

KEY THEME

Honor the name
of God by
living godly lives.

Malachi

KEY VERSE

For from the rising of the sun,
 even to its going down, My
 name shall be great among the
 Gentiles; in every place incense
 shall be offered to My name,
 and a pure offering; for My
 name shall be great among the
 nations," says the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 1:11

Malachi

- Malachi ("My Messenger"), the last of the writing prophets, wrote nothing about himself. Tradition says he was from the tribe of Zebulun and died young.

The **key thing in prophecy** is the **message**, not the messenger.

- He and his contemporary Nehemiah both prophesied against the same abuses. Both labored to rebuild moral life of the people as well as the walls of Jerusalem.



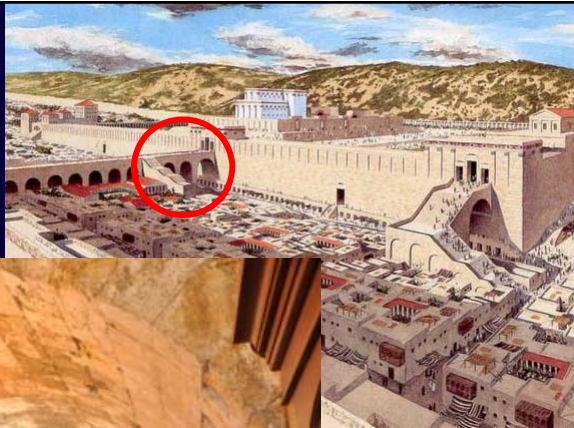
Malachi ("My Messenger")
 Judah c. 435-420 B.C.

