

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Malachi"
Book-39

Key Passage – Malachi 1:11; 2:17; 3:1

Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi were post-captivity prophets (Ministered after Babylonian Captivity); Haggai Zechariah dealt with the restored exiles.

Malachi is God's last messenger, bearing witness to the failure of God's people and the coming of the Messiah and His Forerunner.

The Author: Malachi 1:1 The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.

The name **Malachi** means "*My messenger*" **Malachi 3:1**

When Written: 432-425 B.C. In 445, Nehemiah became their governor and served for twelve years (**Nehemiah 5:14**).

While Nehemiah was back at his post in Shushan (**Nehemiah 13:6-7**), things began to fall apart in Jerusalem, and when he returned, he had to take some drastic steps to reform the nation.

The conditions described in the Book of Nehemiah are the very things Malachi deals with within his book:

1. Poor crops and a faltering economy (**Malachi 3:11**)
2. Intermarriage with the heathen (**Malachi 2:11**)
3. Defilement of the priesthood (**Malachi 1:6**)
4. Oppression of the poor (**Malachi 3:5**)
5. Lack of support for the temple (**Malachi 3:8-10**)
6. A general disdain of religion (**Malachi 3:13**)

Where Malachi was Written: Jerusalem

Purpose: Malachi marks the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament with 400 silent years. After coming back from captivity, Israel failed to learn from their captivity and repeated the same sins that placed them in captivity. He foretells that a prophet like Elijah will come before the Messiah.

Theme: "*Appeal To Backsliders*" or "*Honoring the name of God by living godly lives*"

Key Words: "**Rules**" **25 times**, "**Lord of hosts**" ("Lord Almighty"), that is, "*the Lord of the armies*," a name used **24 times** in Malachi and nearly **300 times** in the Old Testament. This is the "military" name of God, for "hosts" comes from a Hebrew word which means "*to wage war*."

Key Chapter: Malachi 3 The promise of the coming messenger, John the Baptist, that will prepare the nation for the Messiah.

Key Passage: Malachi 1:11, 2:17, 3:1

Outline:

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| 1. Malachi 1:1–5 | God's Favored Nation |
| 2. Malachi 1:6–2:9 | Disrespectful Priests |
| 3. Malachi 2:10–3:12 | Unfaithful People |
| 4. Malachi 3:13–4:6 | God's Promises |

1. Malachi 1:1–5 God's Favored Nation

Malachi 1:1 The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.

Malachi called his message an oracle "burden." The prophets were men who personally felt "*the burden of the Lord.*"

Malachi 1:2 "I have loved you," God says to His people. "Oh?" they respond. "How have You loved us?" Prove it." **Doubting God's love is the beginning of unbelief and disobedience.**

God proves His love to His people in two ways:

- (1) He graciously chose Jacob, their father, and rejected Esau.**
- (2) He judged the Edomites (Esau's descendants) and gave to Israel the best of the lands.**

"How have You loved us?" Prove it." The first sin Malachi named was the people's lack of love for God. (**Revelation 2:4**)

Malachi 1:3-5

Here, "**Jacob**" and "**Esau**" refer primarily to the peoples descended from the two brothers. God had demonstrated His love for the Jewish people ("Jacob") by restoring them to their homeland. But the Edomites ("Esau") had been displaced from their lands by the Nabateans, and the territory had become a "wasteland" inherited by "desert jackals."

2. Malachi 1:6–2:9 Disrespectful Priests

Malachi 1:6 "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master,

where is My respect?' how quickly the Old Testament community drifted again from its commitment to the Lord.

Keeping the "personal" in our personal relationship with God is our first and most important priority.

But you say, 'How have we despised Thy name?' The response was the same as a denial: "*Despise Your name? Not us!*"

Malachi 1:7 Offering Defiled Food: Malachi 1:7

First, they demonstrated disrespect by placing **"defiled food upon My altar"** (6-7). Old Testament Law described in detail how sacrifices were to be offered (**Leviticus 1-6**).

