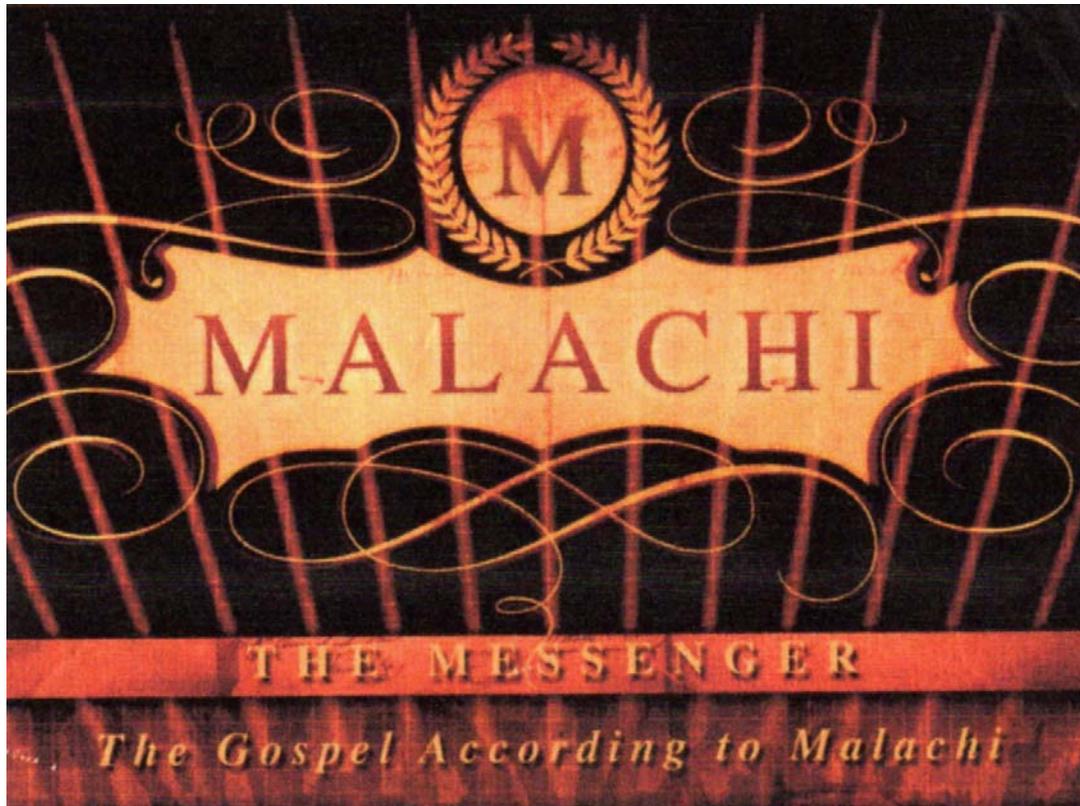


The Messenger

The Gospel According to Malachi



*"From the rising of the sun, even to its going down,
My name shall be great among the Gentiles..."*
— Malachi 1:11

Reverence Bible Church Bible Study

Written by Pastor Don Smith

The Messenger

The Gospel According to Malachi

A Study of the Book of Malachi

Lesson	Date	Title	Text
Part One	September 19	“God’s Messenger”	Malachi 1:1
Break	September 26	Prayer Night	
Part Two	October 3	“God’s Sovereign Love”	Malachi 1:2-6
Part Three	October 10	“God’s Great Name”	Malachi 1:6-14
Part Four	October 17	“God’s Incomparable Glory”	Malachi 2:1-9
Special	October 24	Special Study	
Break	October 31	Hallelujah Harvest Festival	
Special	November 7	Special Study	
Part Five	November 14	“God’s Holy Institutions”	Malachi 2:10-16
Break	November 21	Thanksgiving Eve (no study)	
Part Six	November 28	“God’s Promised Messenger”	Malachi 2:17-3:6
Part Seven	December 5	“God’s Inexhaustible Storehouse”	Malachi 3:7-15
Part Eight	December 12	“God’s Priceless Treasure”	Malachi 3:16-4:6

