

MALACHI

MALACHI INTRODUCTION

Penman: Malachi

Malachi means My Messenger. Nothing else is given in Scripture concerning him. Malachi maybe short for Malachiah meaning Servant of Yahweh.

Is Malachi a title or personal name? No other prophet used a title rather than a personal name.

Background

After the city of Jerusalem and its walls along with the Temple had been built, the initial enthusiasm had worn off. The Priests and the people had backslidden. The glorious future spoken of by the prophets had not come, God had not come to the Temple, therefore the Jews doubted God's love, did not trust God's justice resulting in worship that degraded to forms and rituals and they no longer took the Mosaic Law seriously. But the people couldn't understand why God was displeased with them.

The term governor used in chapter indicates that the writing occurred during the Persian period of domination. Nehemiah is not mentioned by name, so it is unlikely he was the governor at the time of the writing.

Malachi deals with the same issues as Nehemiah found during his second visit to Jerusalem: ungrateful murmuring, self-righteous spirit, complaining of God's injustice to them, marrying pagan women which Ezra had prohibited.

Purpose

The purpose of the writing of Malachi was to restore the Jews relationship with God by rebuking the precise causes of the spiritual decline, urging repentance, and giving steps to renew their spiritual walk before the Lord.

Style

Malachi first lays down moral and spiritual axioms as a foundation, then reasoning from them and refuting in a form of dialogue any objections brought against them. (MacArthur)

Timeline

							Malachi	Malachi	Malachi	
Babylonian Captivity	Cyrus Persia	Cyrus Decree	Construction of Temple begins	Darius Persia	Zechariah Haggai	Temple Completed	Ezra to Jerusalem	Nehemiah to Jerusalem	Nehemiah Returns	End of 7 weeks
586 BC	539 BC	538 BC	535 BC	521 BC	520 BC	516 BC	458 BC	444 BC	424 BC	397 BC

Date

All agree it was written after the Babylonian exile; some believe it was written before Nehemiah came to Jerusalem, some believe it was written during Nehemiah's time or between his first and second visit, and others believe it was after Nehemiah's second visit.

Content

Superscription 1:1

1st Oracle 1:2-5—God's Love

2nd Oracle 1:6-2:9—Priest's corruption

3rd Oracle 2:10-16—Mixed marriages and divorce

4th Oracle 2:17-3:5—Coming of God in judgment

5th Oracle 3:6-12—Disobeying the Law, Example tithing

6th Oracle 3:13-4:3—Problem of evil in human life

Conclusion 4:4-6

Questions: there are 7 questions proposed by the people in a sarcastic way.

1. 1:2—How have You loved us?
2. 1:6—How have we despised your Name?
3. 1:7—How have we defiled You?
4. 2:17—How have we wearied (You)?
5. 3:7—How shall we return?
6. 3:8—How have we robbed You?
7. 3:13—How have we spoken against You?

Israel Doubted God's Love

Introduction: I Cor. 10:1-13, Malachi 1:1-5

The Greeting: "The oracle of the word of the Yahweh to Israel by the hand of Malachi" 1:1

A. The Message: "The oracle"—lit. load or burden (1) what is placed on pack animals Ex. 23:5, mules II Kings 5:17, camels II Kings 8:9 (2) parts of the Tabernacle the Levites carried Num. 4:15,19, 24,27,31, 32,47, 49 (3) divine oracles that were negative proclamations with heavy sentences pronounced Isa. 13:1 Babylon, 14:28 Philistia, 15:1 Moab,17:1 Damascus, 19:1 Egypt, Nahum 1:1 Nineveh, Hab. 1:1 Judah, Zech. 9:1 Damascus, 12:1 Israel, Mal. 1:1 Israel

B. The Message Giver: "of the word of Yahweh"

1. **Word:** general—word, speech, spoken word; specific—divine communication: revelation to prophets

2. **Yahweh:** I AM Ex. 3:14; 6:2, 3

C. The Messaged: "to Israel"—God's covenant people, descendants of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), 12 tribes. Will there be commands, truths, principles in the book of Malachi specifically for Israel and not the church-

