

# **The Teachings of Malachi**

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# **The Teachings of Malachi**

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# 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!

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 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 1

**Malachi 1:1:** "The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi."

- This book contains the prophecies of Malachi.
- Malachi was a prophet.
- The prophecies given to Malachi are said to be a burden.
- These prophecies are the words of the Lord, not the words of Malachi.
- Prophecy comes from God, not from men.
- This prophecy was specifically given to Israel.

**Malachi 1:2:** "I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob,"

- God has loved the nation of Israel.
- The Israelites questioned God's love for them, saying that Esau was Jacob's brother. They didn't believe that God had a special love for them.
- The Israelites are the descendants of Jacob.
- Jacob had a brother named Esau.
- God chose to love Jacob.
- God has loved the nation of Israel from the beginning.

**Malachi 1:3:** "And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness."

- God chose to hate Esau.
- The descendants of Esau resided in the mountains.
- God destroyed the territory that was possessed by the children of Esau.
- The reason God destroyed the territory of the Edomites was because He hated Esau.
- Dragons are a real creature that actually existed at one point in history.
- God destroyed the territory of the Edomites and turned it over to dragons.
- Dragons lived in the wilderness and in desolate places.
- God loved Jacob and hated Esau. He showed great love to the descendants of Jacob, but He hated the descendants of Esau and destroyed their territory.
- God put a difference between Jacob and Esau, and between Jacob's descendants and Esau's descendants. Even though Jacob and Esau were brothers He treated them differently.

**Malachi 1:4:** "Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever."

- The Edomites claimed that they were going to rebuild their destroyed homeland.
- God said that the Edomites were going to rebuild what had been destroyed.



- God said that when the Edomites rebuilt what had been destroyed, He would destroy it yet again.
- The Edomites had become impoverished.
- The homeland of the Edomites had been made desolate.
- God is the God of armies.
- God was the one who would destroy the Edomites yet again after they rebuilt what they had lost. It would be His doing.
- The border of the Edomites would be called the border of wickedness.
- The Edomites would forever be associated with wickedness.
- God hates the Edomites and will never allow them to successfully rebuild.
- God hates the Edomites forever. He will always have indignation against them.
- God has an everlasting hatred for the Edomite people.
- The Edomite people don't have a future. God is their enemy and will always oppose them.
- There are some nations that God hates.
- There are some nations that God will hate forever, and will always oppose.
- There are some nations that rebuild after God has destroyed them. However, God may then choose to destroy them yet again.
- There are some nations that don't have a future.

**Malachi 1:5:** "And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel."

- God hated the Edomites and was against them. However, God loves Israel.
- The nation of Edom doesn't have a future, but the nation of Israel does.
- The border of Edom would be called the border of wickedness, but the border of Israel would magnify the Lord.
- God will use Israel to magnify Himself.
- God believes in national borders.
- The people of Israel would see that God was against the Edomites, but favored the people of Israel.
- The people of Israel would see God magnify Himself from their border.
- The people of Israel would see God's promise to them fulfilled with their own eyes.
- The people of Israel would see with their own eyes that God loved them and hated the Edomites.
- The people of Israel would testify that God will be magnified from their border.

**Malachi 1:6:** "A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?"

- Sons should honor their father.

- Servants should honor their master.
- God is our father.
- Since God is our father, we should honor Him.
- God is our master.
- Since God is our master, we should fear Him.
- The priests of Israel didn't honor God their father.
- The priests of Israel didn't fear God their master.
- At the time this prophecy was given, Israel had priests.
- God becomes angry when His people don't honor Him.
- God becomes angry when His people don't fear Him.
- God was angry with Israel's priests.
- The priests of Israel despised the Lord.
- The priests of Israel claimed that they didn't despise the Lord, and asked why God was angry with them.

**Malachi 1:7:** "Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible."

- The priests despised the Lord by offering polluted bread on God's altar.
- At the time this prophecy was given, the altar of God existed.
- At the time this prophecy was given, priests were making offerings on God's altar.
- It's an evil thing to offer something polluted on God's altar.

