

Malachi - “The Sun of Righteousness Will Rise”

From Whom: Malachi, the author of the final Old Testament book. With this last work in the Minor Prophets, God closes the Old Testament canon historically and prophetically. Malachi means “my messenger” or “the LORD’s messenger”. The name occurs nowhere else in the Old Testament, nor is any background material provided about the author. Jewish tradition identifies him as a member of the Great Synagogue that collected and preserved the Scriptures.

To Whom: The returning remnant of Israel, 50,000 in number. This same remnant is returning from at least 70 years of immersion in the Babylonian culture and religions. Many of them were born in Babylon.

What/ Theme: The book of Malachi points out the sins of the returning remnant. This book records a series of questions and answers in regards to God’s relationship with Israel, a prediction of the future ministries of John the Baptist who would introduce our Messiah’s first coming, and of Elijah who introduce our Messiah’s second coming. Isaiah also predicted the ministry and message of John the Baptist (Isaiah 40:3-5).

Where/ When: Believed to have been written in Jerusalem approximately 430 B.C. Evident by the reference to sacrifices being made at the second temple (1:7–10; 3:8), which was finished around 516 B.C. (Ezra 6:13–15). It will be another 400 years before Israel hears from a prophet of God, and his name will be John the Baptist.

Bible Students: Ponder these marvelous verses:

- The most famous Old Testament passage on giving (**3:8-10**)
- The most wonderful diary of all time (**3:16**)
- The only biblical passage in which believers are called jewels (**3:17**)
- The only Old Testament book predicting the return of Elijah to minister during the Great Tribulation (**4:5**)

Ponder/ Perspective: The remnant of Israel was allowed to return to Jerusalem and start over in a walled city with a rebuilt temple. The words of Ezra, Nehemiah and Malachi heavy on their minds and hearts. Clearly given a second chance by God, to not repeat the errors of their fathers. It is not surprising, that many of the Jewish leaders would slip into a legalistic zeal in keeping the Law’s of Moses. Now 430 years later, after the Greek and Roman control and rule, the stage is set for Jesus to enter the picture.

Outline:

1. The love of God for Israel, (1:1-5)
2. The priests reprov'd for profanity, (1:6-2:9)
3. The people rebuked for social sins, (2:10-17)
4. The prediction of the two messengers, (3:1-6)
5. The people rebuked for religious sins, (3:7-18)
6. The prediction of the day of the Lord and of the Sun of Righteousness who ushers it in, (4)

MALACHI AT A GLANCE						
Focus	Privilege Of The Nation	Pollution Of The Nation		Promise To The Nation		
Reference	1:1—————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.					

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THE COMING OF CHRIST	
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).	Christ cleanses the temple (John 2:14-17) and sanctifies His people (Heb. 13:12).
His coming brings judgment (4:1).	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).