

THE **BIG** PICTURE

SILENCE



ERA/GENRE

Silence

KEY FIGURES

Pharisees

LOCATION

Jerusalem

During the 400 Silent Years, Israel was:

- 1) Politically dominated and humiliated
- 2) Theologically confused about the Messiah
- 3) Spiritually fractured by religious extremes

STORYLINE

Pharisees and others entomb the Israelites in legalism for the next four hundred years.

My Application

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or small group.

- 1) Read the last verse of Malachi and compare it to Mark 1:1-8 and Mark 9:9-12. How do you respond to the clear fulfillment of prophecy in the Bible?
- 2) Study the servant passages in Isaiah 11:1-10 and 52:13 – 53:12. How does the Messiah work out these two different roles? What do we learn from the ministry of Jesus?
- 3) The Sadducees accepted their fate as a conquered people and tried to “go along to get along.” How do Christians today display this attitude? Do you ever struggle with this? In what ways?
- 4) The Pharisees dripped with passion and religious zeal. Is this ever dangerous? How do sincere Christians today struggle with this? Do you ever find those tendencies in yourself?



Memory Verse

“Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake His way and the evil man his thoughts.”

Isaiah 55:6-7