- God hates polluted sacrifices.
- God becomes angry with whoever offers Him a polluted sacrifice.
- The priests were claiming that the table of the Lord was contemptible. They held the sacrificial system in contempt, even though they were priests. This greatly dishonored God.
- It's a wicked thing to call God's table contemptible.
- Since the priests had no respect for God, they were offering polluted sacrifices.
- Since the priests despised the table of the Lord, they were offering polluted sacrifices.
- The sacrifices that the priests offered revealed their true feelings about God.
- The priests were abusing the sacrificial system.
- The priests were demonstrating that they held God's table in contempt by offering polluted sacrifices.
- Our actions reveal our heart.

**Malachi 1:8:** "And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts."

- It was evil to offer blind animals as a sacrifice to God.
- The priests were offering blind animals as sacrifices, in violation of the Mosaic Law.
- It was evil to offer lame animals as a sacrifice to God.

- The priests were offering lame animals as sacrifices, in violation of the Mosaic Law.
- It was evil to offer sick animals as a sacrifice to God.
- The priests were offering sick animals as sacrifices, in violation of the Mosaic Law.
- If the priests had offered a blind, lame, or sick animal to their governor as a meal he would have rejected it, and yet that's precisely what they were offering to God. In doing this they showed God that they despised Him and revered Him less than their governor.
- At this point in history Israel had a governor, not a king.
- God doesn't want gifts that are so bad that no one else will accept them.
- God requires us to honor Him above others, including above rulers.

**Malachi 1:9:** "And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts."

- The Israelites were told to pray that God would be gracious to them, and wouldn't treat them the way they deserved.
- God wasn't going to show any respect for their polluted offerings.
- God wasn't going to show any respect to people who despised Him and gave Him polluted gifts.

**Malachi 1:10:** "Who is there even among you that would shut

the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand."

- The priests were only willing to work in the temple if they got paid to do so.
- The priests openly despised the Lord and only did their jobs because they were getting paid to do them. They didn't love the Lord and they had no heart or desire to serve Him.
- Since the priests despised the Lord, God had no pleasure in them.
- Since the priests despised the Lord, God refused to accept any of the offerings that they made.
- God won't accept offerings from people who despise Him.
- God won't accept offerings from people who don't love Him, and who are only working because they're being paid to work.
- God despises those who only "serve the Lord" because they're being paid a salary to do so. Even though they may be doing work, God doesn't accept their offering and has no respect for them at all.
- God despises those who only serve Him because it makes them rich to do so, and because they crave money.
- 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.
- At this point in history the priesthood of Israel was wholly corrupt.

- At this point in history the priests were going through the motions, but their heart was far from God.
- God doesn't accept all offerings that are made to Him.
- God doesn't respect all people who serve Him.

**Malachi 1:11:** "For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts."

- God's name will be great among all nations of the world, from the place the sun rises to the place the sun sets.
- God's name will be great among the Gentiles.
- The day is coming when all Gentile nations will honor the Lord and fear Him.
- The day is coming when all Gentile nations will offer incense unto God's name.
- The day is coming when all Gentile nations will offer God pure sacrifices.
- Even though the Israelites despised the Lord and didn't honor His name, the day was coming when the Gentiles would honor the Lord and fear His name.
- Even though the Israelites offered polluted sacrifices, the day was coming when all Gentile nations would offer pure sacrifices.
- God always planned on saving the Gentiles and drawing all nations to Him. This was prophesied about in the Old Testament.

- It's God's will for both the Jews and the Gentiles to worship Him, honor Him, and fear Him.

**Malachi 1:12:** "But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible."

- The Jews had profaned the table of the Lord by offering polluted sacrifices.
- The Jews had shown contempt for the table of the Lord by offering polluted sacrifices.
- God was angry with the Jews for showing contempt for His altar.

