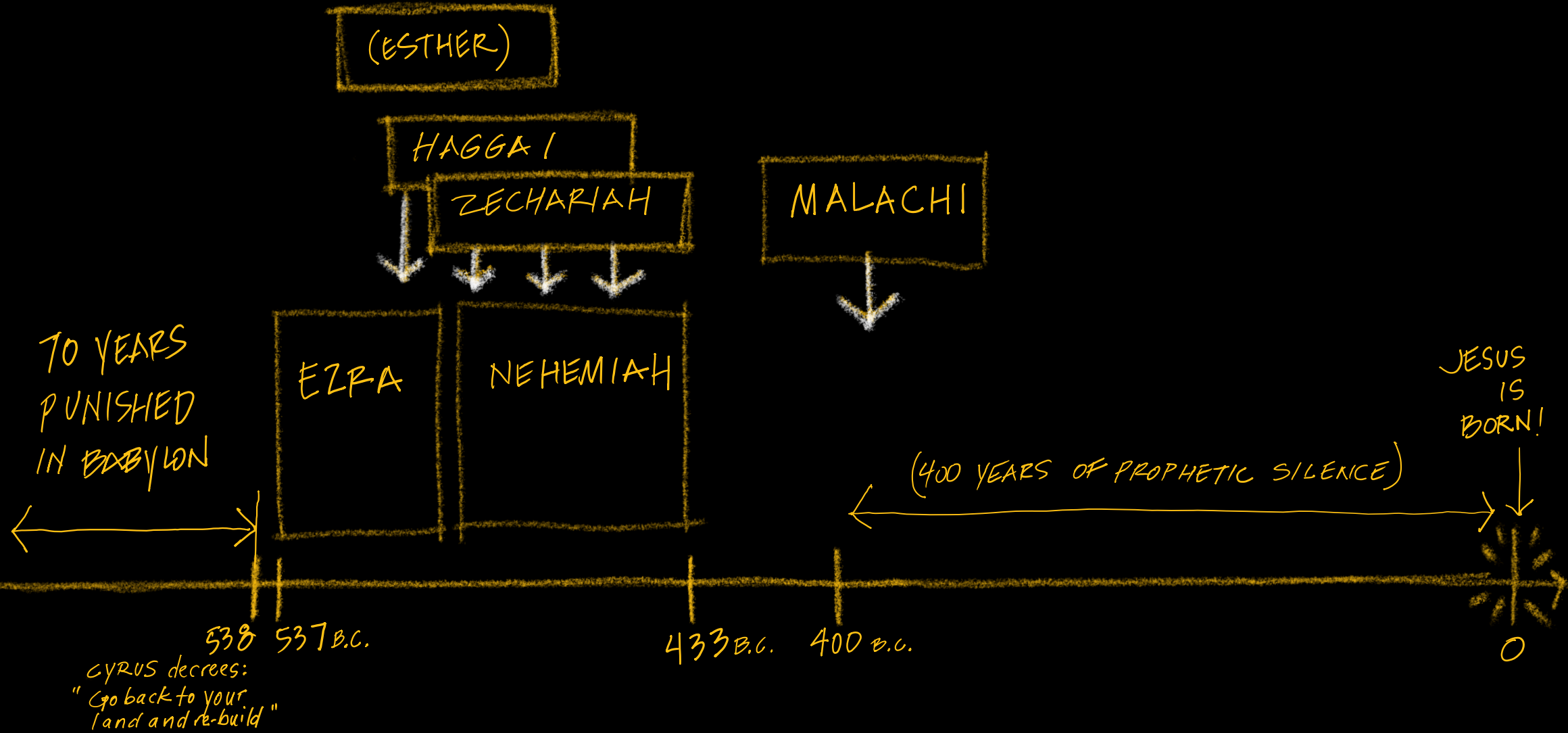


MALACHI

The love of God confronting
to purify his people

ISRAEL AFTER THE EXILE



MALACHI 2:17-3:18

You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Mal. 3:5 "Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

Mal. 3:6 "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. 7 From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.

