

MALACHI INTRO

Malachi means 'my messenger'. Below is an outline of the book and some questions dealt with in Malachi.

1. God's love shown in predestination. 1:1-5
2. Failure of the priests 1:6-2:9
3. Defiled offerings 1:6-1:14
4. Corrupt priesthood 2:1-9
5. Failure of the people 2:10-17
6. Coming messenger and warning of Judgement 3
7. Coming messenger 3:1-7
8. Robbing God 3:8-12
9. Speaking against God 3:13-15
10. God's remnant
11. Day of the Lord

1:2	In what hast Thou loved us?	
1:7	In what have we polluted Thee?	
2:14	Wherefore?	
2:17	In what have we wearied Him?	
3:7	In what do we turn back?	
3:8	In what have we deceived Thee?	
3:13	What have we spoken against Thee?	

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INTRODUCTION (MALACHI 1:1-5)

1. Read Malachi 1:1. What does it mean when a prophecy starts with ‘burden’? Read Nahum 1:1-5. Why is the message of Malachi a burden? Malachi was written between 440 to 400 BC. Who were the contemporaries of Malachi? What period of time follows Malachi’s? Given that Malachi means ‘my messenger’, how does this fit with the last of the recorded prophets before the Messiah?
2. Read Malachi 1:2-5. How do the people react to God’s statement of love? What does this say of their heart? What doctrine is the basis of this argument? Read Romans 9:10-13. Does Paul use the quote from Malachi with reference to individuals or nations? How is it used in Malachi? Does this create a problem for Calvinists as the Arminians claim? How does the rest of Malachi (e.g.: Malachi 3:13-18) bear out Paul’s preface in Romans 9:6-9? How is Edom like a sinner trying to earn righteousness apart from God? How is God glorified? Compare 1 Kings 20:28-30 & Malachi 1:4-5.

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SACRIFICES AND PRIESTS (MALACHI 1:6-2:9)

1. Read Malachi 1:6-7. What is God's charge, and against whom is it leveled? How do the priests' react? God uses two main thrusts in the rest of chapter 1 to prove His charge, what are they (Ref v.8 and v.13)? What is the basis of both thrusts? Who brought and killed the sacrifices? Read Leviticus 1:1-9. Why the condemnation on the priests? Read Numbers 18:1-2. Is God our father and are we His servants? Do we give to God the best we have (time, talent, and treasure), or the blind and lame?
2. Read Malachi 1:7-11. How does the poor sacrifice say the people despised the table of the Lord? Would they have known of this requirement? Read Deuteronomy 15:19-23. What test of a sacrifice is given in Malachi 1:8? What is the gist of Malachi 1:10? How does Malachi 1:9-10 fit with Isaiah 1:10-20? Compare Malachi 1:11 to John 4:19-26. How do we apply these insights in our lives?
3. Read Malachi 1:12-14. Compare Malachi 1:13 with Isaiah 43:22-28. How do believers act the same way? Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-32. Are there other ways we show this? How about church attendance (not just going but desiring to be there)? How about in our support of missions and evangelism (not just money, but prayer and personal involvement)? Compare Malachi 1:14 with Acts 5:1-11.
4. Read Malachi 2:1-9. What is the purpose of this section and to whom is it directed? What are they to hear and take to heart? How does this relate to chapter 1? Is any new problems are mentioned (ref v. 7-9)? What does it mean to curse their blessings? Was the blessing material only? Read Leviticus 6:22-27. How does the blessing relate to other priestly duties? Does God curse those who disobey? Read Deuteronomy 28:15-20. Do the priests' respond? How does God react to this? What is spread on their faces? Read Leviticus 8:16-17. The offal (major organs of sacrifice animal not used in sacrifice) was symbolic of sin, and thus was removed from the city and burned. How does this relate in the New Testament? Read Hebrews 13:11-17. What would it mean to have this spread on them? Why did God do this? What is the proper reaction to leaders who truly honor God?
5. What was the covenant with Levi? Read Numbers 17:1-8. How is the covenant with the Levites one of peace and life, and how did they turn many away from iniquity? Read Numbers 25:1-13 and Deuteronomy 33:8-11. How had this changed over the last 1000 years? Who in the church today have been called to the priestly office? 1 Peter 2:4-10. What does Malachi 2:7-8 mean to us then? Read 1 Peter 3:13-17, Matthew 5:13-16, 2 Timothy 2:3-7, Acts 18:24-28.