Yes!! Do we offer animal sacrifices? Do we give products to go to the Temple in Jerusalem to a storage room for Levitical Priests? Are there principles from the book of Malachi given to Israel that we can apply to our Christian walk? Yes, all Scripture is profitable II Tim. 3:16 and the OT was written for our example I Cor. 10:11

D. The Messenger: "by the hand of Malachi"—My Messenger

Lessons:

- We must take seriously any and all Divine communication—Scripture is God-breathed.
- We must take heed of warnings of judgment.
- We must acknowledge God is the Self-existent One, Jesus is I AM (John 8:58).
- We can learn from God's instruction to Israel and not make their mistakes.
- We should be messengers of God—witnesses ready to give an answer, heralds proclaiming the Good News

I. Israel Doubted Yahweh's love (Mal. 1:2-5)

A. Yahweh's Report: "'I have loved you' says Yahweh" (2a)

1. **Love/liking objects**—bribes (Isa. 1:23); wisdom (Prov. 4:6); wine (Prov. 21:7) peace and truth (Zech. 8:19)
2. **Loving people**—Gen. 29:32; Ruth 4:15; I Kings 11:1; Ex. 20:6; Ps. 116:1
3. **God's love of people**—Deut. 4:37; I Kings 10:9; Hos. 3:1; Mal. 1:2

B. Israel's Response: "But you say 'how have You loved us?'" (2b) prove it!!

C. Yahweh's Reply (2c-3) Love is demonstrated by the comparison of God's dealings with Israel and Edom

1. "'Was not Esau Jacob's brother?' declares the Yahweh." (2c)
2. "Yet I have loved Jacob" (2d)—choice for intimate fellowship (Gen. 25:21-26; Rom. 9: 6-29; Isa. 44:1-5)
3. "but I have hated Esau" (3)—hate, opposite of love, unwilling to choose for intimate fellowship
 - a. "and I have set his mountains a desolation"—devastation of land, desolation, waste: lands cities, houses= totality of destruction (Israel Jer. 12:10, Edom Ez. 33:28, 35:3)
 - b. "and (set) his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness."

D. Edom's Retort: "Though Edom says" (4a)

1. "We have been demolished"—shattered ESV, impoverished KJV, NKJV, crushed NIV
2. "but we will return"
3. "and (we will) build up the ruins"—almost always used of an area ruined by the judgment of God: country, city, individual property

E. Yahweh's Rebuke: "Thus says the Yahweh of hosts" (4b)—service, servants, military, used of angels

1. "They may build"
2. "but I will tear down"—pull down, break through, overthrow, destroy
3. "and (men) will call them a territory of wickedness"
4. "and () the people toward whom Yahweh is indignant forever"—lit. foam at mouth (Obadiah)

F. The Yahweh's Reassurance: "And your eyes will see this" (5a)

G. Israel's Reaction: "you will say, 'Yahweh be magnified beyond the borders of Israel'" (5b)

II. Israel's Priests Despised and Dishonored Yahweh's Name (1:6-14)

A. The Priests Despise Yahweh's Name (Action) (1:6-11)

1. Yahweh's Comments (6a)
 - a. "A son honors (his) father"
 - b. "And a servant his master"
2. Yahweh's Questions (6b)
 - a. "Then if I am a Father, where is my honor?"
 - b. "And if I am a Master, where is the fear of Me?"
3. Yahweh's Charge (6c): "To you, O Priests who despise My Name."
4. The Priest's Question (6d): "But you say, 'How have we despised Your Name?'"
5. Yahweh's Clarification (7a): "You are presenting defiled food upon My altar."
6. The Priest's Question (7b): "But you say, 'How have we defiled You?'"
7. Yahweh's Clarification (7c-9): "in that you say, 'the table of the Lord is to be despised'"
 - a. "But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is that not evil?" (8a)
 - b. "And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil?" (8b)
 - 1.) "Please bring it near to your governor!" (8c)
 - 2.) "Would he accept you?" (8d)
 - 3.) "'Or would he lift up your face?' says Yahweh of hosts." (8e)
 - 4.) "But now, entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us!" (9a)
 - 5.) "With this thing which is from your hand, will He lift up any of your faces?" says the Yahweh of hosts. (9b)If a human governor would not accept worthless gifts graciously, how could they expect gracious answers to their prayers from God when they offered such gifts.
 - c. "Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not light (a fire on) My altar in vain!" (10a)
 - d. "I have no delight in you," says the Yahweh of hosts. (10b)
 - e. "nor will I accept an offering from your hand." (10c-11)
 - 1.) "For from the rising of the sun even to its setting My name (will be) great among the nations." (11a)
 - 2.) "and in every place incense is going to be presented to My Name, as well as a grain offering (that is) clean." (11b)
 - 3.) "for My name will be great among the nations," says Yahweh of hosts(11c)

