

While I'm Waiting (3) Waiting in the Silence (Intertestamental Period)

Malachi 4:5-6 – Matthew 1:1, Mark 1:1-8

Intro: When God Goes Silent

I. The Promise (Mal. 4:5-6)

II. The Silence

III. The Answer (Matt. 1:1, Mark 1:1-8)

Conclusion: Waiting for Elijah

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of a time in your life when it felt like God was distant. Looking back, are you able to perceive any ways in which God was ACTING during that time to lead you to where you are now?
2. God ACTED in many ways during the 400 years of "silence" to prepare the way for Jesus' arrival. (Bible translated into Greek, the Roman roads, prophecy being fulfilled, etc.). How do you perceive God ACTING in our days to prepare the world for Christ's return?
3. Many prophecies were fulfilled during the Intertestamental Period, proving that God was still working out His plans and promises, even in the silence. What prophecies do you see God fulfilling in our current times?
4. At the end of the 400 years of "silence", Jesus came into our world, just as God had promised. How does this (combined with the other ways we see God acting) strengthen your faith that Jesus is certainly coming again?