

# SILENCE

The Bible is a bunch of smaller stories that point to one, big, true story: The story of God and His rescue plan through Jesus.



CREATION PATRIARCHS EXODUS CONQUEST JUDGES KINGDOM EXILE RETURN SILENCE GOSPEL CHURCH MISSIONS FUTURE

## Let's summarize the SILENCE era:

In the time between the Old and New Testaments, multiple empires were defeated as others rose to power. Famous battles were fought, epic stories were written, and huge building projects arose. God did not speak to His people for 400 years. However, He was still working to complete the rescue plan He had promised from the beginning of the Old Testament.

### Where is it found?

None

### Names to know:

Alexander the Great  
Julius Caesar  
Herod the Great

### What are the major stories?

(1) The Greek Empire, led by Alexander the Great, rose to power and defeated the Persians. As they conquered more and more cities, the Greek culture and language spread throughout the known world.

(2) Julius Caesar was the first emperor of the Roman Empire. He led the army in conquering the Greeks. Romans were great builders. They built thousands of miles of roads to connect all of the land they ruled.

(3) Rome made Herod the Great king over the land the Jewish people inhabited. He, like all Roman rulers, controlled the people with heavy taxes, the force of an army, and fear of punishment.

(4) The Jewish religious leaders became divided and cared more about themselves and if people were following the rules than the people themselves. They made up extra rules that were especially hard because they thought this would make God love them.

## How does the SILENCE era point to Jesus?

The Greeks and the Romans may have had their own plans, but God used them for His purposes and His glory. God was working behind the scenes to get everything ready for Jesus' arrival. During this time, Rome even invented the way in which Jesus would die, crucifixion. Since most people spoke the Greek language, this made it easier to tell others the good news about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. In fact, the majority of the New Testament was written in Greek. Similarly, Roman roads made travel easier, so Jesus' followers could take the gospel to different places.