

Union Chapel M.B. Church

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The Book of Malachi ("My messenger, angel")

Selected Scriptures

"FRAUDS AT WORSHIP"

"The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi"(Malachi 1:1 NKJV).

"You have wearied the LORD with your words..."(Malachi 2:17).

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"(Matt. 6:33 NKJV).

"My Name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me..."(Malachi 1:11 NIV).

INTRODUCTION

Israel apparently indifferent, lacking appropriate appreciation for God, doubting His love for them, insulting/offending Him, have come to a point of not making Him their highest priority! **TRAGIC!** Even today as we pursue our lives, schedules, other concerns, many things compete for our attention. The Lord has said that in our relationship with God, His plans for our lives should be our highest priority (**Mt. 6:33**). This will help us to avoid the sin of apathy.

Malachi gets the last word, and gives God's last message in the Old Testament. A message that highlights God's desire for genuine worship and devotion from His people! Israel has allowed other sins to creep into their culture and Malachi warns them, God is upset! Remember, they went to Babylon for 70 years in captivity, now back in Jerusalem committing "grievous sins" again!

HISTORIAL SETTING

Sometime after the 32nd year of King Artaxerxes (Persia). Nehemiah has returned to Jerusalem to initiate his correction reforms (Neh. 13:4-31). There is close agreement in Malachi and Nehemiah's ministries. Both of the books highlight the problems of the leadership, and God's people, allowing abuses and fraud in worship. The *message of Malachi* is a picture of what took place in Jerusalem, before God's 400 years of prophetic silence started. Prophecy ends with Malachi.

OUTLINE OF THE MESSAGE (NEW BIBLE COMPANION STUDY)

- A. God's Love Questioned (1:1-5)
 - 1. Title (1:1)
 - 2. The Question of Past and Future Acts of Love Answered (1:2-5)
- B. Corrupt Priesthood: God's Name Defiled (1:6-2:16)
 - 1. Defiled Offerings: What King Would Receive Them? (1:6-14)
 - 2. Defiled Covenant (2:1-16)
- C. The Sons of Levi Purified (2:17-4:3)
 - 1. The Calls for Divine Accountability (2:17)
 - 2. The Divine Response (3:1-4:3)
- D. Covenant Obedience Restored To The Righteous Remnant (4:4-6)
 - 1. Anticipate the Coming of "Elijah"(4:4)
 - 2. The Great Day of the LORD (4:5)

MAINT POINT

The Book of Malachi, last "prophetic voice of God" begins with a very strong statement of reassurance, "I have loved you", says the LORD (1:2). It continues with God asking His people to give Him the honor due to Him in sacrifices and teaching, and not to "shortchange" Him! The Book ends with the "promise of sending Elijah", before the "Glory of God" (Messiah) is revealed. Malachi prepared/challenged God's people during his ministry, as well as reminding Christians today, to wait in obedient expectation for the Lord's Second Coming, **AND DON'T GIVE GOD THE "LEFTOVERS" (1:8)!!!**

SELAH!

NOTES: