

OT Books

Ezra
Nehemiah
Haggai
Zechariah
Esther
Malachi

Other Books

Book of Maccabees
Josephus
- Antiquities, War
Dead Sea Scrolls

At the end of Old Testament (400 BC)

- Judea had been a province of Persia for 138 years
- Jews were scattered over 128 provinces
- Persia had been a world power for 140 years
- Though they had been ruled by Persia, they enjoyed a mild rule, allowed to practice their faith.

Persian Period

- begins with 538 BC liberation by Cyrus
- However Judaism is already developing between 605 BC - 538 BC.
- The people in exile must live apart from
 - Temple
 - Nation / King
- They retain their identity by clinging to the Word. And thus scribes, who explain the word become important.
- Emphasis was placed on personal prayer, Sabbath observance, and justice (morality)
- began to adopt "Imperial Aramaic" instead of Hebrew
- now need a Methurgeman (Interpreter) to paraphrase the reading for the people