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PEOPLE UNFAITHFUL (MALACHI 2:10-16)

1. Read Malachi 2:10-16. Who is referred to as the father? Read Joshua 24:1-3, Isaiah 63:16, Malachi 1:6. What do the first two questions in verse ten mean? Is this a statement of the universal fatherhood of God (i.e.: can everyone call God his or her father)? Read John 8:37-47. Who are God's children? Read Mark 3:31-35, 1 John 2:28-3:3. How many charges are brought against the people? What are they?
2. What is the first point God covers? Who is Israel dealing treacherously with? How does this relate to who is dealt treacherously with in v. 10? Read Nehemiah 12:23-31. How does this tie in the whole first part of Malachi 2? Why is marring a non-believer an abomination in the sight of the Lord? How does Paul extend this 2 Corinthians 6:14-18?
3. What does it mean to cover the altar with weeping and crying? Why did the people do it? How did God respond? Why, doesn't this show the honesty of their repentance? Read Hebrews 12:14-17. What makes the difference? What is their sin? How does what Jesus says in Matthew 19:3-9 help in understanding this? Are they rending their hearts or their garments before the Lord (ref. Joel 2:12-14)? What holy seed does God seek? Read Isaiah 53:10-12, Hebrews 12:1-2. Why does He care? Read John 17:6-19.
4. How does verse 16 summarize God's view? What does it mean to cover one's garment with violence (or wrong)? What does a garment symbolize? Read Zechariah 3:3-5, Ruth 3:8-9. Is divorce like doing violence to marriage? How is this different from what God set for us to do and what He does? Read Ephesians 5:25-33.

MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT (MALACHI 2:17-3:7)

5. Malachi can be split in two parts, Malachi 1:1-2:16 and Malachi 2:17-4:6. In the first section God proclaimed His love in election, and brought charge against two groups, the priests and people. In the second section, God proclaims His justice and mercy and shows the reaction of two groups to the revelation (those who do not fear God and those that do). Read Malachi 2:17-3:5. How have the people wearied God? Do God's people weary Him by asking where is His justice? Read Habakkuk 1:1-8. Is God angry or weary with Habakkuk for asking? Why the difference? Are the people who are asking in Malachi seeking God's glory and righteousness as was Habakkuk or are they covering their own sin and claiming God doesn't care? How does God answer the question of where is the God of justice?
6. Who is the messenger in Malachi 3:1? Read Malachi 4:5-6, Luke 1:13-17, Matthew 17:10-13. Who is the Messenger of the covenant? Read Luke 22:19-20. Were the Jews looking forward to the coming of the Messiah? Read Isaiah 9:6-7. Does God indicate it will be as happy as they expect? What is the Messiah to do to the Levites? How does this play out in Christ? Read Luke 19:37-48, 1 Peter 2:4-5. What does the refiner's fire and fuller's soap look to? Read Revelation 3:14-21, 1 Peter 1:6-9. What sacrifices please the Lord? Read John 4:19-26. How does Jesus show the judgement? Read Ephesians 5:1-7, Revelation 20:11-15.
7. Read Malachi 3:6-7. What does God start out with? How does this reassure us? Read 2 Peter 3:8-9, Habakkuk 2:2-4. In light of this what does God call us to do? How do the people react? How should they have? Read Job 40:6-14, Job 42:1-6.