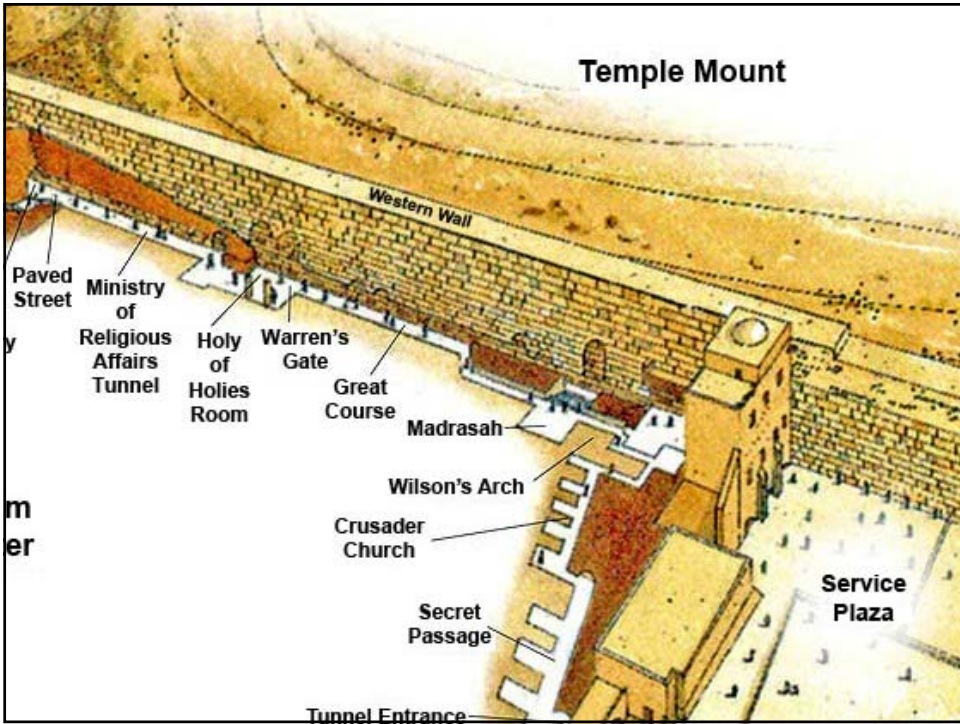
Historical context

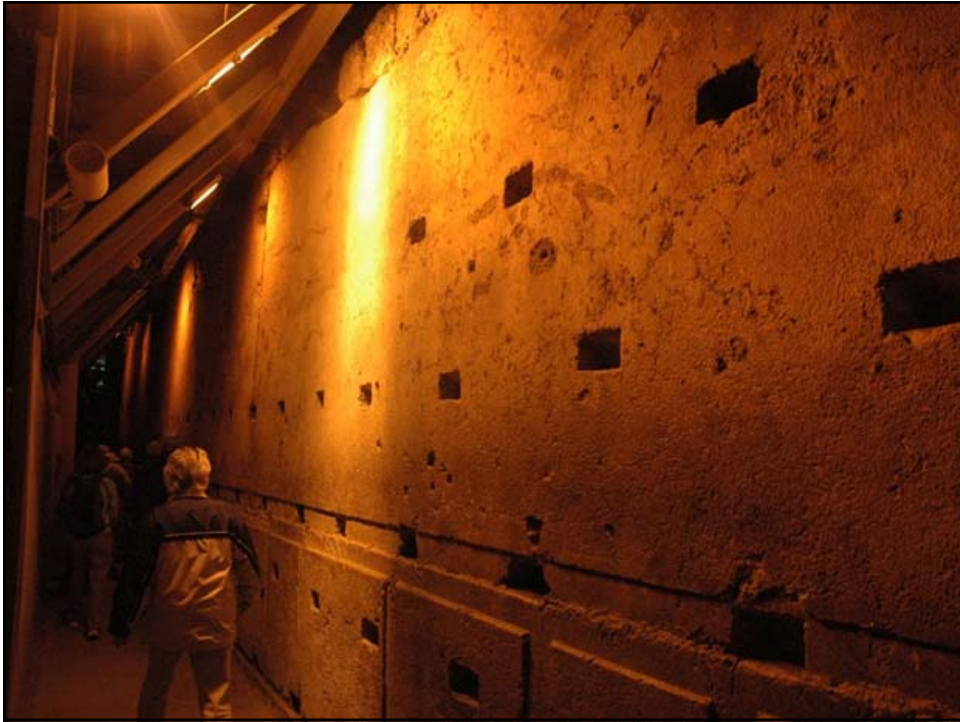
- In 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem.
- In 538 BC, Cyrus issued a decree that Jews exiled in Babylon could return to their land and rebuild their temple (Ezra 1).
- About fifty thousand (42,360 per Ezra 2) Jews returned with Zerubbabel.
- In 515 BC, after much delay, the Second Temple was completed.
- Herod the Great refurbished and expanded it from 19-15 BC.



Wilson's Arch









14 metres long
4 metres high
~ 600 tons



Obelisk of Karnack
(Lateranense)
455 tons
45.7 metres high

Spiritual problems in re-established Judah

- Ezra visited the returned Jews in 458 BC and found a Jewish community that had broken down spiritually. For example:
 - The intermarriage rate was as high as 85-90%. The High Priest's sons married non-Jewish women.
 - Jewish shop-owners were open on the Sabbath, which was the market day, by finding loopholes in Jewish law.
- Ezra made an ultimatum forcing all Jewish men to divorce their non-Jewish wives unless the wives converted. Whoever refused would be excluded from the community.
- Ezra passed decrees closing the loopholes and forbidding work on the Sabbath.
- Nehemiah got permission from the Persian ruler to serve as governor in Jerusalem from 445 BC until 433 BC (Neh. 5:14).



- After Nehemiah returned to his post in Shushan (Neh. 13:6–7), things began to fall apart in Jerusalem.
- Nehemiah returned to take drastic steps to reform the nation.
- Ultimately, Ezra and Nehemiah called a convention and administered what became known as, “The Covenant of Faith” (Nehemiah 10).
- The people read from the *Book of Deuteronomy*, which describes all the laws they were not living up to. The people wept, repented, and agreed to uphold the Torah, especially to observe the Sabbath, bring the tithes and donations to the Temple and refrain from intermarriage.
- It’s around this time that Malachi was called to expose the sins of the people and call them back to God.

Malachi's six-fold wake up call

<p>Malachi defends God's love for Israel. The proper response to his love is covenantal obedience and sincere worship.</p> <p>Disputation 1 Malachi 1:2-5</p>	<p>Malachi exposes offenses related to worship and criticizes the priests for allowing them.</p> <p>Disputation 2 Malachi 1:6-2:9</p>	<p>Malachi condemns marriage to an unbeliever as unfaithfulness to Israel's covenant with God. He also condemns unjust divorce as violation of the marriage covenant between husband and wife, to which the Lord is witness.</p> <p>Disputation 3 Malachi 2:10-16</p>	<p>REMEMBER THE LAW OF MOSES Malachi 4:4</p>
<p>REMEMBER THE PROMISE OF ELIJAH AND COMING DAY OF THE LORD Malachi 4:5-6</p> <p>Malachi promises that God will demonstrate his justice. He will do so when "the messenger of the covenant" comes to judge the wicked and purify his people.</p> <p>Disputation 4 Malachi 2:17-3:5</p>	<p>Malachi returns to the subject of Israel's wicked offerings. The difficulties the people are experiencing are punishment for their sin.</p> <p>Disputation 5 Malachi 3:6-12</p>	<p>Malachi assures the people that evildoers, who seem to escape divine justice, will be judged. The Lord will deliver his people.</p> <p>Disputation 6 Malachi 3:13-4:3</p>	

