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# Key Notes

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**THE** 400-year period between the Old and New Testaments was a period of silence between God and the Jewish people. During this time there is no recorded activity of God. It was truly a time of spiritual famine and dryness. God was silent. No Scriptures were written, no prophets spoke words, and no heroes emerged.

It was also a period of oppression and hope for the Jewish people. The oppression came in the form of the Persians, then the Greeks, and finally the Romans. The hope, known as Messianic Expectations, was that a Savior would come and lead them out of their oppression.

Initially, they expected the Savior to come in the form of a prophet like Moses. As the period of God's silence wore on, however, their expectation changed radically. By the time Jesus was born, they were expecting their Savior to be a great military or political leader.

That is why they missed Jesus. Even though He was right there in front of them, they were looking in the wrong direction.

That brings us to today's message. Together, we will see God end His silence and move once again amongst His people. We will look at Luke's account, draw some conclusions, and apply the lessons learned to our own lives.

Thank you for being here with us this morning. As you pray for today's service, please pray as Paul requested in Ephesians 6:19: "that words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel."

*Wally*