

## The Book of Malachi

### Naples Men's Bible Study: 12-21-18

**The Name Malachi Means:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **Date of Malachi's Writings:** around 420-450 BC (200 years after Zephaniah and about 100 years after Haggai.)
- **Historical Setting:** Israel has partially returned from Babylonian captivity under the Gentile king, Cyrus. Temple construction is complete. Israel is supposed to be living obedient lives to God with devoted hearts, a rebuilt wall around Jerusalem (Nehemiah) and a fully functioning Temple (Haggai).
- **Recurring Theme:** The God of Israel loves the people of Israel and they are to live in obedience in light of that love.
- **Structure:** The book is structured as 6 disputations between God and Israel.
- **Purpose:** To motivate Israel to faithful obedience by reminding them of God's love and the coming of the Jewish Messiah.

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**Malachi 1:1-5: God's ongoing love and commitment to Israel is ensured**

**Malachi 1:6-2:9: Problems with the Priests**

Failed \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) The priests showed \_\_\_\_\_ for God's name.
- 2) The priests blatantly \_\_\_\_\_ the Law of Moses.
- 3) The priests offered \_\_\_\_\_ offerings to God.
- 4) The priests wrongly believed God \_\_\_\_\_ Israel to worship Him.
- 5) The priests treated the worship as a \_\_\_\_\_ rather than a privilege.
- 6) The priests tried to \_\_\_\_\_ God.

Corrupted \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) God will \_\_\_\_\_ their work.
- 2) God will \_\_\_\_\_ their work.
- 3) God will \_\_\_\_\_ the priests as unclean.

“Malachi's rebuke of the priests should be remembered by pastors and elders who are also called upon to lead their people in undefiled worship and sound instruction.” - MBC

### Malachi 2:10-16: God's Rebuke for Marital Unfaithfulness

- Issue #1: Jewish men married women who followed \_\_\_\_\_ (2:11). The Jewish husbands followed their wives' idolatry and profaned the Temple.
- Issue #2: Jewish men \_\_\_\_\_ their wives in order to marry pagan women.

### Malachi 2:17-3:6: God's Justice in His Judgment

The coming of \_\_\_\_\_ messengers.

### Solving the Mystery of the Messengers

| Messenger #1  | Messenger #2   | Forerunner  |
|---|--|---|
|   |  |   |
| Called "My messenger" in Malachi 3:1.                           | Called "Messenger of the Covenant" in Malachi 3:1                  | Called "The Elijah who is to come" in John 11:14  |
| Function is to announce the coming of the Messiah (Isa. 40:3-5) | Function is to judge the wicked and fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant | Functioned in the role of Elijah for Messiah's 1st coming <b>but was not</b> Elijah (Jn. 1:21.) |

### Malachi 3:7-12: Israel's Failure to Tithe

3 questions usually come up regarding the application of this passage today:

1. Does God require "storehouse" giving? i.e. giving to one's own congregation
2. Is tithing, giving 10%, still required today?
3. Will giving result in material benefits?

### Malachi 3:13-4:3: The Value of Serving God

The great value of serving God will be evident only to those who keep the \_\_\_\_\_ rather than the immediate in view.

### Malachi 4:4-6: God's Restoration of Israel

*\* Credit to the Moody Bible Commentary for much of this information*