

# STUDIES IN THE MINOR PROPHETS

## *MALACHI*

### OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

Title: Author and subject of prophecy: 1:1.

- I. Condemnation of the priests' faithlessness, 1:2 - 2:9
  - . The Lord's love for Israel, 1:2-5.
    - 1. The divine love asserted, v. 2.
    - 2. The divine love demonstrated, vv. 3-5.
  - . Rebuke of the faithless priests and people, 1:6-14.
    - 1. Worthlessness of the people's sacrifices, vv. 6-8.
    - 2. Better to close the temple, vv. 9,10.
    - 3. A superior service rendered among the Gentiles, vv. 11-13.
    - 4. The curse of the Lord, v. 14.
  - . Curse pronounced upon the faithless priests, 2:1-9.
    - 1. Immediate reformation the only way of escape, vv. 1-4.
    - 2. Covenant with Levi and the ideal priest, vv. 5-7.
    - 3. The apostate priests and their disgrace, vv. 8,9.
- II. Condemnation of divorce and mixed marriages, 2:10-16.
- III. Day of the Lord - Condemnation of religious indifference and skepticism, 2:17 - 4:6.
  - . The Lord's approach in judgment, 2:17 - 3:6.
    - 1. Their question, "Where is the God of justice?" 2:17.
    - 2. The Lord's appearance as a refining fire, 3:1,2.
    - 3. Purification of priests and people, 3:3-5.
    - 4. The Lord's unchangeableness, 3:6.
  - . Wrongful withholding of tithes and offerings, 3:7-12.
    - 1. The people's fickleness and the Lord's curse, vv. 7-9.
    - 2. The Lord's bountiful reward for their respect and faithful discharge of duty, vv. 10-12.
  - . New defense of the Lord's justice, 3:13 - 4:3.
    - 1. Complaints: the wicked prosper, the righteous suffer, 3:13-15.
    - 2. Separation of the pious from the wicked, 3:16-18.
    - 3. Utter destruction of the wicked, 4:1.
    - 4. Exaltation and glorification of the righteous, 4:2,3.
  - . Closing admonitions, 4:4-6.
    - 1. Exhortation to faithful observance of the law, v. 4.
    - 2. Elijah the messenger and his work of preparation, vv. 5,6.

### INFORMATION ON THE BOOK

### **DATE WRITTEN**

Various dates have been suggested for the writing of this book. Some place it as far back as 470 B.C., and others believe that it was written in the period just before the Maccabees (about 200 B.C.). Since the content of the book fits quite well into the conditions described by Nehemiah, most have placed it in the period between 445 and 432 B.C..

### **THE MAN**

The name Malachi is not found in this form in any other place in the Bible. The word means: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Nothing is known of this prophet except what we find in the pages of this book. He was the last literary prophet of the Lord prior to the coming of Christ.

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The first group of captives had returned during 536 B.C. under the leadership of Zerubbabel the governor and Joshua the High Priest. Haggai and Zechariah encouraged the people between 520 and 516 B.C. to rebuild the temple. Ezra arrived with a second group of captives in 458 B.C.. Ezra worked to restore a knowledge of the Law and to instill respect for it. Artaxerxes I had permitted Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the city. The conditions of the people as revealed in Nehemiah and the bold attack of Malachi against the problems which Nehemiah set forth points clearly to the two having been contemporary.

# QUESTIONS ON MALACHI

Title: Author and subject of prophecy: 1:1.

1. To whom was this prophecy addressed? 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_

I. Condemnation of the priests' faithlessness, 1:2 - 2:9

. The Lord's love for Israel, 1:2-5.

1. The divine love asserted, v. 2.

2. What is indicated by the people's reply to God's statement? 1:2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. The divine love demonstrated, vv. 3-5.

3. Of whom does God speak and how did He feel about him? 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does Edom brag of, and what does God say about it? 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. In what way would the Lord be magnified? 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

. Rebuke of the faithless priests and people, 1:6-14.

1. Worthlessness of the people's sacrifices, vv. 6-8.

6. To what two relationships does God liken His relationship with the priests and what is the point He is making? 1:6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. In what way had the priests said that the "table of the Lord is contemptible?" 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What does the Lord tell them to try and do with their sacrifices, and what is the point? 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Better to close the temple, vv. 9,10.

