

A SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Malachi

“From one messenger to another”

Title & Author:

- Malachi
 - Name means “_____.”
 - Some speculate this is a pseudonym and not a real name.
 - No background information is given about the author.
 - This name is unique to the book.
 - We will say this book follows the normal pattern and Malachi was indeed the author’s name.
- Subtitle: “From one messenger to another”
- Summary: “Malachi communicates God’s final _____ on a rebellious people before the 400 silent years begin.”

Date: _____

- Some textual evidence suggests Malachi wrote at the same time as Nehemiah.
 - Corruption in the priesthood (Neh. 13:4-7; Mal. 1:7-10)
 - Intermarriage with the Canaanites (Neh. 13:23-28; Mal. 2:11-16)
- Malachi probably wrote during the 12 years that Nehemiah was gone to _____ – or around 430 BC (Neh. 13:6).

Background:

- Nehemiah’s 12-year absence
 - He promised to return to Babylon when the king originally allowed him to go to Jerusalem (Neh. 2:6).
 - He kept his word and returned to Babylon after the _____ was completed (Neh. 13:6).
 - During his absence, the people, especially the _____, began to drift away from God.
 - Malachi prophesied during this absence.

Key People:

- The Priests
 - They were turning people away from _____ to iniquity (2:6).
 - They themselves were fallen out of the way (2:8).
 - They were _____ their wives (2:14).
 - They would be purified by the future Messenger (3:2-3).
- Elijah – the prophet who will come _____ the Day of the LORD (4:5-6).

Overview:

- Introduction (1:1)
- Proof of God's love for Israel (1:2-5)
 - Esau was permanently destroyed (1:3-4).
 - Israel was only temporarily punished (1:5).
- The profaning of the altar (1:6-14).
 - The table is _____ (1:7).
 - They offered corrupt sacrifices (1:8).
 - God's name will be great among the Gentiles (1:11).
- Curse on the priesthood (2:1-17)
 - They will be cursed if they do not change (2:2).
 - The priests should seek knowledge (2:7).
 - Instead, they corrupted the people (2:8).
 - They had broken their marriage vows (2:14-16).
 - They _____ God with their wickedness (2:17).
- The coming messenger will _____ the way of the LORD (3:1-6)
 - The messenger will prepare the way (3:1).
 - The LORD will purify the sons of _____ (3:2-3).
 - He will judge the wicked (3:5).
- Return to God (3:7-12)
 - They had robbed God in their tithes (3:8).
 - If they restored the tithes, God would restore the _____ (3:10).
 - The nations would call them blessed (3:12).
- Deceived by the perceived _____ of evil men (3:13-4:4).
 - It is useless to serve God (3:14).
 - Evil men seem to get off without a problem (3:15).
 - God does _____ those who fear Him (3:16-18).
 - All the wicked will be destroyed in fire (4:1).
 - God's servants will _____ (4:2-3).
- Elijah will come before the Day of the LORD (4:5-6).

Key Word: _____

- The prophet's name means messenger.
- The priests were supposed to be God's messenger (2:7).
- The coming messenger will prepare the way for the LORD (3:1-3).

Christ in Malachi:

- Christ is the LORD who will purify the sons of Levi.
 - He purified the _____ in the first coming (John 2:13-16).
 - In the second coming, he will purify the nation (Rom. 11:26).
 - Not only will He purify Israel, but He will also purify the _____ who come to Him.

Key Theme:

- Give your tithes (3:8-12).
 - Giving of tithes is a constant problem after the return of the Exile.
 - Did the admonition succeed?
 - The _____ practiced tithing to perfection (Matt. 23:23).
 - But they failed to understand the core of Malachi's message.
 - God doesn't just want the money; He wants the _____ of the giver (Matt. 23:24-26; Mark 12:41-44).

Challenge to Malachi:

- Who is Elijah (4:5-6)?
 - This person will come before the Day of the LORD.
 - This prophecy was partially fulfilled with _____ who came before Christ the first time.
 - It will not be completely fulfilled until the ministry of the _____ (Rev 11:3-6).

Application: Let's allow God's ability to judge the wicked to give us confidence as we pursue a pure lifestyle.