

Minor Prophets  
Malachi  
Introduction

Text: **Malachi 1:1-2**

Intro: This is the last of the Minor Prophets, I pray as we head into this we see the minor prophets were only minor because of the size of the books not because of the content of the books. I have often thought as we have went thorough these books, how could someone being a Jew, not recognize Jesus as Messiah, and see what is happening now as a fulfillment of the prophecies of the Bible?

**I. The Author,**

A. Malachi the Prophet,

**i. Malachi**

- a) The book opens identifying who the writer was, “The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.” **1:1**
  - So this tells us that the message was delivered by Malachi, but the message was from God.
  - Many times through this study we have said, God gives His message to His messenger, God is the Author.
    - **II Peter 1:21** “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.”
- b) This is an encouraging message to all who have ever shared the word of God, often the message is not well received, and often times it can stand as an offense to the hearer.
  - We will see some examples of this through this book as Malachi touches on some very sensitive issues.
- c) The name Malachi comes form a from that means, Dispatch as a deputy, a messenger, or and ambassador. It is the same word that is used for angel.
  - This reinforces that Malachi is the Ambassador of God, carrying His message.
  - The name Malachi is however an abbreviation of a longer name, the proper name is “My Messenger” Malachias.

**ii. Who He Was,**

- a) We do not know a great deal about Malachi, other than what is revealed in this book.
  - There is speculation, in the Jewish community, that Malachi is in the Levitical lineage, working in the temple along side of Ezra.
  - But there is no evidence to support that.
- b) We do know that he is a exceptional writer,
  - He has been dubbed as the “Socrates of the Prophets. This is because of the style he employes in this book.
    - “investigation through discussion and reasoning.”
      - He would pose a question, then answer the question in a logical way.
      - This is a style of reasoning that became a popular style of teaching by Jewish people afterward.
        - It is also a style we see Paul, and Jesus use form time to time.

**iii. His time,**

- a) The book of Malachi does not mention a king, or a governor like some of the other books,
  - But, he does give us some clues as to when he was writing.

- First, the message is very similar to the Message Nehemiah preached. He touches on some of the same subjects, and some suggest that they were using one another as spring boards.
- Of course the message is of God, and not of man, but often times, we will hear the same or similar messages from people preaching.
  - Because it is a message from God, He knows what we have need of, and it stands to reason the message would be similar.
- Second, he uses the Persian word for governor,
  - indicating they were still supported by Persian rule
- Third, **vs.1:7 & 3:10** that the temple was completed and in use at least for a while,
  - and long enough for the worship to get stale, and the luster wore off.
- So we can place the writing between 435&425 B.C.

## B. His Message,

### i. God's Motivation,

- a) I want to point out what Malachi pointed out in His book,
  - there would be some hard questions, and some things that may offend, however.
- b) **Vs.2** "I Have Loved You Saith the Lord..."
  - God's motivation to Israel is love,
  - Just as God's motivation to us today is love,
    - For God so "Loved" the world...
  - Yes there is a time of judgment coming, and the wrath of God will be poured out on sin and unrighteousness, but as for now, God deals primarily with love.
  - Love is what kept Israel on God's radar when they rebelled against Him, and turned to other gods.
  - Love is what prompted God to draw Israel back to him,
  - Love is what sent Jesus to Israel, and Love is what will be the motivation factor as the remnant is drawn back to the relationship with God.
    - It must never be forgotten that "God is love"
    - **I John 4:8** "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."
- c) We wonder why we go through things,
  - sometimes it is because we bring it on ourselves, and God's Love allows trials to come to refocus us.
  - Sometimes trials are allowed to come because of the Love of God is Preparing us for Ministry,
  - Sometimes they happen, because the Love of God is working toward the future that we may never know about.
  - But, what we should have firmly fixed in our minds is God is motivated by love,

### ii. The Division of the Writing,

- a) There are 6 disputes that Malachi will address, and a final warning.
  - A dispute about: God's Love **1:1-5**, About God's Honor, **1:6-2:9**, About God's Faithfulness **2:10-16**, About God's Judgment **2:17-3:6**, About Returning to God **3:7-12**, About Questioning God **3:13-18**, & A plea to Prepare for the Day of the Lord **4:1-6**
  - these are all designed to draw the Nation back into a proper relationship with God.
- b) The questions will be to focus our thoughts on the "truth"

- Malachi will ask questions like:
    - If I am a Father, Where is my Honor?
      - it is one thing to say God is Lord, but another thing altogether different to live as God as Lord,
        - **Luke 6:46** “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”
    - Do We Not All Have One Father?
      - This is a rhetorical question that leads to the question, Why are we faithless to the covenant of our father?
      - The Nation had adopted a practice of divorcing the wives of their youth, in order to marry “Heathen” women. And to make matters worse, they would take the religion of the women.
        - **2:15&16** says in plain language, I hate divorce.
    - Will a Man Rob God?
      - No one will willingly admit they are stealing from God, but as Malachi walks through this section, he lays out an argument that makes the sin of the Nation very clear to them.
- c) The Sins of the People Revealed,
- in this book, Malachi is “Plowing close to the corn” and mentioned the sins of the people:
    - (1) Repudiating God’s love, **1:2-5**
    - (2) Refusing God His due honor, **1:6 – 2:9**
    - (3) Rejecting God’s faithfulness, **2:10 – 16**
    - (4) Redefining God’s righteousness, **2:17 – 3:6**
    - (5) Robbing God’s riches, **3:7-12**
    - (6) Reviling God’s grace, **3:13-15**
- d) Over 2,000 years had passed since Abraham,
- countless prophecies had been given, and the Nation was still waiting Messiah.
    - After the rebuilding of the temple, I'm sure the people were anxious to receive Messiah, at least in theory,
    - But Malachi was like a capstone on the wall of the Old Testament,
    - He ends with a rebuke of the people, pointing our sins, and a rebellious nature.
      - After Malachi, the Lord is silent for 400 years. That is there was no writing,
      - let us not make the mistake that God was not dealing with men on an individual basis.
        - There was still preaching, still people being saved, and still the word was being presented.
        - But, there was no more divine revelation, until, the days just before Jesus.