**Malachi 1:13:** "Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD."

- The Jews thought that the sacrificial system was a burden. They hated it.
- The Jews despised the sacrificial system so much that they brought torn animals.
- The Jews despised the sacrificial system so much that they brought lame animals.
- The Jews despised the sacrificial system so much that they brought sick animals.
- The animals that the Jews brought to give to God were polluted. Even the Jews didn't want them.



- God refused to accept the polluted sacrifices of the Jews.

**Malachi 1:14:** "But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the LORD a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen."

- God cursed the person who made a vow to the Lord and had a high quality animal to sacrifice, and instead offered a polluted animal that even he didn't want.
- The person who makes a vow to the Lord, and who has a high quality gift to give, and who instead gives a gift that's so polluted no one wants it, is a deceiver.
- It's evil to give something corrupt and polluted to the Lord when we have in our possession something better.
- We should give God our best gifts, not our worst ones.
- When people give God the worst gifts that they have, they're treating Him with disrespect and dishonor.
- God is the great King.
- God is the God of armies.
- God's name is dreadful among the heathen.

## Malachi 2

**Malachi 2:1:** "And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you."

- Since the priests despised the Lord's offerings and offered polluted and disgusting animals as sacrifices, God had a

message for them.

- The Lord didn't accept or overlook the sins of the priests.
- The priests didn't have a license to sin. God didn't allow them to do whatever they wanted.

**Malachi 2:2:** "If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart."

- If the priests didn't stop their wicked actions and glorify God through obedience, God would curse them.
- God had already cursed the priests. If they didn't change their ways then He would curse them even more.
- God commanded the priests to hear His words.
- God commanded the priests to lay His words to heart and take them seriously.
- God commanded the priests to give glory to His name.
- We must hear God's words.
- We must take God's words seriously.
- We must give glory to His name.
- If the priests refused to obey God, there would be severe consequences. God would curse their blessings.
- There are consequences when the religious leaders of a nation refuse to give glory to God and instead disobey Him and profane His name.
- There are times when God curses religious leaders for their sin.

- God was warning the priests what would happen if they continued in their wicked ways. He was offering them mercy by giving them a chance to repent, and warning them what would happen if they didn't.

**Malachi 2:3:** "Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it."

- If the priests continued in their disobedience then God would corrupt their children.
- If the priests continued in their disobedience then God would spread dung on their faces.
- If the priests continued in their disobedience then they would be taken away.
- Because the priests were disobedient and offering polluted sacrifices, God considered the solemn feasts of Israel to be dung in His sight. He found their feasts extremely disgusting and revolting.
- When people despise the Lord and refuse to obey Him, He considers their offerings to be dung in His sight.
- Since the priests offered unclean sacrifices, He would make the priests themselves unclean.
- Since the priests offered unclean sacrifices, the solemn feasts of Israel had become unclean as well.

**Malachi 2:4:** "And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the LORD of hosts."

- When these judgments fell upon the priests, they would

know that God was responsible for them.

- God made the covenant of the priesthood with Levi.

**Malachi 2:5:** "My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name."

- The covenant that God made with the tribe of Levi was a covenant of life.
- The covenant that God made with the tribe of Levi was a covenant of peace.
- The reason God made a covenant with the tribe of Levi was because they feared Him.
- God wants people to fear Him and His great name.
- It's a good thing to fear the Lord.
- God rewards those who fear Him.

**Malachi 2:6:** "The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity."

- The tribe of Levi taught the truth.
- The tribe of Levi taught people what was right and good.
- The tribe of Levi walked with God in peace.
- The tribe of Levi walked with God in equity.
- The tribe of Levi turned many people away from iniquity.
- It's a good thing to teach people the truth.
- It's a good thing to walk with God.

- It's a good thing to turn people away from iniquity.

**Malachi 2:7:** "For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts."

- God requires priests to be knowledgeable about His Law.
- God expected His people to go to the priests in order to learn about His Law.
- Priests are messengers of the Lord.

