Luke 2:38. Others were: Joseph and Mary, Simeon, the shepherds to whom the angels appeared, and others not mentioned.

WHEN JESUS CAME

When Jesus came, the Jews were under Roman control. They no longer worshipped idols, but still they

followed their man-made traditions (Mark 7) and the Law (Mosaic Law). The Roman laws united the world together. The prominent language at that time was Greek. There was universal peace. God had brought all things into place for the arrival of His Son. Galatians 4:4,5 - *But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

JEW'S COMPLAINTS ABOUT JESUS

1. His occasional ministry to the Gentiles
2. *This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them* (Luke 15:2)
3. He went head-on against hypocrisy.

GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR CHRIST'S COMING

1. That prophecy might be fulfilled - Matthew 1:22; 26:54
2. To save the world - Luke 19:10; Matthew 20:28; Romans 5:8; John 20:31
3. To reveal God - John 1:1, 14, 18; 6:38; 8:29; 14:9,10; 20:31

QUESTIONS:

1. When did the decline of the Jewish people begin? (Study Guide 12)_____
2. Why were the Northern Tribes banished and removed into foreign lands? (II Kings 17:7-18)_____