Outline

DOUBTING GOD'S LOVE (1:1-5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's electing grace—1:2 • God's blessing on Israel—1:3-5
DISHONORING GOD'S NAME (1:6-2:9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering defiled sacrifices—1:6-14 • Despising divine privileges—2:1-9
PROFANING GOD'S COVENANT (2:10-16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marrying heathen women—2:10-12 • Hypocritical repentance—2:13 • Divorcing their wives—2:14-16
QUESTIONING GOD'S JUSTICE (2:17-3:6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are promised blessings?—2:17 • The first messenger—John the Baptist—3:1a • The second messenger—Messiah—3:1b-6
ROBBING GOD'S HOUSE (3:7-12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbing God—3:7-8 • Robbing themselves—3:9-11 • Robbing others—3:12
DESPISING GOD'S SERVICE (3:13-4:6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The complainers—3:13-15 • The evildoers—4:1-3 • The believers—3:16-18 • The preachers—4:4-6

Four doctrines emphasized by Malachi

1 God is a great King Who loves His people and deserves respect and honor.

2 People of God demonstrate true reverence for God in worship and in marriage relationships.

3 Spiritual leaders have a responsibility to instruct the people of God in God's ways.

4 God will one day send the "Messenger of the covenant" (Messiah) to judge those who do not honor Him and bless those who magnify His name.

Malachi 1

Polluted Offerings to God

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

Israel Beloved of God

2 "I have loved you," says the LORD.

"Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?'

Was not Esau Jacob's brother?"

Says the LORD.

"Yet Jacob I have loved; ³ but Esau I have hated, and laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness."

4 Even though Edom has said, "We have been impoverished, But we will return and build the desolate places,"



Thus says the LORD of hosts:

“They may build, but I will throw down;
they shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, and the
people against whom the LORD will have indignation forever.

- ⁵ Your eyes shall see, and you shall say,
‘The LORD is magnified beyond the border of Israel.’

Polluted Offerings

- 6 “A son honors *his* father, and a servant *his*
master.
If then I am the Father, where *is* My honor?
And if I *am* a Master, where *is* My reverence?
Says the LORD of hosts to you priests who
despise My name.
Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised
Your name?’

THE LORD OF
HEAVEN'S ARMIES SAYS
TO THE PRIESTS:
“A SON AND A
HONORS SERVANT
HIS RESPECTS
FATHER, HIS
MASTER.
IF I AM YOUR FATHER
AND MASTER, WHERE
ARE THE HONOR AND
RESPECT I DESERVE?
SEE MALACHI 1:6

Why didn't the people 'get it'?

1. “Wherein hast Thou loved us?” (Mal. 1:2)
2. “Wherein have we despised Thy name?” (Mal. 1:6)
3. “Wherein have we polluted Thee?” (Mal. 1:7)
4. “Wherein have we wearied Him?” (Mal. 2:17)
5. “Wherein shall we return?” (Mal. 3:7)
6. “Wherein have we robbed Thee?” (Mal. 3:8)
7. “What have we spoken so much against Thee?” (Mal. 3:13)
8. “What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance?” (Mal. 3:14)
9. “For what?” or “Wherefore?” (Mal. 2:14, refers to what Malachi said in Mal. 2:13)

- 7 “You offer defiled food on My altar,
But say, ‘In what way have we defiled You?’
By saying, ‘The table of the LORD is contemptible.’
- 8 And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, *Is it* not evil?
And when you offer the lame and sick, *Is it* not evil?
Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with
you? Would he accept you favorably?” Says the LORD of hosts.
- 9 “But now entreat God’s favor, That He may be gracious to us.
While this is being *done* by your hands, Will He accept you
favorably?” Says the LORD of hosts.
- 10 “Who *is there* even among you who would shut the doors,
So that you would not kindle fire *on* My altar in vain?
I have no pleasure in you,” Says the LORD of hosts,
“Nor will I accept an offering from your hands.

- 11 For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down,
My name *shall be* great among the Gentiles;
In every place incense *shall be* offered to My name,
and a pure offering;
“For My name shall be great among the nations,”
says the LORD of hosts.
- 12 “But you profane it, In that you say,
‘The table of the LORD is defiled;
And its fruit, its food, *is* contemptible.’
- 13 You also say, ‘Oh, what a weariness!
And you sneer at it,” Says the LORD of hosts.
“And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick;
Thus you bring an offering!
Should I accept this from your hand?”
Says the LORD.



