

# Blind Spots

Malachi

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Malachi reminds us that a shallow, formal religion  
may take us farther from God than  
no real religion at all.

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- The name **Malachi** means “my messenger”.
- He is the last of the writing prophets, coming after the captivity and after **Haggai** and **Zechariah**.
- He is probably a contemporary of **Ezra** and **Nehemiah** – in the time after the rebuilding of the temple.

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- The nation was filled with a substandard, formal religion.
- But the people didn't see it.
- Their lives were riddled with spiritual blind spots.

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- They were not experiencing the prosperity they desired – the prosperity the people felt they deserved.
- As God questions them, they question God.

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- This book contains some of the most pointed criticisms and sharpest rebukes in the Old Testament.
- It ends with a threat of destruction and is followed by **400 years of silence**, lasting until the birth of Jesus Christ.

# Blind Spots Introduction

*I think that none of the messages of these minor prophets fits the present age exactly as does this of Malachi.*

*– G. Campbell Morgan (1863 – 1945)*



# Lessons in Malachi 1

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- God's love is unfailing toward his people – but he will also reject those who reject him.
- God is offended by polluted offerings. He desires sincere and sacrificial worship.

# Lessons in Malachi 2

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- God holds the priests more accountable than the people.
  - Compare **James 3:1** (ESV) **Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.**
- God considers marriage holy.
  - Israelites were marrying worshipers of idols.
  - Israelites were divorcing their wives.

# Lessons in Malachi 3

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- Malachi means “my messenger.” The word “messenger” is also the word for “angel.” Jesus is the “messenger” or “Angel of the Lord.”
- God will judge those who treat others unjustly.
- Giving is a part of true worship – and God will reward it.
- God remembers those who fear him.

# Lessons in Malachi 4

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- The Day of the Lord is coming.
- (But Elijah will come first.)

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- Israel at this time imagined they were very righteous.
- They thought they were good and thought they were serving God – but God saw things differently.

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*It seems almost unnecessary to attempt to draw attention to the similar state prevailing in so many places at the present time. Is it not [obvious] to even the least spiritual person that worldliness and covetousness are characteristic features in the professing church and godliness and true devotion the exceptions?*

*– Harry Ironside (1876 – 1951)*



# Blind Spots    Conclusions

- God is like a refiner's fire.
- When we seek him, we are seeking to be refined.

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- Encountering him eventually reveals our impurities
- He shines a light into all those areas – those blind spots – that we cannot see.

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Dr. Charles Feinberg

*The book of Genesis shows how the curse entered the human race and Malachi indicates that the curse still threatens. The book of Matthew begins with the Son of David, the Son of Abraham who came to be made a curse for us by hanging upon a tree ... that we might have blessing, joy and eternal life through faith in His name. Only through Messiah Jesus the Lord can Israel escape the awful curse.*

*– Charles L. Feinberg (1909 – 1995)*