B. The Priests Dishonor God's Name (Attitude) (12-14)

1. Yahweh's Charge: "But you are profaning it" (12a)
2. Yahweh's Clarification: (12b-13)
 - a. "'in that you say, 'the table of the Lord is defiled'" (12b)
 - b. "'and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised'" (12c)
 - c. "you also say 'behold (how) tiresome it is!'" (13a)
 - d. "you disdainfully sniff at it" says the Yahweh of hosts. (13b)

- e. “you bring what was taken by robbery, and (what is) lame or sick”. (13c)
- 3. Yahweh’s Question: “so you bring the offering. Should I accept that from your hand?” says the Yahweh of hosts. (13d)
- 4. Yahweh’s Curse: “But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord.” (14a)
- 5. Yahweh’s Claim: (14b)
 - a. “For I am a great King”, says Yahweh of hosts.
 - b. “and my Name is feared among the nations.”

Lessons

Leaders are accountable with a higher standard.

Is it wrong to have a higher honor and respect for human/earthly positions than heavenly?

Is it wrong to have more concern for physical wellbeing than God’s honor?

The altar represents God.

Actions and attitudes are important to God.

It is better to offer no sacrifice than bad sacrifices.

A person should give God his best.

Pay what you vow.

God is a King, great is His Name and it is to be feared.

Do We Despise and Dishonor God’s Name or Do We Hallow and Honor it?

New Testament Applications

- A. New Testament believers are priests who proclaim the excellencies of His Name
 - I Pet. 2:5 “for a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God”
 - I Pet. 2:9 “royal priesthood...that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness”
 - Rev. 1:6 “and He made us (to be) a kingdom of priests to His God”
- B. Sacrifices of New Testament Priests
 - 1. I Pet. 2:5—spiritual sacrifices
 - 2. Rom. 12:1—bodies (lives of service): living, holy, acceptable, reasonable
 - 3. Heb. 13:15—praise: continually with thanksgiving
 - 4. Heb. 13:16a—doing good
 - 5. Heb. 13:16b—sharing
 - 6. Phil. 4:18—gifts of money to missionaries

Personal Applications

- 1. Do we respect/honor God?
- 2. Do we despise God’s Name by our actions or attitudes?
- 3. Do we present defiled food upon God’s altar?
 - a. Do we give inferior sacrifices?
 - b. Do we fear/respect man more than God?
 - c. Will God be pleased with us?
 - d. Will God receive us kindly?
 - e. Will we entreat God’s favor to be gracious to us?
 - f. Will we offer our sacrifices in vain?
 - g. Do we recognize that God’s Name is great?

4. Do we dishonor (profane) God's Name?
 - a. Do we view God's altar as defiled and its spiritual sacrifices to be despised?
 - b. Do we tire of offering spiritual sacrifices?
 - c. Do we sniff at spiritual sacrifices we offer to God?
 - d. Do we substitute what we vow with inferior sacrifices?
 - e. Do we view God as a great King to be feared?
5. Do we have more concern for our physical wellbeing than God's honor?
6. Actions and attitudes are important to God.
7. It is better not to sacrifice than to offer bad sacrifices.
8. Do we give God our best?
9. Are we always giving thanks?
10. Do we continually praise God?
11. Do we continually do good and share?
12. Do we yield our lives to God?
13. Do we become weary in doing good?
14. Do we give to missionaries/vocational ministers?

III. The Priests Disregarded Yahweh's Covenant with Levi (Mal. 2:1-9)

A. Yahweh's Command: "And now this commandment is for you, O Priests" (2:1)

B. Yahweh's Conditions: (2a)

1. "If you do not listen"
2. "'and if you do not set it upon (your) heart to give honor to My Name', says Yahweh of hosts."