The Message of Malachi

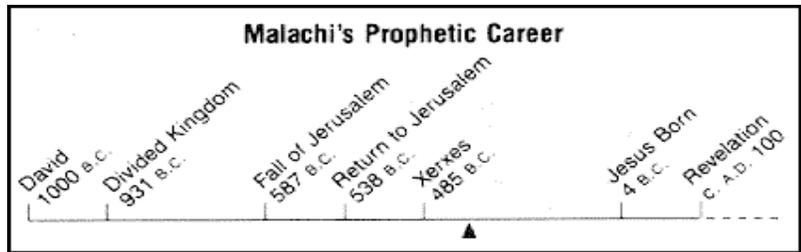
*“For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down,
My name shall be great among the gentiles...” (Malachi 1:11)*

Relevance: The Lord spoke frankly through the Prophet Malachi, words of hope to his generation and ours. He promised Christ. His message is as relevant today as it was before Christ’s incarnation.

Overview:

FOCUS	PRIVILEGE OF THE NATION	POLLUTION OF THE NATION		PROMISE TO THE NATION		
REFERENCE	1:11	1:6	2:10	3:16	4:1	4:4 4:6
DIVISION	LOVE OF GOD FOR THE NATION	SIN OF THE PRIESTS	SIN OF THE PEOPLE	BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE	COMING OF CHRIST	COMING OF ELIJAH
TOPIC	PAST	PRESENT		FUTURE		
	CARE OF GOD	COMPLAINT OF GOD		COMING OF GOD		
LOCATION	JERUSALEM					
TIME	c. 432–425 B.C.					

Timeline:



The Promise of Christ in Malachi

Malachi's Prophecy	Confirmed in the New Testament
As Messenger of the covenant, Christ comes to His temple (3:1) and purifies His people (3:3). His coming brings judgment (4:1).	Christ cleanses the temple (John 2:14-17) and sacrifices His people (Heb. 13:12). Those whose names are not in the Book of Life are cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:11-15).
As the Sun of Righteousness, Christ heals His people (4:2).	Christ heals the multitude; ultimately all sickness will pass away (Matt. 12:15; Rev. 21:4).
His forerunner prepares for the coming of the Lord (3:1, 4:5).	John the Baptist announces Christ (Matt. 11:10-14).

The Messenger

The Gospel According to Malachi

Part One
“God’s Messenger”
Malachi 1:1

Malachi’s message was the Lord’s last prophetic Word before God spoke most clearly in Christ- *“The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.”* Malachi 1:1

1. The prophets of old spoke of Christ
- The Lord promised Christ to Adam-
 - *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Gen. 3:15)*
- Enoch prophesied of Christ’s coming-
 - *“And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” (Gen.5:21-24)*
 - *“Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” (Jude 14-15)*
- Abraham saw Christ’s day and rejoiced-
 - *“And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Gen 12:3)*
 - *“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” (Jn.8:56)*
- David prophesied of Christ’s coming resurrection
 - *“Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.” (Acts 2:30-31)*
- The prophets prophesied of Christ’s coming:
 - *“God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” (Acts 3:21-22)*
 - *“These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.” (Jn.12:41)*
 - *“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” (Rom 15:4)*
 - *“Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven -- things which angels desire to look into.” (1 Peter 1:10-12)*
 - *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;” (Heb 1:1-3)*

2. The Lord spoke to Israel through Malachi
 - “Malachi” means “God’s Messenger” or “My Messenger”
 - Some suggest he is Ezra, the priest who wrote Ezra during Jerusalem’s rebuilding.
 - As Malachi was God’s appointed messenger to Israel so the priests were supposed to be God’s messengers to the people of Israel.
 - Twenty times in fifty five verses it is said, “says the Lord.” (“the Covenant-Keeping God”)
 - This is a claim of divine inspiration and authority.
 - He spoke at least one hundred years after Cyrus decreed Nehemiah could return with his country men to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in 538 BC.
 - Malachi’s prophesy likely came sometime after the ministry of Nehemiah around 458-445 BC.
 - Malachi is the last prophet to speak before Christ.