**Malachi 2:8:** "But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts."

- The priests had departed from the ways of the Lord. They were now breaking His Law.
- The priests were no longer turning people away from iniquity. Instead they were causing people to stumble.
- The priests had become a source of evil and sin. They were no longer a source of truth and righteousness.
- The priests had corrupted the covenant that God had made with them.
- It's an evil thing to depart from God's ways.
- It's an evil thing to cause other people to stumble.
- When the religious leaders become corrupted, it has a big impact on the rest of the nation.

**Malachi 2:9:** "Therefore have I also made you contemptible

and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law."

- Since the priests showed contempt for God by breaking His Law, the Lord destroyed their reputation and caused the nation to view the priests with contempt.
- God has the power to destroy people's reputation and cause them to be held in contempt.
- The priests hadn't kept the ways of God.
- The priests had shown partiality.
- It's a terrible sin to show partiality.
- It's a terrible thing when religious leaders show partiality.
- There are times when God dishonors those who dishonor Him.

**Malachi 2:10:** "Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?"

- All of us have one father (the Lord).
- All of us have been created by God.
- Since we all have one father, and since God created all of us, we must not deal treacherously with one another.
- The rest of mankind are our brothers, because we were all created by God and we all have the same father.
- There aren't many different races. Instead we're all one family.
- The people had profaned the covenant that God had made with their ancestors.

- God expects family members to treat one another well.
- God expects the human race to act like a family, and treat one another well.

**Malachi 2:11:** "Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god."

- Judah had been treacherous.
- An abomination had been committed in Israel, and in Jerusalem.
- At one point Judah had loved the Lord, but now Judah had profaned God's holiness.
- It's an abomination to profane God's holiness.
- It's an abomination to seek other gods.
- Judah is said to have married the daughter of a strange god. Her idolatrous relationship with false gods is compared to a marriage.
- Judah had a covenant with God, but profaned it by having a relationship with false gods.
- Judah had a covenant with God, but treacherously violated that covenant and sought after false gods.

**Malachi 2:12:** "The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts."

- God said that He would cut off any individual who sought after false gods. This included both the master and the

scholar.

- God holds people accountable for idolatry. He doesn't give a free pass to sin to anyone.
- God doesn't allow people to offer sacrifices to Him and also offer them to other gods as well. Those who do such wicked things will be cut off.
- God requires that He alone be worshiped.
- The people were worshiping both God and idols. That disobedience profaned the Lord's name and angered Him.

**Malachi 2:13:** "And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand."

- God had rejected the tears the people had shed.
- God had rejected the weeping and crying out that the people had been doing.
- God had rejected the offerings that people had made. He refused to receive them.
- When people are doing evil, God won't accept their tears or weeping or crying out.
- When people are doing evil, God won't accept their offerings.
- If you want God to have respect for your tears then you must be doing what's right in His sight.
- If you want God to have respect for your offerings then you must be doing what's right in His sight.



**Malachi 2:14:** "Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant."

- The reason God rejected the offerings and tears of the people is because the people had sinned by divorcing their wives.
- God requires people to remain married, and not divorce their wives. Those who break their marriage covenant are committing a terrible sin, and God will hold them accountable for that.
- The Lord won't accept the offerings of those who sin by divorcing their wives. Even if those people continue to give things to the Lord, He won't accept them.
- Marriages are made in the sight of the Lord. He's the one who will hold people accountable for the vows they've made, and who will bring consequences if that relationship is broken.
- God considers divorce to be an act of treachery.
- Marriage is a covenant that's made in the sight of God. Those who divorce are profaning that covenant and doing something evil in the sight of God.
- Wives are to be companions for their husbands. Husbands must not divorce them.
- God expected people to generally get married while they were still young (the "wife of thy youth").

**Malachi 2:15:** "And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none

deal treacherously against the wife of his youth."

- In marriage, God takes two people and unites them together.
- The reason God created the institution of marriage was because He wanted a godly seed. He created marriage so that it might produce godly children and a godly nation.
- One of the purposes of marriage is to produce godly children.
- In general, God expects married people to have children.
- God forbids husbands from divorcing their wives.
- Divorce is an act of treachery in the sight of God. Even in the Old Testament the Lord condemned it.
- There's a spirit within us that we must learn to control.
- God is actively involved in marriages.

