

# MALACHI

## THE PROPHECY

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# MALACHI ~ The PROPHECY

## Chapter One

### READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Malachi 1** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Malachi 1** and mark every reference to Israel with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Malachi 1** and underline everything the people say with orange.

Read through **Malachi 1** and mark every reference to the Name of the Lord, or the glory of His Name, i.e. the Lord be magnified, My respect, etc.

Read through **Malachi 1** and mark every reference to Jerusalem or Zion with a blue capital "Z".

Read through **Malachi 1** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Malachi 1** and mark every question that the Israelites ask by underlining it in orange.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. LORD has loved Israel
2. Israel has despised the Name of the LORD

# READ AND ANSWER

## **Malachi 1:1-5**

What did Malachi, God's prophet, give to Israel?

What does Malachi's name mean? Look it up in a Bible concordance.

Who does the LORD say He has loved?

What is Israel's apparent response?

God's love for Israel has been evident, consistent, and abundant throughout the years. Although Israel asks an impudent question, God patiently answers using an example from their past. What example does God use?

Was Esau Jacob's brother?

Yet, God regarded each of the brothers differently. How did God look upon Jacob?

How did God regard Esau?

What had God done concerning Esau?

1.

2.

What was Esau's inheritance? (From the context.)

Edom, the nation of Esau's descendants, is personified as making a rebellious threat against the LORD of hosts. What does Edom acknowledge has happened?

What does Edom say it will do despite having been beaten down?

1.

2.

What is God's answer to Edom's ominous threat?

When they rebuild, it will be because God has allowed it, but He will once again tear down their inheritance. What will men call the region where Edom will rebuild?

What will men call the people of Edom?

Who will see what God does to Edom?

What will Israel say?

### **Malachi 1:6-14**

How does a son treat his father?

How does a servant treat his master?

God is Israel's father, yet how does Israel treat Him, the LORD of hosts?

God is Israel's master, yet how does Israel treat Him, the LORD of hosts?

Who does the Lord specifically address?

What have the priests done?

Do the priests even admit they have despised the Name of the LORD?

How do you know? What do they argumentatively ask?

What are the priests doing (in regards to the table of the LORD)?

By offering defiled food upon His altar, the priests are defiling God's altar. By defiling God's altar, the priests are defiling God's Name! What have they been presenting on God's altar?

1.

2.

3.

What does God call their deeds when they present Him with 'faulty merchandise'?

What does God suggest they do with their sacrifices?

How would their governor surely respond?

1.

2.

If they knew their earthly governor would not be pleased or receive them kindly, then did they also know God would not?

And yet, what had they done?

For what did they implore God?

1.

2.

Would the Lord receive any of them kindly?

What action would God accept instead of their sacrifices?

What would shutting the gates prevent?

What was God's stance toward His people?

What would God not accept from any of them?

Although not universally honored even in our day, what will be true of God's Name in the not too distant future?

Where will His Name be great?

1.

2.

Where will incense be offered to His Name?

Where will grain offerings be offered to the LORD?

What will be true of the grain offerings offered among the nations?

What word does **verse 12** begin with?

What contrast is seen in **verses 11** and **12**?

What are God's very Own people, in His very Own land doing to His Name?

How are they profaning His Name?

What are they doing to His table?

What type of fruit are they offering to Him?

What else are they saying?

When they say how tiresome it is, what are they doing? (Look up disdain if you do not know what it means.)

What are they bringing to the LORD?

1.

2.

3.

They bring what has been stolen! They bring what is lame and sick, and keep what is healthy for themselves; they offer what is defective to God! God asks them if it is even reasonable for them to think He should receive their flawed, substandard offerings. What is the answer?

What does God call the man who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord instead?

What does God do to that man?

Why does God curse him?

Why should only the absolutely perfect items be given to the LORD?

1.



2.

