A Tour Through the Divine Library
(Malachi)

I. General Introduction to Malalchi

-Title/Author: the prophet Malachi (1:1)

-Date: 433-425 BC (Neh. 2:1; 5:14; 13:6, 7)

-Purpose: Malachi brings reproofs and promises to revive the people and renew their faith.

-Structure:

I. A Description of God's Abiding Love for the Nation (1:1-6)
II. A Delineation of God's Multiple Complaints Against the Nation (1:7-2:17)
III. A Declaration of God's Future Blessing on the Nation (3:1-4:6)

II. General Overview of Malachi

-Doubting God's Love (1:1-5); Irreverence to God (1:6); Defiled Sacrifices (1:7-14); Corrupt Priesthood (2:1-9); Divorce (2:10-16); God's Justice Questioned (2:17); The Coming of God's Messengers (3:1-6); Call to Repentance (3:7); Robbing God of Tithes and Offerings (3:8-12); Final Rebuke (3:13-15); Certainty of Coming Judgment (3:16-4:3); Prophecy of the Coming of Elijah (4:4-6)

III. Prominent Themes in Malachi

-God's Character: love (1:2, 3); immutability (3:6); patience; justice (3:5, 16-4:3); honor; faithfulness

IV. Christ in Malachi

-In the Promised Coming of Elijah (Mal. 4:54, 6 with Luke 1:16, 17) See also Matt. 11:14; 17:10-13; John 1:21; Mal. 3:1a with Matt. 11:10

-In the Promised Coming of the Messenger of the Covenant (Mal. 3:1b)

V. Practical Lessons in Malachi

1) The Unity and Continuity of the Bible (Mal. 4:5, 6 → Luke 1:17)

2) The Repugnancy of Worship without Integrity (Ps. 24:3, 4; 2 Chron. 30:1-20; Is. 1:11-17; 29:13, 14; Jer. 7:1-10; Ezek. 8:1-18; Matt. 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-8)

3) The Certainty of Coming Judgment (Heb. 9:27)