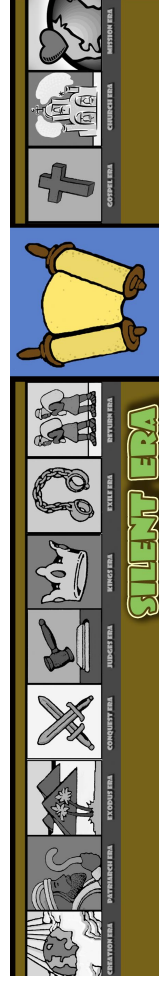


## 4 Major Subject of the Silent Era Trivia Challenge

1. At the end of the Old Testament, Israel is ruled by the Persian Empire, but they don't stay in power for too long. What two world powers go on to rule Israel next? Do any of the Old Testament Books predict their rise to power?
2. You won't find any information in your Bible about these two people groups, however, Barabbas would have been considered one of them? What are they called? What do they do during the 400 year silent era?
3. During this era two Jewish people groups dominate the daily culture of the Jewish people. What are the two groups called? What is their ruling board called?
4. Having been held captive by foreign nations for hundreds of years now, the Israelite people are looking forward to what event? Do you recall any old or new testament passage that confirms this?

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God stops writing to His people,  
but in Jerusalem the Pharisees  
write more and more "laws"  
for the people to follow  
as they wait for  
the Savior God promised..

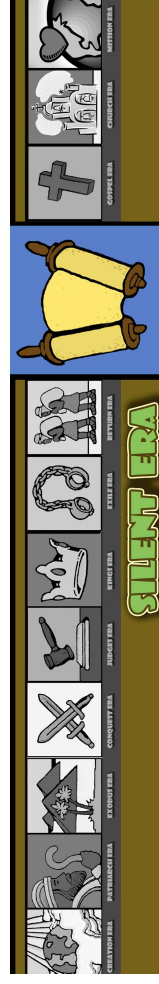
Egypt

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## Worth the Wait

John loved garden catalogs, especially when they came in winter. They reminded him that, even though their farm was still covered with snow, the spring would soon arrive. He picked up a catalog and began making a long list of things he wanted to order. He looked at a section titled “Unusual Seeds.” First on the list was ginseng. The catalog claimed it was so valuable that its dried roots would sell for a lot of money in health food stores. It also said that ginseng seeds took a year or more to sprout!

“Can I get some ginseng seeds, Dad?” asked John.

“I don’t know,” Dad said, “Those seeds take a long time to grow. Are you sure you want to wait that long before you see them come up?”

John shrugged. “Well you always say that anything worth having is worth waiting for,” he said. “If they grow, they could be worth a lot of money!”

Dad was thoughtful. “Son, you’ve just reminded me of something important,” he said. “I’ve been pastor at our church here for eight years now, and lately I’ve become a little discouraged. You’ve reminded me that every time I preach, I plant valuable seeds. Sometimes they may take a long time to grow or may never sprout at all. But if they do grow, it’s well worth the effort because the fruit they produce will last forever. The same is true for you whenever you tell others about Jesus.”

“So I may grow some ginseng?” asked John.

Dad nodded as he looked over the order form. “We can send it in. After you plant the seeds, you and I can remind each other to have faith and wait for them to grow.”

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*“But the good soil represents honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s message, cling to it, and steadily produce a huge harvest.” Luke 8:15*

*Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. John answered their question by saying, “I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” Luke 3:15-16*

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