

MALACHI

Quote:

“Then they that feared Yahweh spake often one to another: and Yahweh hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared Yahweh, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith Yahweh of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.”

Malachi 3:16, 17

Malachi - The Messenger of Yahweh:

THEME: Who May Abide the Day of His Coming (Mal 3:2).

AUTHOR: Nothing is known of the prophet apart from the pages of the book which bears his name. The real author, as the prophet himself clearly affirms, was the God of Israel.

TIMING OF THE PROPHECY: Probably between Nehemiah Ch 12 and 13. Nehemiah had been recalled to the court of the king of Persia. In his absence, men of error, determined to undermine Nehemiah's work, began to make their influence felt. The result was a rapid deterioration of spiritual standards and a development towards evil and apostate practices. It would appear that it was at this time, Malachi was raised up by Yahweh to proclaim His displeasure at the prevailing spiritual condition of His people. Three events identify Malachi with the period of Nehemiah's absence from Jerusalem:

1. Marriages between Jewish men and alien wives (Mal 2:11, cp. Neh 13:23).
2. The withholding of tithes from the Levites (Mal. 3:8; cp. Neh. 13:10).
3. The neglect of the Temple, with Temple worship being generally dishonoured (Mal 1:12-13, cp. Neh 13:4, 5, 11).

Colour the Eight Challenges to Malachi's Message red & Yahweh's Replies through Malachi blue:

1. “Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us?” (1:2).
Yahweh will be manifested from the borders of Israel (1:2-5)
2. “And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?” (1:6).
“Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar” (1:7)
3. “And ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee?” (1:7).
“In that ye say the table of Yahweh is contemptible” (1:7)
4. “Yet ye say, Wherefore?” (2:14).
“Because Yahweh hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth” (2:14).
5. “Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him?” (2:17).
“When ye say... where is the God of judgment” (2:17).
6. “But ye said, Wherein shall we return?” (3:7).
“Then shall ye return” (3:18).
7. “But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee?” (3:8).
“In tithes and offerings” (3:8)
8. “Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?” (3:13).
“Ye have said it is vain to serve God” (3:14).

SIGNIFICANCE TO TODAY: The prophecy contains an important message for the Ecclesia of God existing among the nations at the epoch of Christ's return. Malachi warned of the manifestation of

the Lord in glory, pointing out that such an appearance would be associated with a time of dreadful judgment.

FIVE MESSENGERS: The name Malachi means "My Messenger". Malachi introduces a total of five "messengers", all of whom would be sent by Yahweh, and thus each of them qualifying for the possessive title: "My Messenger".

1. Malachi himself (1:1).
2. The Levitical priests (2:7).
3. John the Baptist - 'my messenger' (3:1).
4. The Lord Jesus Christ - 'messenger of the covenant' (3:1).
5. Elijah (4:1).

Malachi - Breakdown

CH 1-2 - APPEAL: In View of the Present Sin

1. 1:1-5 - A Message of LOVE - Israel questions the fact of Yahweh's Love.

2. 1:6-2:17 - A Message of REBUKE

i. 1:6-2:9 - To the Priests: "Ye have despised My Name".

ii. 2:10-17 - To the People: "Ye have dealt treacherously".

CH 3-4 - APPEAL: In View of the Coming Day

1. 3:1-18 - A Message of WARNING

i. 3:1-6 - The Day will judge the guilty.

ii. 3:7-15 - Therefore Be Warned.

iii. 3:16-17 - The Day will bless the Godly.

iv. 3:18 - Therefore Repent.

2. CH 4 - A Message of HOPE.

i. 4:1-3 - The Faithful will be vindicated.

ii. 4:4-6 - Israel will be regenerated.