

## *Malachi*

**Purpose:** Yahweh has kept his covenant with Israel, and will continue to do so; Israel ought to respond with faithfulness and honest worship.

**Outline:** 1:1 – Title

1:2-2:16 – The Lord has been faithful, Israel has been unfaithful

2:17-4:6 – The Lord is coming

**Author:** Malachi (although the name means “Messenger” and may be a generic title, not a proper name)

**Date:** Probably around 433 B.C., Nehemiah’s return to Jerusalem.

### **Highlights:**

Historical Background: 538 B.C. – Cyrus Edict (Israelite Remnant returns to Jerusalem)

538 B.C. – First wave of returnees, led by Sheshbazzar (Ezra 1:5-11)

532 B.C. – Temple rebuilding project begins, led by Sheshbazzar (Ezra 5:16)

520 B.C. – Halted reconstruction project restarted, led by Zerubbabel (Ez. 5:11-12)

Prophetic ministry of Haggai and Zechariah

Final composition of the book of Haggai

515 B.C. – Temple Completed (Ezra 6:15 [cf. 3:8-13]; Haggai 1:15)

Final composition of the book of Zechariah

458 B.C. – Another wave of returnees, led by Ezra (Ezra 7:8)

445 B.C. – Another wave of returnees, led by Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:1)

433 B.C. – Second governorship of Nehemiah, after short departure (Neh. 13:7)

Prophetic ministry of Malachi

Final composition of the books-Malachi, Chronicles, Ezra-Nehemiah, Esther

The Lord has been faithful; Israel has been unfaithful (1:2-2:16)

Jacob loved, Esau hated = covenant faithfulness of Yahewh (1:2-5)

Unfaithfulness of Israel (1:6-2:16)

Unfaithfulness of the priests (1:6-2:9)

Dishonor God in their sacrifices (1:6-14)

Do not faithfully teach the law (2:1-9)

Unfaithfulness of the people (2:10-16)

The Lord is coming (2:17-4:6)

Day of Judgment (2:17-3:5)

Call to Repentance (3:6-18)

Faithful giving (3:6-12)

Faithful service (3:13-18)

Day of the Lord (4:1-6)

Compare Malachi 1:2-3 with Romans 9:11-13 [Jacob and Esau, covenant, election]

Compare Malachi 2:16 with Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Matthew 5:31-32; 19:1-12; Mark 10:2-12; John 4:4-42; and 1 Corinthians 7:10-16 [Divorce]

Compare Malachi 3:8 with Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-33; Deuteronomy 12:6-7; Nehemiah 13:10-12; Luke 11:42; 18:9-14; 21:1-4 [Tithing]

**BLEMISHED SACRIFICES** – *Original Meaning:* The post-exilic community ought to bring an animal without defect or blemish as a proper act of sacrificial worship. *NT Elaboration:* Jesus Christ is the ultimate sacrifice. *Contemporary Application:* We ought to focus on the Christ as a proper act of worship.