C. Yahweh's Consequences: (2b-3)

1. "Then I will send the curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings (2b)"
2. "Indeed I have cursed them (already) because you are not setting (it) upon (your) heart" (2c)
 - a. "Behold I am going to rebuke your offspring" (3a)
 - b. "and I will spread refuse on your faces the refuse of your feasts" (3b)
 - c. "and you will be taken away with it. (3b)"

D. Yahweh's Conclusion: "'Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that my covenant may continue with Levi' says the Lord of hosts" (2:4-6)

1. My covenant with him was (one of) life and peace (5a)
2. I gave them to him (as something to be) feared (5b)
3. "So"
 - a. "He revered Me and stood in awe of My name" (5c)
 - b. "Instruction of truth was in his mouth" (6a)
 - c. "Unrighteousness was not found on his lips" (6b)
 - d. "He walked with Me in peace and uprightness" (6c)
 - e. "He turned many back from iniquity" (6d)

E. Yahweh's Correction: (2:7-9)

1. Yahweh's Requirements: "For" (2:7)
 - a. The Practice:

- ## Lessons

New Testament Application: God's Discipline for His sons Hebrews 12:5-13

1. "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines"

2. “and “ He scourges every son whom He receives”

II. The Explanation addressed to sons (7-11)

A. It is for training: “It is for discipline that you endure” (7a)

B. It is God’s treatment: “God deals with you as sons.” (7b-11)

1. The Rationale: what son is there whom his father does not discipline” (7b-8b)

a. The Condition:” but if you are without discipline of which all have become partakers” (8a)

b. The Consequence: “then you are illegitimate children and not sons” (8b)

2. The Respect: (9)

a. Earthly fathers: “Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them”

b. Heavenly Father: “shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits and live.”

3. The Reason: (10)

a. Earthly fathers: “they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them”

b. Heavenly Father: “but He (“) for (our) good, that we may share in His holiness”

4. The Results (11)

a. Short term: “All discipline for the moments seems not to be joyful but sorrowful”

b. Long term: “yet to those who have been trained by it, afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness”

III. The Encouragement addressed to sons (12-13)

A. The Requirements (12-13a)

1. “Strengthen” (12a)

a. “the hands that are weak”

b. “and the knees that are feeble”

2. “Make Straight: paths for your feet” (13a)

B. The Results (13b) “so that”

1. “Which is lame may not be put out of joint”

2. “but rather be healed”

Rev. 3:19: Those whom Jesus loves He: reproves and disciplines

I Jn. 5:16-17: There is a sin that leads to death

I Cor. 27-34

The sin: “participates in the Lord’s Supper in an unworthy manner”

The consequence: “many weak and sick, and a number sleep”

The Cause: “we are disciplined by the Lord that we might not be condemned along with the world”

Personal Applications

Don’t forget the exhortation addressed to us as sons Jesus demonstrates his love by reproving/disciplining

Don’t regard lightly the discipline of the Lord. Some sins may lead to physical death

Don’t faint when reproved by the Lord

Don’t take the Lord’s Supper in an unworthy manner

It is for discipline (child training) that we endure
We are disciplined by God so we will not be condemned
God deals with us as sons with the word
If we are without discipline from God we not his sons
We should be subject to the Father so that we might live
God disciplines us to share in His holiness
Short term—discipline is sorrowful
Long term—discipline yields righteousness
We must strengthen the hands that are weak/knees that are feeble
We must make straight paths for our feet
We should desire not to turn away but be healed

IV. Israel Dishonored Yahweh's Covenant of Marriage (2:10-16)

A. They dishonored Yahweh's Covenant of Marriage through mixed marriages (10-12)

1. The Questions (10a)
 - a. "Do we not all have one Father?"
 - b. "Has not one God created us?"
2. The Condemnation (10b-11)
 - a. "Why do we deal treacherously against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers?"
 - b. "Judah has dealt treacherously"
 - c. "and an abomination has been committed in Israel and Jerusalem"
 - d. "for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of Yahweh which he loves"
 - e. "and (Judah) has married the daughter of a foreign god."
3. The Consequences: "May Yahweh cut off from the tents of Jacob" (12)
 - a. "As for the man who does this"
 - b. "(everyone) who awakes and answers"
 - c. "or who presents an offering to the Lord of hosts"