**Malachi 2:16:** "For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously."

- God hates divorce.
- God considers divorce to be an act of violence.
- God is the God of Israel.
- We must learn to control our spirit.
- We must not deal treacherously with one another.
- It's wrong for husbands to divorce their wives.

**Malachi 2:17:** "Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?"

- The people had wearied the Lord with their words.
- It's possible for God to become wearied with us.
- God was angry with the people for teaching that those who did evil were good in His sight.
- God was angry with the people for teaching that He didn't object to evil.
- God was angry with the people for teaching that He doesn't punish evil or judge evildoers.
- God was angry with the people for teaching that He delights in evildoers.
- God becomes weary when people say false things about Him.
- It's evil to say false things about the Lord.
- It's evil to accuse God of not caring about the evil in this world.
- It's evil to accuse God of approving of evildoers.
- It's evil to say that God doesn't judge the wicked.
- Those who do evil aren't good in the sight of God.
- God doesn't delight in those who do evil.
- God will indeed judge the wicked for every wicked thing they've done.
- The Lord holds us accountable for the things we say.

## Malachi 3

**Malachi 3:1:** "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."

- God said that He would send His messenger into this world, and that His messenger would prepare the way before Him. (This is a prophecy of John the Baptist.)
- Before the Messiah appeared, God would send a messenger who would prepare the way.
- God said that the messenger (John the Baptist) was going to prepare the way for *Him*. This indicated that the Messiah was going to be divine.
- God said that the Messiah was coming.
- God said that the Messiah whom Israel sought was actually going to be God Himself. The Messiah was going to be divine.
- When the Messiah came, He would suddenly come into His temple.
- When the Messiah came, there would be a temple.
- The temple actually belonged to the Messiah. It was His temple.
- The Messiah was going to be the messenger of the covenant.
- God told the corrupt and wicked priesthood that the Messiah was coming, that He would suddenly come into His temple, and that the Messiah was divine.

**Malachi 3:2:** "But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:"

- It was going to be very difficult for people to survive the day of the Messiah's appearance.
- Few people were going to be able to withstand the appearance of the Messiah.
- God compared the Messiah to a refiner's fire.
- God compared the Messiah to fullers' soap.
- God said that the Messiah "is", not "will be". The Messiah was already alive when God gave this prophecy to Malachi, which was more evidence of His divine nature.

**Malachi 3:3:** "And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness."

- God compared the Messiah to the refining process of silver. The refining process burns away the dross and impurities and leaves behind pure silver.
- God said the Messiah was one who would burn away impurities and leave behind only that which was pure.
- The refining process doesn't change one thing into another. Instead it burns away impurities entirely.
- The Messiah will purify the corrupt and impure sons of Levi, as silver and gold are purified in the refining fire.
- The refining process that God speaks of involves an

intense fire.

- The corrupt Levites wouldn't always remain corrupt. The Messiah was going to purify them, but it would take an intense fire. (This seems to be speaking of the seven-year tribulation.)
- The Levites weren't going to purify themselves, or repent of their own accord. Instead the Messiah was going to purify them by sending them through an intense fire.
- Only that which was pure would survive the Messiah's purifying fire.
- God wasn't going to utterly destroy the Levites. Instead He was going to purify them.
- Once God purified the Levites, they would be able to offer Him pure offerings.
- After God purified the Levites they would offer Him pure offerings.
- 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.
- The Levites would be able to offer God pure offerings once the Messiah has put them through the refiner's fire and made them righteous.
- The Levites had to be made righteous by the Messiah before they could offer pure offerings.
- Only the righteous can offer pure offerings to God.
- God isn't going to put an end to the priestly job of the Levites. They're going to continue to serve Him even after the appearance of the Messiah.
- The reason God is going to purify the Levites is so they

can offer pure offerings.

