

COMMENTARY

MALACHI

Malachi 1

[This message from the Lord, was the last one received until New Testament times. The Hebrews had been back from the Babylonians Captivity for nearly 100 years. They had rebuilt the temple and the walls of Jerusalem, however, there was still some things that need to be changed].

God reminds His people how He had chosen their forefather Jacob and how Esau (Jacob's brother) came to ruin (because of his own sin). God reminds His people, that Esau could do nothing to circumvent God's decree and the people of Judah were to recognize God's greatness, because of these things.

God asks them if He is not worthy of more honor than what they have been giving Him. They questioned as to how had they failed and He replied that they have "shortchanged" Him by giving Him the weakest and the most inferior animals they had. Because of this, God warns, He will not accept their sacrifices. He demands only the best, but they insult Him with their sacrifices.

Malachi 2

God warns the priests to correct the error of their way. They no longer served to honor God. They were not teaching the people the truth and were thus, guilty of leading the people astray. Because of this, God was going to punish them.

God rebuked Judah because the people were divorcing their wives and marrying heathen women; both were offensive to God.

The people tested God by claiming that He was indifferent to sin and that those who did evil were even "good" in His eyes.

Malachi 3

God speaks of sending a messenger before Him to prepare the way (John the baptizer was the fulfillment) and that the Lord would come would purify and cleanse people of their sin. The wicked would then perish.

God calls for His people to return wholeheartedly to Him. They were to bring the best of their crops for their tithes and offerings. Then God would bless them far beyond their imagination. They were also called to cease saying that it was futile to serve God or that the evildoers prospered and escaped punishment.

Those who feared the Lord spoke and the Lord heard those that feared Him. He promised to remember them and to make them His "treasured" possession, while the wicked would be punished.

Malachi 4

God spoke of the coming Day of the Lord. To the wicked it would be a day of judgement and destruction, whereas for the faithful and righteous it would be a day of healing and victory.

God promised that before that day would come, He would send a prophet to turn the people hearts back to their own (John the Baptizer was considered to be that prophet--see Luke 1:17)

STUDY GUIDE

MALACHI 1

1. What had become of Esau's inheritance and land? (vs. 3)
2. Who had despised the Lord's name and how? (vs. 6,7)
3. What would the Lord no longer accept? (vs. 10)
4. What would the nations bring and why? (vs. 11)
5. What is to be feared among the nations? (vs. 14)

STUDY GUIDE

MALACHI 2

1. What covenant did God have with Levi? (vs. 5)
2. How was Levi described? (vs. 6)
3. How are the priests described? (vs. 8)
4. What had God done to the priests? (vs. 9)
5. How had Judah desecrated the sanctuary? (vs. 11)
6. Why did the Lord no longer accept their offerings? (vs. 14)
7. What does the Lord hate? (vs. 16)
8. What were they saying, that wearied God? (vs. 17)

STUDY GUIDE

MALACHI 3

1. What would the Lord send first? (vs. 1)
2. Who would come to the Temple? (vs. 1)
3. Who would He testify against? (vs. 5)
4. How did they rob God? (vs. 8)
5. What does God promise if they would tithe? (vs. 10)
6. Why would all the nations call them blessed? (vs. 12)
7. What did God accuse them of saying? (vs. 14,15)
8. How did those who feared the Lord, respond? (vs. 16)
9. What was written and concerning whom? (vs. 16)
10. When would these people be His? (vs. 17)

STUDY GUIDE

MALACHI 4

1. Who would become stubble? (vs. 1)
2. What would God do for those who revered His name? (vs. 2)
3. Whom would the Lord send and when? (vs. 5)
4. What would this person do? (vs. 6)