## POINT OF DEPTH

**From the rising of the sun even to its setting is not a time phrase;  
it is a reference to the face of the whole earth.  
The sun is always rising and always setting somewhere on the earth—  
below that sun are the inhabitants of the earth  
who will one day worship the Great LORD of hosts.**

**They do not yet...  
But they will...**

**Isaiah 45:23  
*I have sworn by Myself,  
The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back,  
That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.***

**Romans 14:11  
*For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me,  
And every tongue shall give praise to God.”***

**Philippians 2:10  
*For this reason also, God highly exalted Him,  
and bestowed on Him the Name which is above every name,  
so that at the Name of Jesus every knee will bow,  
of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.***

## READ AND REASON

**Where are incense offerings to God’s Name allowed to be offered?  
Where are grain offerings to the LORD allowed?**

**What does this mean will happen concerning the nations?  
What does this mean will happen concerning Israel’s temple?**

# MALACHI ~ The PROPHECY

## Chapter Two

### READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Malachi 2** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Malachi 2** and mark every reference to the Holy Spirit with a red cloud.

Read through **Malachi 2** and mark every reference to Israel or Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Malachi 2** and mark every reference to Covenant with a yellow box filled in with red.

Read through **Malachi 2** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Malachi 2** and mark every reference to the Name of the LORD or the glory of His Name, i.e. the sanctuary of the LORD, respect, reverence, or awe of His Name, etc.

Read through **Malachi 2** and mark every reference to priests, including pronouns, with a red diamond.

Read through **Malachi 2** and mark every contrast with a pink forward slash.

Read through **Malachi 2** and underline everything the Israelites say with orange.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Priests have corrupted Covenant of Levi
2. Judah has profaned Covenant of the fathers
3. Judah has dealt treacherously with Covenant wives
4. LORD is wearied with their words

## READ AND ANSWER

### **Malachi 2:1-9**

What is given to the priests?

What are the priests exhorted to do?

If the priests listen to the commandment, what will they do?

What will God do if the priests do not take the commandment to heart to give honor to God's Name?

1.

2.

From where did their blessings come?

Why did they receive blessings from the LORD?

Had the priests taken it to heart to give honor to the Name of the LORD?

What did God do?

What would God do if the priests did not listen, and did not take God's commandment to heart to give honor to His Name?

1.

2.

3.

*God's curse would be long-lasting. He would consider the priest defiled who did not give honor to His Name and obey His ways. He would thoroughly clean their defilement from His presence and take them away as defilement would be taken away from His sanctuary. They would no longer be His priests.*

Why did God send this commandment to the priests? (The priests were sons of Levi.)

What, evidently, would be the case if the priests did not obey God's commandment?

How is God's Covenant with Levi described?

1.

2.

What did God give to Levi?

1.

2.

How did Levi react to God's Covenant with him?

1.

2.

What were the priests of Malachi's day not doing? (**Verse 2**)

What was in Levi's mouth?

What was on Levi's lips?

How did Levi walk with God?

1.

2.

What did Levi do in his position as God's priest?

What should the lips of a priest do?

What should men seek in a priest?

Why? How is a priest described?

What did the shameful priests of Malachi's day do in contrast to a true priest?

1.

2.

3.

Because the priests did not follow God's ways, what did God do to them?

1.

2.

Instead of keeping God's ways, what were the priests doing?

**Malachi 2:10-12**

What two rhetorical questions are asked?

1.

2.

What were the expected answers?

1.

2.

What made them brothers?

How were the brothers treating one another?

When they dealt treacherously each against his brother, what was the result?

What was the Covenant of their fathers?

Who has dealt treacherously?

What has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem?

What is the treacherous abomination?

How has Judah profaned the sanctuary of the LORD?

How does God feel about His sanctuary?

What will happen to the man who marries a foreign wife?

What does it mean to be cut off from the tents of Judah?

Have you ever heard the phrase “everyone who awakes and answers”? *(It is not clear the exact meaning of the illustration behind this saying, but one thing is clear, and that is what this paragraph conveys—it includes everyone who marries a foreign wife!)*

What will happen if the man who loves and marries the daughter of a foreign god presents an offering to the LORD of hosts?

**Malachi 2:13-16**

What else do the people and the priests do?

1.

2.

3.

Why do they cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning?

Why does God no longer regard their offering?

Why does God no longer accept their offering with favor from their hand?

Do the people want to admit that they know why?

What is their imaginary question?

What is the very real answer?

What is it called when a man and woman are married?



When a man and woman enter into covenant, Who is witness to their pledge of faithfulness?

How is a man's wife described?

1.

2.

