

Maccabean Prophetic Silence and Provisional Authority

Post-bundle research record 07

Scope. Findings developed after the previous six-paper bundle. This paper separates historical description from any modern prescription.

Prophetic silence as an explicit historical condition

1 Maccabees describes a crisis in which prophetic authority is absent while human actors still make military, legal, and institutional decisions. The strongest structural observation is not that the Maccabees claimed prophecy, but that they repeatedly treated their own authority as provisional.

1 Maccabees 9:27: "There was a great affliction in Israel..." since the time prophets ceased to appear.

Three-stage authority model

Prophet: claimed revelation. **Deliverer:** necessity, capacity, and inherited law. **Builder/ruler:** institutional recognition. 1 Maccabees 4:46 and 14:41 preserve the crucial qualifier: unresolved sacred decisions or political-religious arrangements remain provisional until a trustworthy prophet appears.

Sabbath crisis as a natural experiment

1 Maccabees 2 narrates a lethal Sabbath dilemma. The movement responds through human judgment under crisis rather than a newly reported oracle. This supports the research model: prophetic silence does not imply inactivity; it changes the epistemic burden borne by the actor.

Revised cycle

Prophetic age -> rejection/decay -> prophetic silence -> intolerable crisis -> disruptor -> cost-bearing -> restoration -> builder/governor -> scribe/institution -> waiting for trustworthy revelation.

Falsifiers and cautions

The model fails if the text actually presents the Maccabean leaders as receiving direct prophetic commands for the key decisions. It also cannot be converted into a warrant for modern political or religious violence; it is a descriptive historical model.

Sources and audit notes

Web addresses are printed for reproducibility. Eclipse durations vary slightly by coordinate, Delta-T convention, and rounding; the report preserves source-specific values rather than silently harmonizing them.

NASA 2024 Where & When

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when/>

Jonah TX eclipse circumstances

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Elijah MO totality list

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Mount Carmel IL eclipse

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IAA 4Q76 archive

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Pajunen & von Weissenberg 2015

<https://researchportal.helsinki.fi/en/publications/the-book-of-malachi-manuscript-4q76-4qxii-a-and-the-formation-of-t/>

Jonah textual witnesses overview

<https://faculty.washington.edu/garmar/AngleonJonah.pdf>