

Malachi – God’s loving judgment

Malachi’s name means – messenger. His name signifies that the future prophet will prepare the way for the Messiah’s coming. At the close of the book that prophet is identified as Elijah. In the New Testament he is identified as John the Baptist.

Malachi rebukes the sinfulness of the Jews returning from Babylonian captivity. Within a century they had forgotten that God had judged their fathers and sent them to Babylon for their sinfulness and disobedience to God. Now they face God’s judgment for their own sinfulness and disobedience to God

Focus: God loves His people enough to judge them for their sin

6 Disputes God has with Israel

1. 1:2-5 – The people were ungrateful for God’s love
“I have loved you, says the Lord. But you say, how have You loved us?”- 1:2
2. 1: 6 – 2:9 – The people were careless in honoring God
“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?...But you say, how have we despised Your name?- 1:6
“I am not pleased with you, says the Lord of hosts, nor will I accept an offering from you...You say also, my how tiresome it is!”- 1:10,13
3. 2:10-16 – The people profaned God’s holiness
“Judah has dealt treacherously and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the Lord which He loves and has married the daughter of a foreign God” – 2:11
4. 2:17 -3:5 – God will soon send His messenger in judgment for their sins
“You have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet you say, how have we wearied Him?...where is the God of justice? - 2:17
5. 3:6 -12 – The people neglected their tithes & offerings from God
“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?” – 3:7
6. 3:13 - 4:3 – The people were impatient on waiting for God – Yet God will have a few who will fear the Lord
“Your words have been arrogant against me says the Lord. Yet you say, how have we spoken against you?” – 3:13

The qualities of the faithful few who fear the Lord – 3:16 -18

1. Those who fear the Lord gave attention to the word of God from the prophet. 3:16
2. Those who fear the Lord are remembered by God for their fear & speaking about God. 3:16

7 Things God writes down in His book of remembrance

- a. He writes down the names of His saints – Phil. 4:3
- b. He writes down the good words spoken about Him – Mal. 3:16
- c. He writes down the tears of His people – Ps. 56:8
- d. He writes down the thoughts of His people – Mal. 3:16 – two things are silent yet have a voice, tears, and thoughts
- e. He writes down the desires of His people – Ps. 38:9
- f. He writes down the prayers of His people – Jonah 2:7
- g. He writes down the works of His people – Acts 10:4

3. Those who fear the Lord belong to God & will be saved. 3:17
4. Those who fear the Lord will be known because they serve God. 3:17

God's warning for Israel - 4:4 -6

"Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel"- 4:4

"Behold I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord "- 4:5

"He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse" – 4:6

Daily Use

Am I ungrateful for God's love?

Am I careless in honoring God?

Have I profaned the holiness of God?

Have I doubted the ways of God?

Have I neglected my worship & giving to God?

Have I been impatient about God's timing?

Do you fear the Lord and obey His word?