3.

What have the men done to their wives?

If a man has dealt treacherously with the wife of his youth, does he have even a remnant of the Spirit?

What question is asked?

What does that mean?

What warning is given to the men and priests?

Why is God threatening them?

1.

2.

What, can you see now, that the men have been doing to their wives?

What does God call Himself when He declares that He hates divorce?

What warning/exhortation does God give once again?

**Malachi 2:17**

Whose words have wearied the LORD?

What words?

Yet, do they admit they have wearied the LORD with their words?

What tiresome question do they ask?

What have they said?

1.

2.

What do they mean when they say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them.”?

What do they mean when they say, “Where is the God of justice?”

Read **Malachi 3:13-15** and compare the two passages.

# POINT OF DEPTH

Watch for God's special relationship with the Levites.

Exodus 13:1-16

*Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,*

*“Sanctify to Me every firstborn,  
the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel,  
both of man and beast; it belongs to Me.”*

*Moses said to the people,*

*“Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt,  
from the house of slavery;  
for by a powerful hand the Lord brought you out from this place.*

*And nothing leavened shall be eaten.*

*On this day in the month of Abib, you are about to go forth.*

*It shall be when the Lord brings you to the land  
of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Hivite and the Jebusite,  
which He swore to your fathers to give you,  
a land flowing with milk and honey,*

*that you shall observe this rite in this month.*

*For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread,*

*and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the Lord.*

*Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days;*

*and nothing leavened shall be seen among you,*

*nor shall any leaven be seen among you in all your borders.*

*You shall tell your son on that day, saying,*

*‘It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.’*

*And it shall serve as a sign to you on your hand,*

*and as a reminder on your forehead,*

*that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth;*

*for with a powerful hand the Lord brought you out of Egypt.*

*Therefore, you shall keep this ordinance at its appointed time from year to year.*

*Now when the Lord brings you to the land of the Canaanite,*

*as He swore to you and to your fathers, and gives it to you,*

*you shall devote to the Lord the first offspring of every womb,*

*and the first offspring of every beast that you own;*

*the males belong to the Lord.*

*But every first offspring of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb,*

*but if you do not redeem it, then you shall break its neck;*

*and every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.*

*And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying,*

*‘What is this?’*

*then you shall say to him,*

*‘With a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt,*

*from the house of slavery.  
It came about, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go,  
that the Lord killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt,  
both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast.  
Therefore, I sacrifice to the Lord the males,  
the first offspring of every womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.  
So it shall serve as a sign on your hand and as phylacteries on your forehead,  
for with a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt.”*

**Numbers 3:11-13**

*Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,  
“Now, behold,  
I have taken the Levites from among the sons of Israel instead of every firstborn,  
the first issue of the womb among the sons of Israel.  
So the Levites shall be Mine.  
For all the firstborn are Mine;  
on the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt,  
I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, from man to beast.  
They shall be Mine; I am the Lord.”*

**Numbers 3:40-51**

*Then the Lord said to Moses,  
“Number every firstborn male of the sons of Israel from a month old and upward,  
and make a list of their names.  
You shall take the Levites for Me, I am the Lord,  
instead of all the firstborn among the sons of Israel,  
and the cattle of the Levites  
instead of all the firstborn among the cattle of the sons of Israel.”  
So Moses numbered all the firstborn among the sons of Israel,  
just as the Lord had commanded him;  
and all the firstborn males by the number of names from a month old and upward,  
for their numbered men were 22,273.”  
Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,  
“Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the sons of Israel  
and the cattle of the Levites.  
And the Levites shall be Mine; I am the Lord.  
For the ransom of the 273 of the firstborn of the sons of Israel  
who are in excess beyond the Levites,  
you shall take five shekels apiece, per head;  
you shall take them in terms of the shekel of the sanctuary  
(the shekel is twenty gerahs),  
and give the money, the ransom of those who are in excess among them,  
to Aaron and to his sons.”  
So Moses took the ransom money from those who were in excess,  
beyond those ransomed by the Levites;  
from the firstborn of the sons of Israel*

*he took the money in terms of the shekel of the sanctuary, 1,365.  
Then Moses gave the ransom money to Aaron and to his sons,  
at the command of the Lord, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.*

## READ AND REASON

**Read Leviticus 8-11 and note how differently the priests of Malachi's time behaved from God's standard.**

**Note, too, what happened to those who did not follow God's ways alone.**

# MALACHI ~ The PROPHECY

## Chapter Three

### READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Malachi 3** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Malachi 3** and mark every reference to the Name of the LORD, or the glory of His Name, i.e. the house of the LORD, respect, reverence, or fear of His Name, etc.