Malachi’s message is alluded to in the New Testament

Malachi

New Testament

- | | |
|--|---|
| • “Yet I have loved Jacob but I have hated Esau” (1:2,3) | “I have loved Jacob & hated Esau” (Romans 9:13) |
| • “If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” (1:6) | “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I tell you?” (Luke 6:46) |
| • “the Lord’s table” (1:7,12) | “the table of the Lord” (I Cor.10:21) |
| • “from the rising of the sun to its setting my name is glorified in great among the nations” (1:11) | “So that the name of our Lord Jesus may be you” (2 Thess.1:12)
“Lord who will not fear & glorify your name?” (Rev.15:4) |
| • “for the lips of the priests should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. But you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts.” (2:7-8) | “Do whatever they teach you & follow it: but do not do as as they do, they do not practice what they teach”(Mtt.23:3) |
| • “Have we not all one father?” (2:10) | “there is one God, the Father” (I Cor. 8:6)
“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being.... have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' (Acts 17:26-29) |
| • “See I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me.” (3:1) | “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” (Mk.1:2; Mtt.11:10) |
| • “But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand before Me?” (3:3) | “for the great day of their wrath has come & who is able to stand?” (Rev.6:17) |
| • “he will purify the descendants of Levi & refine them precious than like gold & silver” (3:3) | “so that the genuineness of your faith....more than gold, that, though perishable, is tested by fire” (I Pet. 1:7) |
| • “against those who oppress the hired workers in their your wages.” (3:5) | “Listen! The wages of the laborers who mowed fields, which you kept back by fraud.” (Jas.5:4) |

Malachi's message was the burden of the Word of the Lord

1. Malachi's message was the burden of the Lord
 - It was weighty and of great value because it came from the Lord
 - The message was the expressed burden of the Lord's heart for his chosen people.
 - It is God's dialogue with His people who have gone astray.
 - The Lord perfectly identified the spirit of the day.
 - It was a day of disregard of God's covenant love, defilement of God's laws, disenchantment with serving God, decline of the priesthood, frivolous skyrocketing divorce rate, dispassionate worship, and oppression of the poor.
 - This generation was the forerunner of Pharisaical legalism so rampant in Christ's day
 - *"lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power." (2 Tim 3:4-5)*
 - *"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt 15:8-9)*
 - *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets." (Matt 23:27-32)*
2. Malachi's message was burdensome for him to proclaim
 - He accused the Levitical priesthood of not only departing from God's way but also of causing many others to stumble. (2:1,7,8)
 - As went the priesthood so went the nation when they did not "keep knowledge" but exchanged the truth for cultural lies. (Rom. 1:25,28)
 - Malachi called them out for being "Covenant-Breakers", "Glory-Robbers" & "God-Shrinkers".
 - No doubt this did not set well with the religious establishment entrenched in mindless rules, ritualism and formalism.
3. Malachi's message was burdensome for Israel to hear
 - To the rebellious priesthood and the laity it was a heavy burden to accept
 - Their callousness is exposed when they answer the Lord's charges with seven blain questions:
 - *"When have you loved us?" (1:2)*
 - *"When have we despised your name?" (1:6)*
 - *"When have we polluted you?" (1:7)*
 - *"When have we wearied you?" (2:17)*
 - *"When shall we return to you?" (3:7)*
 - *"When have we robbed you?" (3:8)*
 - *"When have we spoken against you?" (3:12)*
 - To the righteous it was a light burden
 - It came with the promise and hope of Messiah who would bring justice and reward
 - *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matt 11:28-30)*

Malachi's message came with prophetic hope of Christ's coming

1. He was God's messenger promising the messenger who would prepare the way of the Lord
2. He spoke of John the Baptist who would prepare the way for Christ (3:1-4)