

Bible Study notes and Questions on the Book of Malachi

Introduction: Little is known of Malachi except the word from the Lord which was the last word for God's people, Israel for about 400 years. The prophecy could date from about 400 BC. Out of fifty five verses forty seven of them are words directly spoken by the Lord. The name "Malachi" means "messenger of the Lord".

Despite all the reforms made by Nehemiah especially to maintain a faithful priesthood (**Nehemiah 13:1-31**), within a few years after Nehemiah's time the children of Israel had backslidden being disobedient to the word of the Lord. They had stopped bothering about God and hence God gave them up.

Summary of Chapters

Chapter One: 1:1-5: The Lord has shown his love for Israel as his people. He was against the descendents of Esau, namely Edom, with great indignation.

1:6-14: The Lord rebuked the priests for offering defective sacrifices which were unacceptable. The Gentiles will honour the name of the Lord (**1:11 & 14**).

Chapter Two: 2:1-9: God had reminded the priests of his covenants with them. He had to bring judgment on them for not keeping the law of God and failing to teach it to the people. They had caused the people to stumble and as a result the people had no respect for the priests.

2:10-17: Israel had proved unfaithful to God.

- 1) Many men of Israel had taken pagan wives of other nations (**2:11**).
- 2) Many men of Israel had divorced their own wives (**2:14-16**).
- 3) Their offerings were unacceptable to God (**2:12-13**).

Chapter Three: 3:1-15: The Lord will send his messenger* to cleanse Israel with the Levites offering righteous offerings and justice for the widow, fatherless and the foreigner (**3:1-5**). Israel had been unfaithful to God in oppressing the widow, fatherless and foreigner (**3:5**); secondly the tithes and offerings were held back from God (**3:8-9**); and thirdly there was no desire to serve the Lord (**3:7, 13-15**). However Israel will not be destroyed (**3:6**) but will be a blessing to all nations (**3:12**).

3:16-18: There will be a faithful remnant that will fear God and truly serve him.

Chapter Four: 4:1-3: Ultimately the wicked will be cast away when the Son of righteousness will appear (Second Coming of Jesus Christ to earth).

4:4: There is the reminder of God's law given at Horeb.

4:5-6: There is the belief that Elijah will come to bring reconciliation of fathers and children before the coming of the terrible day of the Lord.

*The messenger can be seen as John the Baptist who prepared the way for the Lord Jesus Christ to come. The writer believes that this was only a partial fulfilment of this prophecy. The later and complete fulfilment of this prophecy will be when Jesus Christ returns at his second coming to reign in his visible Messianic millennial kingdom on earth.

Questions on the Book of Malachi

Chapter One

Q 1) What proof do we have that God had loved Israel as a nation even though the people of Judah were murmuring against God? See **1:1-2, 5** and **Deuteronomy 7:6-9; 10:15; 32:8-14; Isaiah 41:8-9; Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 11:28-29.**

Q 2) Why did God show such indignation towards Edom? See **1:3-4** and **Isaiah 34:5-15; Jeremiah 49:7-22; Ezekiel 25:12-14; 35:1-21** and **Obadiah 1-21.**

Q 3) What is understood by the Lord's name mentioned in **1:6** (twice); **1:11** (thrice); **1:14; 2:2.**

Q 4) Show the sins of the priests in **1:6-14.** See also **Leviticus 22:18-25; Deuteronomy 15:21.**

Q 5) What evidence is revealed of the Gentiles serving the Lord? See **1:11, 14; 3:12, 16-18.**

Chapter Two

Q 1) In what ways had the priests failed to face up to their responsibilities? See **2:1-9** and **Leviticus 10:11; Deuteronomy 31:9-13; 2Chronicles 15:3; 17:7-9; 19:8; Ezra 7:6,10; Jeremiah 2:8; 18:18; Zephaniah 3:4; Haggai 2:11.**

Q 2) How had the children of Israel sinned against God? See **2:10-17.**

Q 3) What three covenants were mentioned in **chapter two**? See **2:4-5, 8, 10, 14.**

Q 4) In what ways had God brought judgment on the priests (**2:1-3, 9**) and on Israel as a nation (**2:11-17**)?

Q 5) Why was intermarriage in having a pagan wife so detestable to God? See **2:11** and **Exodus 34:14-16; Deuteronomy 7:3-4; Joshua 23:11-13; 1Kings 11:1-10; Ezra 9:1-2; Nehemiah 13:23-29.**

Q 6) Is it necessary to practise tithing today? See **3:8-10; 1Chronicles 26:10; 2Chronicles 31:11-19; Nehemiah 10:38; 12:44, 47; 13:5, 10-13.**

Chapter Three

Q 1) Who is the messenger in **3:1**? See also **Isaiah 40:3-5; Matthew 11:7-15; Mark 1:1-4; Luke 3:1-6.**

Q 2) What will be the result of the coming messenger and what is meant by "*the day of his coming*"? See **3:1-6** and also **4:1-3; Isaiah 2:10-22; Zephaniah 1:14-18; 2:1-3.**

Q 3) In what ways had Israel been disobedient to God? See **3:7-9, 13-15.**

Q 4) Show the blessings promised to Israel in **3:6, 10-12.**

Q 5) What is known of the faithful remnant of believers in **3:16-18**?

Q 6) Show the distinction between the righteous and the wicked and what will be their future? See **3:13-18 & 4:1-3.**

Q 7) Show what **2:11-16** teaches about marriage. See also **Genesis 2:24-25 & Matthew 19:3-12.**

Chapter Four

Q 1) Who is the Sun of righteousness in **4:2**? See also **Judges 5:31 & 2Samuel 23:4.**

Q 2) Is there evidence that **4:1-6** reveals the future of Israel that will obey God's commandments made in Horeb?

Q 3) Can it be said in **4:5** that Elijah the prophet must return to earth before the second coming of Jesus Christ? If so, what is the purpose of him being back on this earth? See **4:6** and also **Matthew 17:10-13.**

Miscellaneous Questions on the Book of Malachi

- Q 1)** Show the attributes of God in this book. See **1:5, 11, 14; 2:10; 3:2-3, 6; 4:2.**
- Q 2)** Write down the questions asked in this book by God's people. Show how they are answered. See **1:2; 1:6; 1:7; 2:10; 2:14; 2:17; 3:7; 3:8; 3:13; 3:14.**
- Q 3)** Read carefully through the book of Malachi. Can you see any prophecies still to be fulfilled? See **1:11, 14; 3:1-6, 16-18; 4:1-6.**
- Q 4)** How does the Book of Malachi show us the qualities of our service as messengers of the Lord of hosts? See **2:5-7; Nehemiah 8:6-12; 2Chronicles 15:3; 17:7-9; 2Corinthians 6:3; 2Timothy 2:15; 1Peter 4:10-11.**
- Q 5)** Compare the religious situation that Malachi encountered with that in **Ezra chapters 9 & 10** and **Nehemiah chapters 8-13.**
- Q 6)** Read through the Book of Malachi and write down the themes of this book. Are there any key verses in this book?
- Q 7)** Read carefully through this Book of Malachi and write down the warnings of God's judgments on his people Israel.
- Q 8)** Consider the spiritual apathy of Israel in Malachi's time. Does it apply to much of the Church of Jesus Christ today? See also **Revelation 3:14-22.**
- Q 9)** Why have we not been told anything about Malachi? See also **Deuteronomy 29:29.**

Bibliography

The following resources have been helpful in studying the Book of Malachi. The author does not necessarily agree with the views shown in these resources.

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