**Malachi 3:4:** "Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years."

- Once the Messiah has come and purified the Levites, the offerings of the tribe of Judah and the city of Jerusalem will be pleasant to the Lord.
- The tribe of Judah will still exist after the Messiah has purified the Levites.
- Offerings will still be made in the city of Jerusalem after the Messiah has come and purified the Levites.
- The offerings of the Levites won't be pleasant to the Lord until the Messiah has come and purified them in His refiner's fire.
- The offerings of the Levites were pleasant to the Lord in the days of old, but that was no longer the case in the time of Malachi.
- God isn't planning on destroying the Jews, nor will He allow them to be destroyed. Instead He will refine and purify them.
- God isn't planning on destroying the Levites, nor will He allow them to be destroyed. Instead He will refine and purify them.
- God has a future planned for the tribe of Judah.
- God has a future planned for the city of Jerusalem.

**Malachi 3:5:** "And I will come near to you to judgment; and I

will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts."

- In the day of the Messiah's coming, God will come to judge Judah and Jerusalem.
- God judges cities and punishes them for their sins.
- God judges nations and punishes them for their sins.
- God's judgment against Judah and Jerusalem will be swift.
- God is going to punish the sorcerers.
- God is going to punish the adulterers.
- God is going to punish those who swear falsely.
- God is going to punish those who oppress the hireling.
- God is going to punish those who oppress the widow.
- God is going to punish those who are fatherless.
- God is going to punish those who deny strangers their rights.
- God is going to punish those who don't fear Him.
- It's wicked to be a sorcerer.
- It's wicked to be an adulterer.
- It's wicked to swear falsely.
- It's wicked to oppress a hireling (either by withholding his wages or taking them away from him).
- It's wicked to oppress widows.



- It's wicked to oppress the fatherless.
- It's wicked to deny people their rights.
- It's wicked to not fear the Lord.
- God cares about the fatherless, the widows, the strangers, and hirelings (and 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 3:6:** "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

- God doesn't change.
- The reason the Jews haven't been utterly destroyed is because God doesn't change.
- The Jews are the descendants of Jacob.
- The Jews will never be destroyed. This is because God doesn't change.

**Malachi 3:7:** "Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?"

- The Israelites didn't keep God's commandments in Malachi's day, and they didn't keep them in the time of Moses either. The Israelites never kept God's commandments.
- The commandments that the Israelites were given came from God. When the Israelites broke them they were

sinning against God and breaking His commandments.

- God commanded the Jews to return to Him.
- If the Jews returned to Him then He would return to them.
- The Jews were self-righteous. They believed they weren't doing anything wrong.

**Malachi 3:8:** "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."

- The Jews of Malachi's day were robbing God.
- The Jews were robbing God by not paying the tithe that the Mosaic Law required them to pay. Since they didn't give God what He was owed, they were robbing Him.
- God required the Israelites to pay the tithe that was commanded in the Mosaic Law. Not paying that tithe was a serious sin.
- Refusing to give someone something that you owe them is a form of theft.

**Malachi 3:9:** "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."

- Because the Jews weren't paying the tithe, God cursed them.
- The entire nation was refusing to pay the tithe.
- God cursed the entire nation for robbing Him.
- There are times when God curses an entire nation because of its sin.

- It's a serious sin to rob God.
- In this book, God first confronted the priests with their sins, and then He confronted the nation with not paying the tithe (which paid the salaries of the priests and Levites).
- God required the nation to pay the tithe that was in the Mosaic Law even though the priests were evil. The Mosaic Law didn't allow the Israelites to stop paying the tithe even if the priests were wicked.

**Malachi 3:10:** "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

- God commanded the Israelites to pay the tithe that was required by the Mosaic Law.
- The tithe was an offering of food. It wasn't a monetary amount.
- The Jews were to pay the tithe by bringing food to God's temple in Jerusalem.
- The purpose of paying the tithe was to provide food for the priests.
- God promised the Jews that if they brought food to His temple then He would bless them so greatly that they wouldn't have enough room to receive the blessing.
- God promised to bless the Jews if they paid the tithe that was required by the Mosaic Law.
- God has the ability to bless people.

