

Insights From Malachi

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Insights From Malachi

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First Edition on 5/1/2024

Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
4/29/2024

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Malachi

- The Israelites questioned God's love for them, saying that Esau was Jacob's brother. They didn't believe God had a special love for them (Malachi 1:2). In response God said that He loved Jacob and hated Esau (Malachi 1:2-3).
- God showed great love to the descendants of Jacob (the Jews). However, He hated the descendants of Esau (the Edomites) and destroyed their territory (Malachi 1:3).
- God has an everlasting hatred for the Edomites (Malachi 1:4). By contrast, God has an everlasting love for the Jews (which can be seen throughout Scripture).
- Sons should honor their father. Since God is our Father, we must honor Him (Malachi 1:6).
- The priests were demonstrating that they held God's table in contempt by offering polluted sacrifices (Malachi 1:7-8). In other words, our actions reveal our heart.
- If the priests had offered a blind, lame, or sick animal to their governor as a meal he would have rejected it. Yet that's precisely what they offered to God! By doing this they showed God that they revered Him less than their governor (Malachi 1:8). God doesn't want gifts which are so bad that no one else will accept them.
- The priests only did their jobs because they were getting paid to do them. They didn't love the Lord and had no desire to serve Him (Malachi 1:10).
- Since the priests despised the Lord, God had no pleasure in them and refused to accept their offerings (Malachi 1:10). In other words, God won't accept offerings from people who despise Him.

- God is concerned about our motives as well as our actions. He's interested in *why* we're serving Him and where our heart truly lies.
- God's name will be great among all nations of the world, from the place the sun rises to the place the sun sets (Malachi 1:11). This will come to pass in the millennium.
- God always planned on saving the Gentiles and drawing all nations to Him. This can be seen throughout the Old Testament.
- We must give God our best gifts, not our worst ones (Malachi 1:14).
- It's good to teach people the truth and turn them away from iniquity (Malachi 2:6).
- God requires priests to be knowledgeable about His Law (Malachi 2:7).
- Since the priests showed contempt for God by breaking His Law, the Lord destroyed their reputation and caused the nation to view them with contempt (Malachi 2:9).
- There are times when God dishonors those who dishonor Him (Malachi 2:9).
- Since God created all of us, we must not deal treacherously with one another (Malachi 2:10). In the sight of God the human race is a single family.
- The Lord won't accept the offerings of those who sin by unjustly divorcing their wives. Even if those people continue to give things to the Lord, He won't accept them (Malachi 2:14).
- Marriages are made in the sight of the Lord. He's the one

who holds people accountable for the vows that they've made, and He will bring consequences upon those who break their vows.

- God considers divorce to be an act of treachery (Malachi 2:14).
- God said that one of the reasons He created the institution of marriage was because He wanted godly children and a godly nation (Malachi 2:14-15).
- God considers divorce to be an act of violence (Malachi 2:16).
- God was angry with the people for teaching that He doesn't punish evil or judge evildoers (Malachi 2:17).
- God said that He would send His messenger into this world, who would prepare the way before Him. This is a prophecy of John the Baptist preparing the way for the Messiah (Malachi 3:1).
- God said that the Messiah whom Israel sought was actually going to be God Himself (Malachi 3:1). The Messiah was going to be divine, and the temple that He would enter was going to be His temple.
- God compared the Messiah to the process of refining silver (Malachi 3:2-3). The refining process burns away impurities and leaves behind pure silver.
- The Messiah was going to purify the corrupt priesthood of Levi, as silver and gold are purified in the refining fire (Malachi 3:3). This message was given at a time when the priesthood was very corrupt.
- The Levites will continue to serve God even after the Messiah comes. It's God's will for them to be purified so

they can offer Him pure offerings (Malachi 3:3-4). This is reference to their service in the millennial temple.

- God cares about the fatherless, the widows, the strangers, and hirelings (Malachi 3:5). This means we must care about them as well.
- God considers those who don't have a father to be at a disadvantage and to need special care (Malachi 3:5).
- God doesn't change (Malachi 3:6).
- God has the power to increase a nation's reputation and cause others to think highly of them (Malachi 3:12).
- It's wicked to claim that God doesn't bless those who obey Him or doesn't reward those who fear Him (Malachi 3:13-14).
- It's wicked to look at the prosperity of evildoers, and the suffering of the righteous, and interpret that to mean God hates the righteous and loves the wicked (Malachi 3:13-15).
- Those who feared the Lord often spoke with one another (Malachi 3:16).
- A book of remembrance was written in Heaven for those who feared the Lord and thought upon His name (Malachi 3:16).
- It's not true that God blesses the wicked and is against the righteous. In the day of judgment God will spare those who fear Him (Malachi 3:17). The apparent prosperity of the wicked is temporary and fleeting.
- When the Jews complained that God was blessing the wicked, God pointed to the final judgment to prove that

the wicked weren't as blessed as they seemed to be (Malachi 3:17-18).

- In the coming day of judgment, all of the wicked will be consumed (Malachi 4:1). This is a reference to the tribulation period.
- The wicked will be so thoroughly destroyed in the coming judgment that nothing will be left. Both root and branch will be utterly wiped out (Malachi 4:1).
- Those who fear the Lord won't be consumed in the coming fiery judgment. Instead God will bless them and they will prosper (Malachi 4:2).
- The day is coming when those who fear the Lord will tread down the wicked. In fact, the wicked will be ashes under their feet (Malachi 4:3). This is one of the characteristics of the millennium.
- The reason the world is one day going to radically change for the better is because God is going to change it. He's the one who will do it (Malachi 4:3).
- Before the day of the Lord (the tribulation period) begins, God is going to send Elijah back into this world. Elijah's ministry will be to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers (Malachi 4:5-6).
- God is specifically concerned about the relationship between children and their fathers. God wants fathers to love their children, and children to love their fathers (Malachi 4:6).
- It's a very serious matter to God if the relationship between fathers and children is broken. It's so serious that God said He would curse the whole world if that

relationship wasn't mended (Malachi 4:6). This means Christians should care about that relationship and work to nurture it.

- The relationship between fathers and their children is *very important* to God! In the day when the antichrist is about to rise to power and the worst time the world has ever seen is about to begin, God will become so concerned about the relationship between fathers and their children that He will send Elijah back into this world to mend it. Even with the literal end of the world at hand, that relationship will *still* matter! (How do we know that this verse isn't talking about people's relationship with God? Because the Bible repeatedly says that we have *one* Heavenly Father, but Malachi 4:6 speaks of “fathers”, plural – thus making it clear the passage is talking about earthly fathers and their children.)
- The ministry of Elijah isn't over. One day he will return (Malachi 4:5-6).