Read through **Malachi 3** and mark every reference to Israel or Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Malachi 3** and mark every reference to the priests or sons of Levi, including pronouns, with a red diamond.

Read through **Malachi 3** and mark every reference to Covenant with a yellow box filled in with red.

Read through **Malachi 3** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or That Day, fill in the box with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Malachi 3** and underline everything the Israelites say with orange.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. The Messenger of the Covenant will suddenly come to His temple
2. LORD will draw His people near for judgment
3. "Return to Me and I will return to you."
4. Test the LORD—bring the tithe into the storehouse
5. Their words have been arrogant against LORD
6. Those who fear the LORD and esteem His Name

## READ AND ANSWER

### **Malachi 3:1-4**

Who is God going to send?

What will God's messenger do?

Clear the way before Whom?

Were the people expecting someone to come?

Who were they expecting (seeking)?

Who will suddenly come to His temple?

Who did they desire to come?

Is the Messenger of the Covenant the same as the LORD?

Is the Messenger of the Covenant the same as the One Whom they desired to come?

Is the Messenger of the Covenant the same as the messenger who will clear the way before the LORD? (Read the verse very carefully.)

Is the Messenger of the Covenant the same as the One Whose way will be cleared by another messenger?

Who would be sent?

Who was coming?

Who sent the messenger?

Who was the One Who was coming?

## POINT OF CONNECTION

**Isaiah prophesied of John the Baptist. Isaiah 40:3  
He also gave more prophecies concerning Jesus Christ  
than any other Old Testament prophet.**

**Isaiah was a prophet who was sent primarily to the Southern Kingdom  
before and during the Assyrian captivity of the Northern Kingdom.**

**God told him that the people had ears but would not hear.  
He was told to deliver the message until the cities were devastated  
and had no inhabitants.**

**Yet God preserved a holy remnant of the sons of Israel.  
Isaiah 6:9-13**

**It was to this remnant that John the Baptist was sent  
as a messenger of THE Messenger.**



**Isaiah prophesied about a voice of one calling in the wilderness.  
John the Baptist was sent to remove opposition to Jesus  
by calling the people to repentance.  
Matthew 3:1-3; John 1:19-23; Luke 1:13-17; Matthew 11:7-14**

**It was an Eastern custom for kings to send a messenger before them  
to remove every barrier—physical, political and social.  
John the Baptist was the messenger of Jesus.  
He was sent to prepare the way for Jesus.  
He was sent to call the people to repentance,  
therefore removing opposition to Jesus.**

**Interesting isn't it?  
People who are repentant aren't opposed to Jesus and His ways...**

What two rhetorical questions are asked?

- 1.
- 2.

Who *can* endure the Day of His Coming?

Who *can* stand when He appears?

With what is the LORD compared?

- 1.
- 2.

What will the LORD, the Messenger of the Covenant, do when He appears?

1.

2.

Why will the Lord purify and refine the sons of Levi?

What will be the result of the sons of Levi presenting offerings to the LORD in righteousness?

When was the offering of Judah and Jerusalem pleasing to the LORD?

1.

2.

### **Malachi 3:5-6**

What will the LORD do *then*?

When the LORD draws them near for judgment, what will He be (besides Judge)?

What type of a witness will the LORD be?

Against whom will He witness?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

Why will the LORD wait until then to judge?

Why hasn't the LORD consumed His people?

Who will be judged?

**Malachi 3:7**

What have the sons of Jacob done?

1.

2.

How long have the sons of Jacob turned away from God's statutes?

How long have the sons of Jacob not kept the LORD's statutes?

What does God call for His people to do?

What does God promise He will do if His people return to Him and keep His statutes?

By what Name does God call Himself?

**Malachi 3:8-12**

What rhetorical question does God ask?

Is it imaginable that any man would rob God?

