

*The Parting of the Ways*

*The Temple was rebuilt, but Jerusalem was only the cult center of the province of Yehud. There was no revival of the Davidic Kingship; Yehud was ruled by a governor in Mizpah. Confidence in the Yahweh persuasion waned. But there was more than one possible response to these disappointments.*

(66) The Book of Chronicles. It rewrites the Samuel/Kings tradition, to remove all obstacles to a later renewal of the Promise to David.

(67) Ezra and Nehemiah. They are famous for Ezra's prohibition of mixed marriages, a rule which is echoed more gently in the last part of Nehemiah.

(68) Ruth. She opposed Ezra's ethnic exclusiveness by showing that David himself was the product of a mixed marriage.

(69) Third Isaiah. Its vision of a future Temple, and its wider community, responds in a different way to the exclusivism of Ezra.

(70). The last group of Psalms, defined by the line "Praise ye Yahweh," takes a position much like that of Third Isaiah.

(71) Jonah. It is now grouped with the "Twelve Minor Prophets;" in reality, it was a satire on previous prophecy, and a voice for a different future.

(72) The Ethical Horizon. Hidden among some orthodox texts are rejections of the sacrificial culture in favor of an ethical concept of the duty of man.

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*Such was the diversity of thought and feeling in these deeply troubled times. And with that note of diversity, we bring these studies to an end.*