

Malachi: An Overview

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, January 7, 2024 PM

Malachi 1:1 *THE burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.*

Timeline (approximate)

- Around 170 years prior: Babylonian captivity. **Our Civil War.**
- Around 100 years prior: Cyrus decrees return, temple started. **Our Great Depression.**
- Around 80 years prior: Temple completed. **End of WW2.**
- Around 25 years prior: Ezra leads exiles to Judah. **Y2K, 9/11**
- Around 10 years prior: Wall around Jerusalem rebuilt. **Ebola, rise of ISIS, Russia annexed Crimea.**
Can you feel how even those each of these events was significant, its significance can fade in our hearts?

Outline: Six Oracles (Discourses)

1. Introduction
2. First Discourse: Against Edom
3. Second: Against the Priests
4. Third: God hate faithlessness (Intermarriage & Divorce)
5. Fourth: Messenger of Yahweh (God is allowing injustice to occur and doing nothing)
6. Fifth: Withholding Tithes
7. Sixth: The Day of Yahweh (idolatry judged)
8. Conclusion

Oracle (Discourse) Format

1. Assertion (God);
2. Question (Israel);
3. Response (God);
4. Implication

VIDEO: The Bible Project: Malachi

Relevance

We are a waiting people and the same temptations can seize us. (NT warnings about slumber)

- **1:2-5** – Failing to see God’s love
We established that this morning.
- **1:6-2:9** – Going through the Motions
Jesus warns about the love of many growing cold.
- **2:10-16** – Faltering in our most essential relationships (from who we marry to how we do or don’t do marriage).
We don’t look too much different than the world.
- **2:17-3:5** – Where is God? Wondering where God is amid the craziness around us.
People see or perceive injustice and rather than do righteousness and trust God, they seek to take matters into their own hands.
- **3:6-12** – Failing to honor God financially
This reflects our love towards God and faith in God.
- **3:13-18** – Being drawn into idolatry that seems to satisfy our expectations
1 John 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

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The Thread

- Standing upon the shoulders of the Law & the Prophets and fresh deliverance, a change was still needed.
With all God had done and all Israel had experienced, it is abundantly clear the Law can never save.
- The Lord's heart is revealed:
 1. **Not just a tribal God**
Malachi 1:5 *And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel.*
 2. **His name great from East to West**
Malachi 1:11 *For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same My name shall be great among the Gentiles; And in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: For my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.*
 3. **A godly seed.**
Malachi 2:15 *Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring... (ESV)*
 4. **The purifying Messenger of the Lord.**
Malachi 3:3-4 *And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: And he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD...*
 5. **Love Tested with Faithfulness**
Malachi 3:10 *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be meat in mine house, And prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, If I will not open you the windows of heaven, And pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*
 6. **Hearts of fathers to children and children to fathers.**
Malachi 4:5-6 *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, And the heart of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

God desires a people who know Him, love Him, spread His name in geography and generations and test His love by their faithfulness.

Isn't this the work of the New Testament Church, the great Commission!

3 John 4 *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*