- There are times when God blesses people for obedience.
- The promised blessing would only come if the people paid all of the tithe.
- God told the Jews to put Him to the test. If they paid the tithe then they would be greatly blessed.

**Malachi 3:11:** "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts."

- If the Jews paid all of the tithe then God wouldn't destroy the fruits of the land.
- If the Jews paid all of the tithe then their vines wouldn't cast off their fruit early.
- God has the power to bless crops and stop them from being destroyed.
- There are times when God blesses crops and preserves them in order to bless a nation for obedience.
- There's a devourer who destroys crops.
- If the Jews wanted bountiful harvests then they had to pay the tithe that was commanded in the Mosaic Law.

**Malachi 3:12:** "And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts."

- If the Jews paid all of the tithe then they would be so greatly blessed that all the nations of the world would call them blessed.
- If the Jews paid all of the tithe then their land would

become a great delight.

- God has the power to increase a nation's reputation, and cause others to think highly of them.
- God has the power to bless an entire nation.
- God has the power to turn a nation's land into a great delight.

**Malachi 3:13:** "Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?"

- The Jews had spoken against the Lord.
- Even though the Jews had spoken against the Lord, they denied it and claimed they hadn't.
- The sins of the Jews were very obvious to God and angered Him, but the Jews didn't think they were sinning at all. God had to point out their very obvious sins (which were all blatant violations of the Mosaic Law).
- It's wicked to speak against the Lord.
- We must not speak against the Lord.

**Malachi 3:14:** "Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?"

- The Jews claimed that it wasn't profitable to obey the Lord.
- The Jews spoke against God by claiming there was no point to serving Him, because He didn't bless those who obeyed Him and walked in His ways.

- The Jews claimed that God didn't care about His followers and refused to bless those who served Him.
- It's wicked to claim that God doesn't bless those who obey Him, or that He doesn't reward those who fear Him.

**Malachi 3:15:** "And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered."

- The Jews claimed that God blessed proud people with happiness, even though the Bible teaches that God hates pride.
- The Jews claimed that God blessed wicked people, even though the Bible teaches that God is angry with the wicked.
- The Jews claimed that God rescued evildoers from punishment, even though the Bible teaches that God will send evildoers into everlasting torment.
- The Jews spoke against God by claiming that He had no regard for those who served Him, and instead blessed the wicked and delivered them from trouble.
- It's evil to look at the prosperity of the wicked, and the suffering of the righteous, and interpret that to mean that God hates the righteous and loves the wicked.

**Malachi 3:16:** "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name."

- Those who feared the Lord often spoke with one another.

- There were some who feared the Lord.
- When those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, the Lord heard it.
- A book of remembrance was written in Heaven for those who feared the Lord.
- God remembers those who fear Him and think upon His name.
- One of the characteristics of the righteous is that they often speak to one another.
- God is watching the righteous.

**Malachi 3:17:** "And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."

- It's not true that God blesses the wicked and is against the righteous. Instead God is going to save those who fear Him
- In the day when the Lord makes His jewels, those who fear Him will belong to Him.
- In the day of judgment, God will spare those who fear Him.
- It's very important to fear the Lord. God puts a difference between those who fear Him and those who don't.
- Those who fear the Lord belong to Him.

**Malachi 3:18:** "Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not."

- In the day of judgment it will become very obvious who God is for and who God is against.
- It's foolish to look at the current prosperity of the wicked, and the current suffering of the righteous, and interpret that to mean God is for the wicked and against the righteous. In the day of judgment only those who fear the Lord will be saved. The apparent prosperity of the wicked is a mirage.
- It's far better to fear the Lord than to be wicked. This is true even though the wicked seem to be more prosperous in this life than the righteous.
- Those who serve God and fear Him will be saved. This is why there is great profit in serving the Lord.
- Those who don't serve God and don't fear Him won't be saved. That's why it's terrible to be wicked, no matter what material wealth the wicked might have in this world.
- When the Jews complained that God was blessing the wicked with prosperity and delivering them from trouble, God pointed to the final judgment to demonstrate that the wicked weren't as blessed as they seemed to be.

