

*The Parting of the Ways*

*The Temple was rebuilt, but there was no revival of the Davidic Kingship. Jerusalem was only the cult center of the province of Yehud, ruled from Mizpah by a foreign governor. For some, confidence in the Yahweh persuasion waned, and other possibilities came to be considered.*

(65) Songs of Ascents. These fifteen Psalms celebrate the return of the Exiles to Jerusalem and the rebuilt Temple, with all the hopes that attended it.

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

(67) Nehemiah and Ezra. Rebuilding Jerusalem and its Temple. Famous for Ezra's prohibition of mixed marriages.

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

(69) Jonah. Now grouped with the "Twelve Minor Prophets," it is a satire on all previous prophecy, and a voice for a different future.

(70) The Ethical Horizon. Hidden among other texts are rejections of the entire sacrificial tradition, 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.*