And yet, what does God say His Own people are doing?

As is the pattern in Malachi, the peoples' supposed retort is written. What is it?

How have the people robbed God?

1.

2.

What is the punishment for robbing God?

Who is accused of robbing God?

What curse are the people cursed with? (**Verse 11**)

1.

2.

How can they be “cursed with a curse”? Read **Deuteronomy 28:38-40**.

What does God prod them to do?

If God’s people bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, what will be the result?

How serious is God in His incitement?

If God’s people bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, what does He promise He will do?

What else will God do for them?

If God rebukes the devourer for them, what will change?

1.

2.

How will God’s promised blessing affect the nations of the earth?

Why will the nations call Israel blessed?

Again, by what Name does God refer to Himself?

**Malachi 3:13-15**

What indictment does God level against His people?

What is Israel's response?

What have they spoken against God?

What do they mean, "It is vain to serve God"?

Why do they expect a profit?

1.

2.

Who do they say is blessed? (Keep in mind, Israel is referring to the heathen, not themselves!)

What is their complaint against the doers of wickedness?

What do they say the doers of wickedness get away with?

Do these verses, **13-15** remind you of **Chapter 2:17**? Read it again.

In your own words, write out how Israel has spoken arrogantly against God.

**Malachi 3:16-18**

What did those who feared the LORD do?

Read **Malachi 1:6**. Do you see a connection? What do you see?

What did the LORD do when those who feared Him spoke to one another?

1.

2.

What happened when the LORD gave attention and heard those who feared Him speaking to one another?

What was written?

Where was the book of remembrance written?

For whom was the book written?

1.

2.

What did God say would be true about those who fear Him and esteem His Name?

To when is God referring?

What will God do on That Day?

1.

2.

What will be distinguishable on That Day?

1.

2.

What, does it seem, the people have failed to see?

How will the righteous and the wicked be distinguished from one another on That Day?

How will the one who serves God and the one who does not serve Him be distinguished from one another on That Day?

## READ AND REASON

**God will say...**

***Mine!***

***My Own possession!***

***Spared as My Own child who serves Me!***

**I will reply...**

***Yours!***



***I am Your Own possession!***

***I am Your child who serves You, and You will spare me in the Day of Your wrath!***

**What will God say about you?**

**What will be your reply?**

# MALACHI ~ The PROPHECY

## Chapter Four

### READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Malachi 4** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Malachi 4** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or That Day, fill in the box with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Malachi 4** and mark every reference to the Name of the LORD, or the glory of His Name, i.e. the house of the LORD, respect, reverence, or fear of His Name, etc.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Day of the LORD coming
2. Remember My Word
3. Elijah will come before Day of the Lord

### READ AND ANSWER

#### **Malachi 4:1-3**

What word starts the chapter?

What does it connect? (Keep in mind the connection between the verses as you answer the following questions.)

What is coming?

What is the Day that is coming like?

Who is likened to chaff?

1.

2.

What will the Day that is coming (burning like a furnace) do to the arrogant and every evildoer (chaff)?

How completely will they be consumed?

Who is contrasted with the arrogant and the evildoer?

What will happen for those who fear God's Name?

1.

2.

What will the "sun of righteousness" do for those who fear the Name of the Lord?

Of what are they healed?

# POINT OF DEPTH

**Isaiah 53:4-5**

***Surely our griefs He Himself bore,  
And our sorrows He carried;  
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,  
Smitten of God, and afflicted.  
But He was pierced through for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities;  
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,  
And by His scourging we are healed.***

**I Peter 2:24-25**

***and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,  
so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness;  
for by His wounds you were healed.  
For you were continually straying like sheep,  
but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.***

Once they are healed, what will they do?

What will they do to the wicked?

Why will the wicked be ashes under the soles of their feet? (What happens to the wicked in the Day that is coming?)

Who is preparing the Day that is coming?

Who announces the Day that is coming?

**Malachi 4:4**

What are the people called to remember?

1.

2.

3.

Whose commands are they to remember?

Who is to obey all these commands?

**Malachi 4:5-6**

What does God announce to the people?

When will He send Elijah the prophet?

How is the Day of the Lord described?

1.

2.

What will Elijah do?

1.

2.

