

## Book 39: Malachi

### God's Final Plea to a Distant Nation

#### **Malachi: Introduction**

- The name *Malachi* means “my messenger”.
- He is the last of the writing prophets, coming after the captivity and after the time of Zerubbabel, Haggai and Zechariah.
- He is probably a contemporary of Ezra and Nehemiah.
  
- The temple is rebuilt, but the nation is still not experiencing the prosperity they desire.
- Now they begin to question God's faithfulness.
- God responds, through Malachi, by questioning the people's faithfulness to Him.
  
- The compromised standards and open rebellion of the people have held back God's blessings from them.
- While the people are tempted to blame God for their problems the Lord places the blame squarely on their shoulders.
  
- This book contains some of the most pointed criticisms and sharp rebukes in the Old Testament.
- It ends with the stark word “curse” and is followed by 400 years of silence, lasting until the birth of Jesus Christ.

#### **Malachi: Life Lessons**

- God cannot continually bless a disobedient life.
- God will never be anyone's debtor.
- God is faithful to keep His promises – no matter what.
- Ritual can become an empty expression of faithless apathy towards God.

#### **Malachi: Top Topics**

- God's Love for Israel      Chapter 1
- The Unfaithful Priests      Chapter 2
- The People Rob God      Chapter 3
- The Coming Messiah      Chapter 4

### **Malachi: Popular Prophecies**

- 3:1               The coming of God's messenger before the Messiah
- 4:1-2            The Return of Jesus Christ
- 4:5               The coming of Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord

### **Malachi: Reading through the Book**

- The book of Malachi contains a mere 55 verses in 4 chapters, yet it has 27 questions.
- In many ways it is a debate between the people and God.
- As we read, consider how some of these same arguments sound between people and God today.

### **Book 39: Malachi**

“For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down,  
My name shall be great among the Gentiles;  
In every place incense shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering;  
For My name shall be great among the nations,”  
Says the Lord of hosts.”

– *Malachi 1:11*