NT Application

I Cor. 7:39 "A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord"

Personal Application

Do not marry an unbeliever
Counsel believers who are considering dating not to marry an unbeliever
Sin will not go unpunished
God is our Father by faith in Christ, we are His possession: body of Christ temple, bride
God views mixed marriages as an abomination
Mixed marriages profane the sanctuary of the Lord—we are the sanctuary (temple)

B They dishonored Yahweh's Covenant of Marriage through divorce (13-16)

1. The Charge: "This is a second thing you do; you cover the altar of Yahweh" (13a)
 - a. "with tears"
 - b. "with weeping"
 - c. "with groaning"
2. The Cause: "because" (13b)

- a. “He no longer regards the offering”
 - b. “or “ “ receives it (as) acceptable from your hand”
- 3. The Question: “But you say for what reason?” (14a)
- 4. The Clarification: “because Yahweh has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth” (14b-e)
 - a. “against whom you have dealt treacherously (c)
 - b. “though she is your companion (d)
 - c. “and (she is) your wife by covenant (e)
- 5. The Correction (15-16)
 - a. The Rebuke (15)
 - 1.) “but not one has done (so) who has a remnant of the Spirit”
 - 2.) “and what did (that) one (do) while seeking a godly offspring”
 - 3.) “be careful then to keep your spirit”
 - 4.) “let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth.”
 - b. The Reason (16 a, b)
 - 1. “For I hate divorce says Yahweh, the God of Israel”
 - 2. “and (hate) him who covers his garment with wrong” says Yahweh of hosts.
 - c. The Response (16 c, d)
 - 1. “be careful to keep your spirit”
 - 2. “that you do not deal treacherously”

NT Application

1. Jesus

Matt. 19:3-12

Mk. 10:2-12

2. Apostle Paul

I Cor. 7:10-16

Personal Application

We should not be surprised or upset if God does not receive our sacrifices if we have sin in our lives.

We should not divorce or consider divorce as believers—being unfaithful to our spouse.

Our spouses are our companions by covenant to which God is witness.

Covenants are not to be broken.

God established marriage as a 1 man 1 woman becoming 1 flesh.

We should not divorce if the Holy Spirit indwells us.

God desires a godly offspring.

We must take heed (watch, guard, care for) to our spirit.

God hates divorce; therefore, we should hate divorce.

The one who divorces covers his garment with wrong—unclean heart.

We must not be unfaithful (treacherous, traitorous) to our spouse.

Divorce occurs because of hardness of heart.

We should not separate what God has put together.

One who divorces and marries another commits adultery.

Some are gifted to be single.

Believers who divorce should remain single or be reconciled.

A believer who is married to an unbeliever should remain married.

If an unbeliever divorces a believer, the believer is not bound to that marriage.

Divorce is not an unforgivable sin. If a believer has divorced and remarried, he/she should confess the sin of divorce and be a faithful spouse to the current spouse.

V. Israel degraded Yahweh's Justice (2:17-3:6)

A. The Charge: "You have wearied Yahweh with your words." (2:17a)

B. The Question: "Yet you say how have we wearied (Him)?" (2:17b)

C. The Clarification: "In that you say" (17c)

1. "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of Yahweh"
2. "and He delights in them."
3. "or where is the God of justice?"

D. The Commitment: (3:1-3d)

1. "I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me" (3:1a)
2. "The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple" (3:1b)
3. "The Messenger of the covenant in whom you delight behold He is (3:1c-3c) coming says Yahweh of hosts"
 - a. "But who can endure the day of His coming" (3:2a)
 - b. "and who can stand when He appears" (3:2b)
 - c. "He is like a refiners fire" (3:2c)
 - d. "He is like fullers' soap" (3:2d)
 - e. "He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver (3:3a)
 - f. "He will purify the sons of Levi" (3:3b)
 - g. "and will refine them like gold and silver" (3:c)

E. The Consequences

1. "so that they may present to Yahweh offerings in righteousness" (3:3d)
2. "then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be to the pleasing to Yahweh as in the days of old and in former years." (3:4)
3. "Then I will draw near to you for judgment" (3:5a)
4. "and I will be a swift witness against the" (3:5b)
 - a. "sorcerers"
 - b. "adulterers"
 - c. "ones who swear falsely"
 - d. "those who oppress"
 - 1.) "wage earner in his wage"
 - 2.) "widow"
 - 3.) "orphan"
 - e. "those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me", says Yahweh of hosts

F. The Comfort

1. Yahweh's attribute—immutable (unchangeable): "For I Yahweh do not change" (6a)
2. Yahweh's action: "therefore you, O sons of Jacob are not consumed" (6b)

Lessons

One should not weary the Lord with his words—questioning His attributes or actions.