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My name *shall be* great among the Gentiles;
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“And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick;
Thus you bring an offering!
Should I accept this from your hand?”
Says the LORD.

- 14 “But cursed *be* the deceiver
Who has in his flock a male,
And takes a vow,
But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished—

“For I *am* a great King,” says the LORD of hosts,
“And My name *is to be* feared among the nations.”

Malachi 2

Corrupt Priests

- 1 "And now, O priests, this commandment is for you.
- 2 If you will not hear, And if you will not take *it* to heart,
To give glory to My name," Says the LORD of hosts,
"I will send a curse upon you, And I will curse your blessings.
Yes, I have cursed them already,
Because you do not take *it* to heart.
- 3 "Behold, I will rebuke your descendants
And spread refuse on your faces,
The refuse of your solemn feasts;
And *one* will take you away with it.
- 4 Then you shall know that I have sent this commandment to
you, That My covenant with Levi may continue,"
Says the LORD of hosts.

- 5 "My covenant was with him, *one* of life and peace,
And I gave them to him *that he might fear Me*;
So he feared Me and was reverent before My name.
- 6 The law of truth was in his mouth,
And injustice was not found on his lips.
He walked with Me in peace and equity,
And turned many away from iniquity.
- 7 "For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge,
And *people* should seek the law from his mouth;
For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.
- 8 But you have departed from the way;
You have caused many to stumble at the law.
You have corrupted the covenant of Levi,"
Says the LORD of hosts.

- 9 “Therefore I also have made you contemptible and base
Before all the people, Because you have not kept My ways
But have shown partiality in the law.”

Treachery of Infidelity

- 10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?
Why do we deal treacherously with one another By profaning
the covenant of the fathers?

Have we not all **one** Father?
Hath not **one** God created us?
MALACHI TWO TEN

- 11 Judah has dealt treacherously, And an abomination has been
committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, For Judah has profaned
The LORD's holy *institution* which He loves: He has married the
daughter of a foreign god.

- 12 May the LORD cut off from the
tents of Jacob the man who
does this, being awake and
aware, yet who brings an
offering to the LORD of hosts!



- 13 And this is the second thing you do:
You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and crying; so He does not regard the offering anymore, nor receive *it* with goodwill from your hands.
- 14 Yet you say, "For what reason?"
Because the LORD has been witness
Between you and the wife of your youth,
With whom you have dealt treacherously;
Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant.
- 15 But did He not make *them* one, having a remnant of the Spirit?
And why one? He seeks godly offspring.
Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

- 16 "For the LORD God of Israel says
That He hates divorce,
For it covers one's garment with violence,"
Says the LORD of hosts.
"Therefore take heed to your spirit,
That you do not deal treacherously."
- 17 You have wearied the LORD with your words;
Yet you say, "In what way have we wearied *Him*?"
In that you say,
"Everyone who does evil
Is good in the sight of the LORD,
And He delights in them,"
Or,
"Where *is* the God of justice?"

Malachi 3

The Coming Messenger

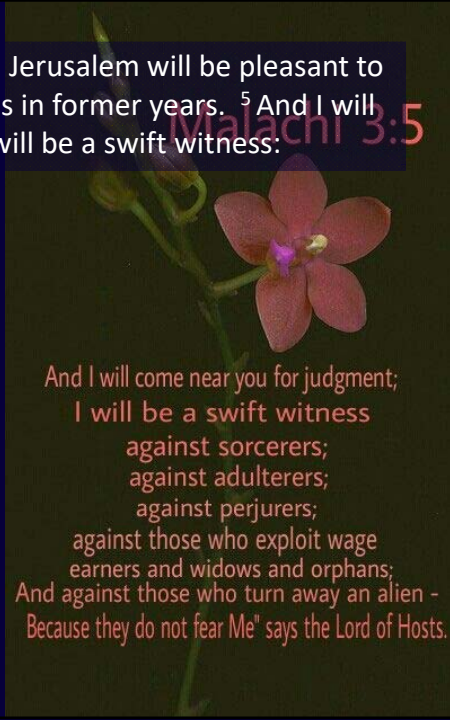
- 1 “Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the LORD of hosts.
- 2 “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He *is* like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap.
- 3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness.



- 4 “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the LORD, as in the days of old, as in former years. ⁵ And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness:

- Against sorcerers,
- Against adulterers,
- Against perjurers,
- Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and
- Against those who turn away an alien

Because they do not fear Me,” says the LORD of hosts.



And I will come near you for judgment;
I will be a swift witness
against sorcerers;
against adulterers;
against perjurers;
against those who exploit wage
earners and widows and orphans;
And against those who turn away an alien -
Because they do not fear Me” says the Lord of Hosts.

