

Study Aids
Discussion Questions & Suggested Reading
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 87

Our purpose with this group of lessons covering the time between the Testaments is to fill in some of the “holes” in your knowledge about these turbulent years.

Did the Jews cease writing after the book of Malachi was written? No, not at all. There are 12 books written after Malachi that were not included in the Hebrew Bible and thereby given canonical status, but they were included in the early Greek and Latin editions, and continue to do so in the Catholic editions today. These are referred to as the Apocryphal books. The most useful of the Apocryphal books for our purposes are the two books of the Maccabees which give us historical details we would not otherwise have, and they will be used when we reach that point of our history study.

There is still a much larger group of books that are referred to as the Pseudepigrapha, and are largely of apocalyptic style. A study of these books is beyond the scope of this course, but a number of books have been written on this subject for anyone wishing to pursue this further. Contact me if you wish additional information.

Suggested reading:

For “user-friendly” and easy to read presentations – with maps and drawings – on the history of this period, there are many books to choose from, but there are two in particular that you should find most helpful. They are books we have suggested before: The Reader’s Digest Story of the Bible World, chapters 9 – 13; and Everyday Life in Bible Times from The National Geographic Society, pages 273 – 291.