One should not question God's justice.

If God fulfilled prophecies concerning Christ's first coming, one should not question His prophecies concerning Christ's second coming.

John the Baptist was the messenger who cleared the way at Christ's first coming.

Jesus Christ will come again suddenly to His temple and purify the sons of Levi.

One day the offerings of Israel will be pleasing to the Lord.

Jesus Christ will come and be a swift witness against sinners.

One should not commit sins of sorcery, adultery, swearing falsely, oppressing others, and turning away strangers.

God is immutable/unchangeable.

Israel will never cease to exist.

New Testament Application

Coming Judgment

Heb. 10:26-31

Heb. 12:25-29

Christ's coming

Rev. 19:11-21

II Thess. 1:6-10

Judgment—God is Witness

Rev. 20:11-15

Type of sinners/sins

Gal. 5:19-21

I Cor. 6:9-10

Rev. 21:8

Jesus is immutable (unchanging)

Heb. 13:8

Believers will not be consumed

Rev. 19:7-10

Rev. 21:1-7

Personal application

Judgment awaits those who reject Christ.

There is more severe judgment for those who reject Christ than for those who disobey the law.

God is a God of vengeance, He will repay, He will judge His people.

It will be a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of God.

Those who refuse God will not escape from Him.

God in the future will shake heaven and earth.

We should show gratitude for receiving His kingdom by acceptable service with reverence and awe.

Jesus Christ will come again bodily and visibly, He will cast the beast and false prophet into the lake of fire, He will defeat the kings of the earth, He will afflict those who afflicted Christians, and He will give relief to Christians.

God will judge those not written in the book of life according to their works.

Those who practice certain sins will not inherit the kingdom of God.

We should look forward to the new heavens and the new earth, being in God's presence forever.

VI. Israel Deviated from Yahweh's Statutes (Mal. 3:7-12)

A. The Charge: "From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept (them)" (7a)

B. The Command: "Return to Me and I will return to you says Yahweh of hosts" (7b)

C. The Question: "But you say how shall we return?" (7c)

D. The Charge: "Will you rob God? Yet you are robbing Me" (8a)

E. The Question: "But you say how have we robbed you?" (8b)

F. The Clarification: "in tithes and offerings." (8c)

G. The Consequence: "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation (of you)" (9)

H. The Correction: 'Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house.'" (10a)

I. The Challenge: "Test Me now in this, says Yahweh of hosts" (10b-11)

1. "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven" (10c)

2. "and (I will) empty out for you a blessing until it is beyond enough" (10d)

3. "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you so that it will not corrupt the fruits of the ground" (11a)

4. "nor will your vine in the field fail to bear says Yahweh of hosts" (11b)

J. The Calling: "So all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land, Says Yahweh of hosts" (12)

Lessons

One should not turn aside from God's statutes, but keep them

When anyone sins, he should return to the Lord—He promises to return to them.

One should not rob God of what is His.

God can withhold from people material things.

God promises to bless those who give.

When God blesses, others will notice.

God will keep His promises.

NT Application

Keep God's Commandments I John 5:3

Confess our sins and God will forgive us I John 1:5-10

Believers should pay their taxes

Matt. 22:21

Rom. 13:1-7

Believers should give free will offerings to help other believers

I Cor. 16:1,2

II Cor. 8:7-12; 9:5-12

Believers should support God's servants

Elders I Tim. 5: 17,18

Missionaries Phil 4:15-20; I cor. 9:6-14

Teachers Gal. 6:6-8

Believers should help those in need—both believers and unbelievers

I John 3: 17-18

Gal. 6:9-10

Believers should help widows who are widows indeed I Tim. 5:3-8

Believers should support widows who are on the list I Tim. 5:9-16

Personal Application

We should keep God's commandments.