What will the restoration of the hearts of the fathers to their children and the restoration of the hearts of the children to their fathers prevent?

Why would God come and smite the land with a curse? (Deuteronomy 28:15)

## POINT OF DEPTH

**One of the last things that God says before 400 years of silence  
is that before the great and terrible Day of the Lord comes,  
He will send Elijah.**

**John 1:19-23**

***This is the testimony of John,  
when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,  
“Who are you?”  
And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”  
They asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?”  
And he said, “I am not.”  
“Are you the Prophet?”  
And he answered, “No.”***

***Then they said to him, “Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who  
sent us? What do you say about yourself?”  
He said, “I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness,  
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’  
as Isaiah the prophet said.”***

**The Jews thought that John the Baptist might be Elijah the prophet,  
and they asked him if he was.**

**John states,  
“No. I am he that is the voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
the one Isaiah the prophet said would come.”**

**Luke 1:13-17**

***But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been  
heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name  
John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he  
will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he  
will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb. And he will turn  
many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a  
forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the***

***fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous,  
so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”***

**John the Baptist was not Elijah,  
but one who was a forerunner before Christ in the spirit and power of Elijah.**

**He was to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children  
and change the attitude of the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous.**

**He would make the people ready to receive the Lord.**

**Matthew 11:7-14**

***As these men were going away,  
Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John,  
“What did you go out into the wilderness to see?***

***A reed shaken by the wind?***

***But what did you go out to see?***

***A man dressed in soft clothing?***

***Those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ palaces!***

***But what did you go out to see?***

***A prophet?***

***Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet.***

***This is the one about whom it is written,***

***‘Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You,***

***Who will prepare Your way before You.’***

***Truly I say to you, among those born of women  
there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist!  
Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.***

***From the days of John the Baptist until now  
the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force.***

***For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John.***

***And if you are willing to accept it,***

***John himself is Elijah who was to come.***

**Jesus, when talking about John the Baptist,**

**told Israel that if they had believed,**

***then John would have been Elijah.***

**John would have been the fulfillment *if* they would have believed.**

**But they did not believe...**

## READ AND REASON

God's people were obedient for a while after He brought them back from Babylon (where He had exiled them for their disobedience.)

But soon after they returned, the people were quickly abandoning The Book! They still had the same old heart—deceitfully wicked and impossible to cure! So God sent one last prophet with one last message to them. God sent Malachi.

The people had been back in the land for 100 years.  
Their spiritual condition was contaminated.  
The priesthood was defiled.  
They had diluted the Word of God to suit their own personal tastes.  
The priests were divorcing their wives, and so were the people.  
The priests were marrying foreign women, and so were the people.  
They were bringing sick, blind and lame sacrifices to God.  
They were not giving Him the best that He rightfully deserved and commanded!  
They were tired of serving God, and they robbed Him of His tithes and offerings!  
They said it was vain to serve the Lord!

God was angry!  
He said, *"I am a great King and My Name is to be feared among the nations! Should I put up with what you are doing?"*

God's message is fourfold in Malachi.

1. *I love you.*
2. *I have to judge you.*
3. *I am going to send My Messenger and His messenger before Him.*
4. *I will care for those who fear My Name."*

He was not coming as the King or Deliverer yet...  
but as the Savior for the heart condition of men.

God would keep His Covenant.

God doesn't change.

God doesn't break Covenant.

If the people wouldn't repent, He would have to judge again.

God's message was simply, "Return to Me, and I will return to you."

God's last instruction in Malachi was to:

**Remember the Law of Moses.**



**Remember the Statutes.  
Remember the Ordinances.  
Remember My Word!**

**Jeremiah and Ezekiel had prophesied about the New Covenant that God would make with Israel.**

**He would write His law on their hearts,  
take out their evil heart,  
put a new heart inside of them  
and put a new spirit inside of them.**

**He would also put *His* Spirit inside of them  
and cause them to walk after His ways  
and to keep His laws so that they **WOULD NOT** turn away from Him!  
His Law would be on their hearts  
(their new healthy hearts that would seek after Him as a way of life!)  
so they would keep His Law!**

**Malachi ends with a promise of One Who is to come,  
One Who is to bring the New Covenant to them—the One Who is The Seed!**