

DUNAMIS

Power Hour

for the love of the Word

--- journey through the Bible ---



Malachi

Chapter 1-4

Background

The last Old Testament book

Prophet ministered in Judah between 406 and 430 BC

A mini restoration took place – the temple was completed,
people were worshipping

But after Haggai and Zechariah people's enthusiasm for
God ebbed away and they lost their love for Him

The Israelites returns to their sinful nature

Malachi reports God's word - 42 of the 55 verses is God
speaking – it exposes the attitude of those who has turned
cold towards God.



Judah in the time of Malachi

The City and its walls was raised

The Temple was rebuilt

People were prosperous and independent – God's people were living the good life

The hard years seem to have passed

BUT with the blessing - The people's need for God became less, living out God's destiny was no longer important



MALACHI

Last book of the Old Testament

Extremely discouraging

Israelites are returning to their old patterns . Faith has faded away. Holy rituals have decayed into futile exercises. Covenant commitments seem costly and pointless

They are indifferent to Malachi's call for another fresh start

God's people have lost their vision of God and their own future



7 questions asked in Malachi

The Book is organized around 7 questions posed by the people of God in response to His statements to them.

The questions they ask show how they have moved away from God's plan

These questions that were asked then are still relevant today for our own lives and we should very carefully examine our lives constantly to ensure we are not also falling into the same trap and attitude. If we are, repent and return to God



Gods Statement : I have loved you His Affirmation to us

GOD LOVED US FIRST

Malachi 1:2 I have Loved you, says the Lord
He started the relationship between us.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a
holy nation .

Romans 8:39b ...Shall be able to separate us from the love of God
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The people of Malachi replied to this statement: “How have you
loved us?”

Even in the time of blessing, a time when things are going really well
– they still want proof of the love of God

Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your
first love...



I have loved you !!!!!

Mal 1:2-5 “I have loved you,” says the Lord. But you say, “How *and* in what way have You loved us?” “Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the Lord. “Yet I loved Jacob (Israel); but [in comparison with My love for Jacob] I have hated Esau (Edom), and I have made his mountains a wasteland, and *have given* his inheritance to the jackals of the wilderness.” Though [impoverished] Edom says, “We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins.” Thus says the Lord of hosts, “They may build, but I will tear down; and men will call them the Wicked Territory, the people against whom the Lord is indignant forever.” Your own eyes will see this and you will say, “The Lord is great *and* shall be magnified beyond the border of Israel!”



Honour denied and disrespect to God

God called them into a relationship

But they refuse to honor Him

They disrespect Him

They despise his Name

The people once again ask: “How did we despise Your Name?”

God shows them how they have neglected the bread at the altar, no sacrifices, or sacrifices that are made half heartedly in contrast to what has been instituted by God.

Lets read.....



Honour Denied

“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 the [reverent] fear *and* respect due Me?’ says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests, who despise My name. But you say, ‘How *and* in what way have we despised Your name?’ You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, ‘How have we defiled You?’ By thinking that the table of the Lord is contemptible *and* may be despised. When you [priests] present the blind [animals] for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and the sick, is it not evil? Offer such a thing [as a blind or lame or sick animal] to your governor [as a gift or as payment for your taxes]. Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you graciously?” says the Lord of hosts. “But now will you not entreat God’s favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering from your hand [as an imperfect animal for sacrifice], will He show favor to any of you?” says the Lord of hosts.



Worship is defiled; Malachi 1:10-14

Worship is an expression of our awareness of who God is

We honor and praise Him for Himself

The priest and Levites was the closest to God and serve in His temple
They were provided by getting some of the cuts of meats in offering

They complained about their lot because God received the better
cuts of the offering in sacrifice

They were bored in worshipping Him – it was just a job
Malachi 1;13 You also say, Oh, What a weariness.



Obedience is ignored Malachi 2:1-12

God reminds the people that He promised He would bless the obedient. Sinai covenant, Exodus 19-24

The law outlined a plan on how to live a holy life

The priests stopped teaching the way of the Lord, and lived their lives inaccurately.

Malachi 2:7-8 For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge and people should seek the law from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts But you have departed from the way . You have caused many to stumble at the law. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi.



Obedience is ignored

People are faithless and corrupt and cruel to one another

God points out that their lives are unjust

Malachi 2:11b He has married the daughter of a foreign God



The people's prayers are unanswered Malachi 2:13-16

God tells the people that He will not answer their prayers anymore, yet they feel they do the right thing

Malachi 2:14 Yet you say, “ for what reason? Because the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth. With whom you have dealt treacherously. Yet she is your companion and your wife of covenant.

Men lusting for younger women and leaving their wives for them
God cannot stand for faithlessness. People have adopted divorce as a lifestyle

Interesting to note that God uses this twice :
Therefore take heed to your spirit in V 15



Affirmation of evil : Malachi 2:17-3:4

God charges Judah that they have wearied the Lord with their words.

Malachi 2:17b In that you say , Everyone that does evil is good in the sight of the Lord .

Call evil good! Sound familiar in today's society and lifestyle !?

Malachi then gives a promise and a warning to the people of Judah

Promise; Malachi 3:1 Behold. I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before me

Warning : Malachi 3:2 But who can endure the day of His coming ? And who can stand when he appears? Also note V 5

Purification by the Lord's hand is not pleasant

Prov 3:12 For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights



Return Rejected Malachi 3:6-12

God tells the people that they have turned away from Him

In the hardness of their hearts, they respond; “ What do You mean return? Why, we have never strayed!”

As an example, God speaks to them about tithing

Malachi 3:9 You are cursed with a curse . For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse. That there may be food in My house.

God wants to bless us and do us good !



The Lord Denied; Malachi 3:13-15

The people complain and say that God has been harsh with them; God responds

Malachi 3:14 You have said , it is useless to serve God; What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance. And that we have walked as mourners before the Lord of hosts ?

They have decided to set God aside, go through the motions, put up an appearance but dead inside
Rev 3:1b I know your works, that you have a name and that you are alive, BUT you are dead.

HOWEVER :

Malachi 3:16. Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who mediate on His name.

Is your name in the Lord's book of remembrance?



The cry of God's Heart for His people

Malachi 3:7b ... "Return to Me, and I will return to you "
Says the Lord of Hosts



What to look forward to next week

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