We should confess our sins.

We should pay our taxes and government fees.

We should help believers in need locally and beyond our area.

We should support elders, missionaries, and teachers.

We should help all men even unbelievers in need.

We should support immediate family as well as extended family members.

We should support widows

VII. Israel Directed Harsh Words against Yahweh (Mal. 3:13-4:3)

A. The Charge: "Your words have been arrogant against Me, says Yahweh" (3:13a)

B. The Question: "But you say What have we spoken against You" (3:13b)

C. The Clarification: "You have said" (3:13-14)

1. "It is worthless to serve God" (3:14b)

2. "And what gain is it that we have kept His charge" (3:14c)

3. "and that we have walked in mourning before Yahweh of Hosts?" (3:14d)

4. "so now we call the arrogant blessed" (3:15a)

5. "not only are the doers of wickedness built up, but they also test God and escape" (3:15b)

D. The Contrast: Between the righteous and the wicked (3:16-18)

1. The righteous (3:16-17)

a. "Then those who feared Yahweh spoke to one another" (3:16a)

b. "And Yahweh gave heed and heard" (3:16b)

c. "and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those" (3:16c)

1. Attitude: "Who fear the Yahweh"

2. Action: "and who think upon His Name"

d. "they will be mine, says Yahweh of hosts, on the day that I prepare (My) own treasured possession" (3:17a)

e. "and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him (17b)

f. "so you will return and see (the distinction)" (3:18)

1.) "between the righteous and the wicked" (3:18b)

2.) "between the one who serves God and the one who does not serve Him" (3:18c)

2. The wicked—judgment (4:1)

- a. “For behold the day is coming, burning like a furnace” (1a)
- b. “and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff” (1b)
- c. “and the day that is coming will set them ablaze, says Yahweh of hosts (1c)
- d. “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch” (1d)

3. The righteous (4:2-3)

- a. “But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings’
- b. “and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall”
- c. “You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing, says Yahweh of Hosts”

Lessons

We should not speak against the Lord.

We should not question God’s justice in blessing the righteous and judging the wicked.

We should appreciate God’s book of remembrance for believers.

We must acknowledge believers are God’s possession and appreciate His sparing us.

We must look forward to a day when we will be able to distinguish between righteous and wicked.

We must remember there will be a day of judgment for every evil doer.

We must look forward to healing, joy, and defeat of the wicked.

NT Application

It is not vain to serve the Lord.

I Cor. 15:58...knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord...

Heb. 6:10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and love...

II Cor. 5:10...each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body...

God is righteous to forgive our sins when we confess them I John 1:9

The wicked will be judged and not escape God Heb. 10: 26-31, Heb. 12:25-29, Rev. 20:11-15

There is a book of remembrance/book of life Rev. 3:5, Rev. 20:12

There will be a distinguishing of righteous and wicked Rev. 19-20 and II Thess. 1

The righteous will be blessed Rev. 12:1-22:5

Personal application

It is not vain to serve God, He will not forget our works, and we will be rewarded for good deeds.

God is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins when we confess them, and we will be cleansed.

The wicked will not escape and will be judged for the evil deeds, “vengeance is Mine says the Lord”

Believers will not be erased from the book of life, praise God that our future and hope is secure in God.

The wicked will be judged and righteous will be blessed—look forward to this, rejoice, and praise God.

VIII. Conclusion Malachi 4:4-6

A. The Prompt—"Remember the law of Moses My Servant, the statutes and judgements which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel." (4:4)

B. The Promise—"Behold I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome Day of Yahweh" (4:5-6)

1. "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to (their) children" (4:6a)
2. "And the hearts of the children to their fathers." (4:6b)
3. "Lest I come and smite the land, devoting it to destruction." (4:6c)

Lessons

God wants believers to obey His commandments

God keeps His promises—fulfilled in John the Baptizer, and maybe one of the witnesses in Rev. 11

NT Applications

I Thess. 4:1 how you ought to walk and please God...that you excel still more

I John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments...

Luke 1:17, Matt. 11:13,14; 17:12, 13; Mk. 9:11-13 John the Baptizer ministered "in the spirit and power of Elijah".

Rev. 11:3 one of the 2 witnesses?

Personal Application

We should obey God.

We should believe God