But you say, 'How shall we return?' 8 Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. 11 I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. 12 Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

Mal. 3:13 "Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' 14 You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? 15 And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.'"

Mal. 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. 17 "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. 18 Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Words that weary the Almighty

A Surprise Appearance: *BEHOLD!*

Robbing God, starving yourself

Words that hurt the Lord

His.

MALACHI 2:17

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But you say, “How have we wearied him?”

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in the sight of the LORD,

and he delights in them.”

Or by asking,

“Where is the God of justice?”

Words that weary the Almighty

Can God get tired?

Isaiah 40:27-31 “Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God”?

Do you not know? Have you not heard? **The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.**

He will not grow tired or weary,

and his understanding no one can fathom.

He gives strength to the weary

and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

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how I
think
about
myself:

(How I feel when
someone else
hurts me)

Words that weary the Almighty

Can God get tired?

You can weary the Almighty by thinking and saying that

"He doesn't care about right and wrong"

and that "he doesn't care about injustice."

God operates on his own timetable, and it's often longer than ours.
Judgment delayed is not judgment averted.

God operates invisibly and we are creatures of impatient sight.

MALACHI 3:1-7

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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A Surprise Appearance in the Temple: *BEHOLD!*

Characters:

- The Lord of Hosts** 1. "I, me"
John the Baptist 2. "my messenger"
Jesus of Nazareth 3. "the Lord whom you seek; the messenger of the covenant"
"...will suddenly come to his temple'

Words from the prophet Haggai, 75-100 years earlier:

On the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came through Haggai the prophet, saying:

"Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and also to the remnant of the people.

Ask them, 'Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory?

How does it look to you now? Does it not appear to you like nothing in comparison?

But now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD.

Be strong, O Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest.

And be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD.

Work! For I am with you, declares the LORD of Hosts.

This is the promise I made to you when you came out of Egypt.

And My Spirit remains among you; do not be afraid."

For this is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Once more, in a little while,

I will shake the heavens and the earth,
the sea and the dry land.

I will shake all the nations,

and they will come with all their treasures,
and I will fill this house with glory,

says the LORD of Hosts.

The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, declares the LORD of Hosts.

The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former, says the LORD of Hosts.

And in this place I will provide peace, declares the LORD of Hosts."

Haggai 2:1-9

MALACHI 3:1-7

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A Surprise Appearance in the Temple: *BEHOLD!*

Behold the baby God – Luke 2:21 (not at the temple)

Behold the infant God – Luke 2:22

Behold the child God – Matthew 13-18

Behold the 12 yr old boy God, at Passover time: Luke 41-50 ***sitting***

Behold the God-man in the Temple:

At the feast of the Passover, the violent! Exorcism of his Father's house (John 2:13-22 and his announcement of a temple replacement: his body!

At the Feast of Tabernacles he teaches in the Temple: "*If any man thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scriptures says, out of his heart will flow rivers of living Water.*" - John 7:37

At the Feast of Tabernacles: stooped down, writing in the sand of the temple court, witnessing against the adulterers and the oppressors, purifying and refining the sons (and daughter) of Israel. "*neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more*" –John 8: 1-12

At the Feast of Dedication, in the winter: "*I and the Father are one*" – John 10:22-39

After the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, Cleansing the Temple again: *Doing many wonderful things (Matthew 21:15) healing the lame and the blind. Receiving Children. Teaching. Receiving Gentiles (John 12:20) Disallowing any burden-bearing commerce on the temple court (Mark 11:16)*

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A Surprise Appearance in the Temple: *BEHOLD!*

Our God is a consuming fire

Our God is a purifying fire- you can be purified instead of incinerated

Our hope in Christ purifies us – 1 John 3:1-3

Return to Jesus!