

MALACHI

1. TITLES:

- A. Malachi = messenger of Jehovah, or my messenger
- B. The Book of The Lord's Messengers

2. AUTHOR:

Written by Malachi, the Prophet of The Lord's Messengers, who was the last Old Testament prophet to minister to the restored House of Judah.

3. DATE:

- A. Malachi's ministry covered a period of about 25 years (436-410 B.C.), during the governorship of Nehemiah over the restored House of Judah.
- B. Written between 435 and 410 B.C. This was the last Old Testament book to be written.

4. KEY WORDS:

- A. Where? (in, fore), What? – 13
- B. Curse (d) – 7
- C. Covenant – 6
- D. Treacherously – 5

Key Phrases:

- A. "saith the Lord" – 25
- B. "Lord of hosts" – 24
- C. "ye say" – 11

5. KEY VERSES: 3:1, 9, 10

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6. PURPOSE:

- A. To reprove the remnant for their neglect of the temple.
- B. To reprove the priests for their profaning of the temple worship.
- C. To encourage the faithful remnant with Messianic promises.

7. MESSAGE:

- A. Sins of hypocrisy harden and blind the heart.
- B. Obedience brings blessing and disobedience brings cursing.

8. OUTLINE:

- I. Message to the Priests (Religious) Ch. 1:1-2:9
- II. Message to the People (Social) Ch. 2:10-17
- III. Message to the Faithful (Moral) Ch. 3-4

9. SUMMARY:

Malachi was the last of the three prophets to minister to Judah after the Babylonian Captivity. Haggai and Zechariah were sent to rebuke the people for failing to rebuild the temple. Then generations later Malachi was sent to reprove the priests and the people for their neglect, profanity, and formalism relative to the temple worship. This he did with the question and answer method (there are no less than 23 questions in this book). Malachi was the last messenger of the O.T. prophets, referring to the priests as messengers of the Lord (2:7), and pointing to the first N.T. messenger, John the Baptist (3:1a; Mark 1:2), and also to Messiah, The Messenger of the New Covenant (3:1b).

NOTE: Between Malachi and John the Baptist come the “400 silent years”.

10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as The Messenger of the New Covenant, the Refiner and Purifier of His people (3:1-3; Mt. 3:11), and the Cleanser of the temple (Jn. 2:13-17; Mt. 21:12-14).