9. Explain what the Lord is asking them in 1:9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What did God wish someone would do and why? 1:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. A superior service rendered among the Gentiles, vv. 11-13.

11. To what time period does the Lord refer in 1:11? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. In verse 13, various versions have "snuff," "sniff," or "sneer." What exactly *did* they do? 1:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. The curse of the Lord, v. 14.

13. Whom does the Lord curse and why? 1:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

. Curse pronounced upon the faithless priests, 2:1-9.

1. Immediate reformation the only way of escape, vv. 1-4.

14. In what *form* does God deliver this curse? 2:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. What did God require of the priests in addition to hearing Him? 2:2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. What does God threaten to do to the priests, and what will become of them? 2:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. Why does God say He is sending this commandment to the priests? 2:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Covenant with Levi and the ideal priest, vv. 5-7.
18. What kind of a covenant did God make with Levi? 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. How did Levi and the priests who were faithful to God respond to this covenant? 2:5,6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. What were the priests to "keep" and what position did they enjoy in their service to God? 2:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The apostate priests and their disgrace, vv. 8,9.
21. In contrast with what God expected of the priests, what did He find? 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
22. What did God cause them to be, and what specific sin are they accused of committing? 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

II. Condemnation of divorce and mixed marriages, 2:10-16.

23. In what way does the "One Father" and "One God" relate to the way the Jews were treating each other? 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

24. Of what is Judah accused? 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. What does God command to be done with any who would commit this sin? 2:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

26. From what source do the "tears" come in 2:13? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

27. Consider the "witness" and the "covenant" here and relate this to the way God looks upon marriage. 2:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

28. Explain the statement concerning marriage in 2:15. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

29. What does God say that he HATES, and why does He hate it? 2:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

III. Day of the Lord - Condemnation of religious indifference and skepticism, 2:17 - 4:6.

. The Lord's approach in judgment, 2:17 - 3:6.

1. Their question, "Where is the God of justice?" 2:17.

30. Of what did the people accuse God? 2:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. The Lord's appearance as a refining fire, 3:1,2.

31. How does God respond to their question, "Where is the God of justice?" 3:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

32. What is the relationship between the inability to stand or endure His coming and the refiner's fire and fuller's soap? 3:2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Purification of priests and people, 3:3-5.

33. Whom does the Lord say He will refine, and to whom does this refer? 3:3,4; 1 Peter 2:5,9; Hebrews 13:15,16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

34. God sums up the reason for all of the sins enumerated in 3:5. What is the reason, and how might this relate to the disobedient today? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. The Lord's unchangeableness, 3:6.

35. Consider what one who is *disobedient* might see in the statement in 3:6, and then what one who is *obedient* might see in it. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

. Wrongful withholding of tithes and offerings, 3:7-12.

1. The people's fickleness and the Lord's curse, vv. 7-9.

36. What does God ask His people to do? 3:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

37. Of what was the nation of Israel guilty, and in what way had they committed this sin? 3:8,9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. The Lord's bountiful reward for their respect and faithful discharge of duty, vv. 10-12.

38. What does God tell them to do, and what does He promise to do if they obey? 3:10,11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

39. How would other nations react to the things God would do for them? 3:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

. New defense of the Lord's justice, 3:13 - 4:3.

1. Complaints: the wicked prosper, the righteous suffer, 3:13-15.

40. Of what does God accuse them, and what examples does He give of this offense? 3:13-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Separation of the pious from the wicked, 3:16-18.

41. Discuss the things done by the pious here which caused God to take note of them, and relate these to our duties before God today. 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

42. In what ways does God express the feelings He has for those who obey His Word? 3:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



43. What will they be able to do once they have repented and returned unto God? 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Utter destruction of the wicked, 4:1.

44. How is the destruction the wicked face described by God? 4:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Exaltation and glorification of the righteous, 4:2,3.

45. What do the righteous have to look forward to in the description given here? 4:2,3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

. Closing admonitions, 4:4-6.

1. Exhortation to faithful observance of the law, v. 4.

46. Through whom and from Whom was the Law given to Israel? 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Elijah the messenger and his work of preparation, vv. 5,6.

47. Of whom does the prophet speak and what will be his work on the earth? 4:5,6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **END OF THE STUDY ON THE MINOR PROPHETS**