Malachi 1:8-9 Offering Disqualified Sacrifices: Malachi 1:8-9

Old Testament Law required that sacrificial animals be unblemished. These priests accepted diseased or crippled animals for sacrifice.

"Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you?"

Malachi 1:10-14 Worship Became A Burden: Malachi 1:10-11

This is what the future will hold. That all the earth will honor Jesus Christ. How much more should the priest of God love God and lead the way to loving and honoring Him?

Malachi 1:12-13

Are we careful to show respect for God in the way we worship, or **are we careless in our church attendance and practice? Do we give Him our best, or does the Lord receive only our leftovers?**

Malachi 1:14

Malachi 2:1-9 Honor Or Curse: Malachi 2:1-2

Leadership has great responsibility. That a priest/leader lives by a higher standard. **James 3:1**

Malachi 2:3-8

Any flaw in the priesthood was bound to affect the people they were called to serve. Malachi charged the priests of his day; **you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble** (v. 8).

Malachi 2:9

The warning is directly applicable to us. New Testament believers are called a "holy priesthood," serving under Jesus our High Priest (1 Peter 2:9).

3. Malachi 2:10–3:12 Unfaithful People

Malachi 2:10-13

These tears are not tears of brokenness, but why am I not getting what I want?

Malachi 2:14

Men had discarded older wives to marry younger. Misunderstood the concept of loyalty, which lies at the root of every human relationship and at the root of the relationship with God Himself.

Malachi 2:15-16

"For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel, that divorce is always the result of sin. Possible to involve one party but mostly involves both.

Our relationship with God, our children, our friendship, and our witness are all involved in this action. **Loyalty Is Needed.**

Malachi 2:17

How dangerous it is to suppose that we can judge what God does. How dangerous to suppose that we can re-legislate morality and pronounce "good" those who do what God says is wrong.

Malachi 3:1-5 A Day of Purifying Judgment: Malachi 3:1

And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; This was a promise of Judgment! That the God they were to seek was going to show up! **Luke 19:45-48**

and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. We, too, look forward to the Day of the Lord and to Christ's second coming. But we need to ask ourselves a question these folks never thought to ask. **"Are we ready?"**

There's nothing we can do to speed up His coming. But we can and must prepare ourselves for His appearance.

Malachi 3:2-3

1 Peter 1:6-7

Divine discipline today, too, may seem as uncomfortable as a refiner's fire or as distasteful as a powerful launderer's soap. So, when undergoing discipline, you and I need to keep our eyes focused on the product.

Malachi 3:4-5

Malachi 3:6-12 Showing Repentance By Their Tithes: Malachi 3:6-8

Under Mosaic Law, a tenth of all that the land produced belonged to the Lord. This tithe of flocks and produce was brought to the temple, where it was used to provide offerings and to support the priests and Levites who ministered there.

An additional tithe was to be set aside every third year and retained locally to support widows, orphans, and others in need.

Malachi 3:9-12

4. Malachi 3:13–4:6 God's Promises

Malachi 3:13-15 Showing Repentance By Their Talk:

Malachi 3:13-15

What is this? Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks!

Malachi 3:16-18 God's Promise To Bless Those Who Fear Him:

Malachi 3:16-18

Malachi 4:1-5

This is a reference to the coming of John the Baptist. He came in the spirit of Elijah.

Mark 1:1-4

Malachi 4:6 Israel was going out to hear John and be baptized.

Mark 1:5-8

Application:

1. Doubting God's Love Is The Beginning Of Unbelief And Disobedience. Eve Doubted God's Love And Ate Of The Forbidden Tree; Satan Wants Us To Think We Are Neglected By God.
2. Keeping The "Personal" In Our Personal Relationship With God Is Our First And Most Important Priority.
3. Israel Was Shedding Misdirected Tears, Not Tears Of Brokenness But Crying Over Circumstances That They Have Brought Upon Themselves And The Same Time, Not Broken Enough To Really Rectify The Problem.
4. Husbands In Malachi's Day Were Divorcing Their Wives, Which Showed That They Misunderstood The Concept Of Loyalty, Which Lies At The Root Of Every Human Relationship And At The Root Of Our Relationship With God Himself.