- 6 "For I *am* the LORD, I do not change;
Therefore you are not consumed,
O sons of Jacob.
- 7 Yet from the days of your fathers
You have gone away from My
ordinances And have not kept *them*.

Return to Me, and I will return to you,"
Says the LORD of hosts. "But you said,
'In what way shall we return?'

Do Not Rob God

- 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say,
'In what way have we robbed You?'

In tithes and offerings. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, For you
have robbed Me, *Even* this whole nation.

**I AM THE
LORD,
I CHANGE
NOT.**

MALACHI 3:6

- 10 Bring all the tithes into the
storehouse, that there may be
food in My house. And try Me
now in this," Says the LORD of
hosts, "If I will not open for you
the windows of heaven And
pour out for you such blessing
That there will not be room
enough to receive it.



**"BRING THE WHOLE
TITHE ^{INTO} THE STOREHOUSE,
THAT THERE MAY BE
FOOD IN MY HOUSE.
TEST ME IN THIS," SAYS
THE LORD ALMIGHTY,
"AND SEE IF I WILL NOT
THROW OPEN THE FLOODGATES
OF HEAVEN AND POUR OUT SO
MUCH BLESSING THAT YOU WILL
NOT HAVE ENOUGH
ROOM FOR IT."**

— MALACHI 3:10 —

¹¹ “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,
So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground,
Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,”
Says the LORD of hosts; ¹² “And all nations will call you blessed,
For you will be a delightful land,” Says the LORD of hosts.

The People Complain Harshly

¹³ “Your words have been harsh against Me,” Says the LORD,
“Yet you say, ‘What have we spoken against You?’

¹⁴ You have said, ‘It is useless to serve God;
What profit *is it* that we have kept His ordinance,
And that we have walked as mourners
Before the LORD of hosts?

¹⁵ So now we call the proud blessed,
For those who do wickedness are raised up;
They even tempt God and go free.’ ”

God’s Wrath on Unrighteousness

Romans 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

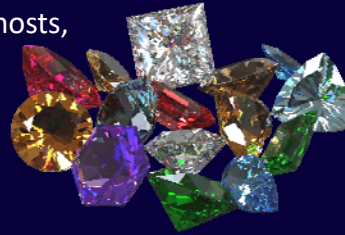
²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

A Book of Remembrance

¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another,
And the LORD listened and heard *them*;
So a book of remembrance was written before Him
For those who fear the LORD
And who meditate on His name.

¹⁷ "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts,
"On the day that I make them My
jewels. And I will spare them as a man
spares his own son who serves him."



¹⁸ Then you shall again discern
Between the righteous and the wicked,
Between one who serves God
And one who does not serve Him.

Malachi 4 - The Great Day of God

¹ "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven,
And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble.
And the day which is coming shall burn them up,"
Says the LORD of hosts,
"That will leave them neither root nor branch.

² But to you who fear My name
The Sun of Righteousness shall arise
With healing in His wings;
And you shall go out
And grow fat like stall-fed calves.



³ You shall trample the wicked,
For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet
On the day that I do *this*,"
Says the LORD of hosts.

- 4 “Remember the Law of Moses, My servant,
Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel,
With the statutes and judgments.
- 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet
Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.
- 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children,
And the hearts of the children to their fathers,
Lest I come and strike the earth with a **curse**.”

The **last word** in the Tenakh (Old Testament)

- 4 “Remember the Law of Moses, My servant,
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Malachi marks he beginning of
God’s 400 years of silence
broken by John the Baptist’s
“Behold, the Lamb of God.”

(John 1:29 (Mal. 3:1))

The **last word** in the Tenakh (Old Testament)

Summary of Malachi's prophecy

Israel rejected the love of God.
(Malachi 1:1-5)

1

The people pollute Israel and sin through:

- Mixed Marriages
- Divorces
- Robbing God.

(Malachi 2:10-3:15)

3

Priests pollute Israel and sin through:

- Illicit practices and
- Indifference.

(Malachi 1:6-2:9)

2

Remember the Law!
God promised:

- Elijah (and Messiah)
- Restored hearts
- Day of the LORD.

(Malachi 4:4-6)

5

God promises His blessing to all who fear Jehovah and His wrath on the wicked.
(Malachi 3:16-4:3)

4

Big ideas in the book of Malachi

God rebukes priests for giving imperfect offerings

God rebukes His people for violating marriage laws and refusing to tithe

God demands His People's best in both their service and their lifestyle

Judgement will fall on those who practice evil but rewards on those who honour Him

God will send a messenger who will refine them and prepare them for the Messiah