## Malachi 4

**Malachi 4:1:** "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."

- There's a day of judgment coming. (This seems to be a



reference to the seven-year tribulation period.)

- The coming day of judgment will burn like an oven. It will be a time of fire.
- In this time of judgment, all of the proud will be consumed.
- In this time of judgment, all of the wicked will be consumed.
- God compares the proud and the wicked (who the Jews claimed were blessed) to stubble that will quickly burn away in the coming fires of His judgment.
- In the coming judgment, all of the wicked will be burned up.
- 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.
- The current prosperity of the wicked doesn't mean that God approves of them or is rewarding them. Instead the wicked are going to face a terrible fiery judgment that will utterly consume all of them.
- God hates pride and is going to punish it.
- God hates wickedness and is going to punish it.

**Malachi 4:2:** "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall."

- Those who fear the Lord won't be consumed in the coming fiery judgment. Instead God will bless them and they will prosper.

- The Messiah is called the Sun of righteousness. (In other words, the light of the world.)
- God promised that the Messiah would come and bring healing to all those who feared Him.
- God was going to bless those who feared Him. They would grow up and prosper.
- God compared those who feared Him to young calves that weren't yet grown, and promised that He would watch over them and raise them to maturity.
- There are great blessings in store for those who fear the Lord.

**Malachi 4:3:** "And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts."

- The day is coming when those who fear the Lord will tread down the wicked.
- The day is coming when the wicked will no longer have any power over the righteous at all. Instead they will be trodden underfoot.
- In the end the wicked will be reduced to ash and trodden underfoot, but those who fear the Lord will be blessed with healing and prosperity.
- God is the one who is going to reduce the wicked to ashes.
- God is the one who is going to break the power of the wicked, and give power to those who fear Him.
- The reason the world is going to change is because God is going to change it. This will be done by the will of God,

not the will of men.

**Malachi 4:4:** "Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments."

- God commanded the Jews to remember His commandments.
- God used Moses to give His Law to Israel.
- Moses was a real person who actually existed.
- Moses was the servant of God.
- God gave His Law to Moses at mount Horeb.
- God gave His Law to all of Israel.
- God gave His Law, His statutes, and His judgments to all of Israel.
- The book of Exodus really happened. It's a true record of history.

**Malachi 4:5:** "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:"

- The day of the Lord is coming.
- The day of the Lord will be very great.
- The day of the Lord will be very dreadful.
- Elijah really existed.
- Elijah was a prophet.
- God is going to send Elijah back into this world.
- Before the day of the Lord begins, God is going to send

Elijah back into this world. (This seems to be a reference to the tribulation period.)

- As of the time that God spoke to Malachi (which was after the fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar), the day of the Lord had not yet come.

**Malachi 4:6:** "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

- When God sends Elijah back into this world before the great and dreadful Day of the Lord (the tribulation) begins, his ministry will be to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers.
- When Elijah returns, his ministry will focus on the relationship between fathers and their children.
- God wants fathers to love their children.
- God wants children to love their fathers.
- God is specifically concerned about the relationship between children and their fathers.
- Once history reaches a point where the seven-year tribulation period is about to begin, the antichrist is about to rise to power, and the worst time the world has ever seen is about to start (which will see the death of the vast majority of mankind), God will become so concerned about the relationship between fathers and their children that He will send Elijah back into this world in order to mend it.
- Christians should care about nurturing the relationship between fathers and their children, and should do what they can to build it.

- God said that if the relationship between fathers and their children wasn't mended then He would return to this world and curse it.
- It's a 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 it wasn't mended.
- God has the ability to curse the whole world.
- The ministry of Elijah isn't over. One day he will return to this world.