

The Minor Prophets - Malachi

- Introduction
 - Malachi (מְלָאכִי mal-ah-ciy) means “my messenger”.
 - There is only one man in the Bible with this name.
 - Dating is based upon textual evidence.
 - Ezra/Nehemiah do not mention Malachi.
 - The temple is in service, but the priests are apostate.
 - This fits well into the 432-425 B.C. time frame.
- Observations from the Text
 - Malachi’s message begins with a statement of Yahweh’s love for Jacob and hatred for Esau [1:1-5; Rom 9:13].
 - This love/hatred is demonstrated through national exaltation/humiliation.
 - Israel will not fully understand this until the 2nd Advent of Jesus Christ.
 - Israel’s priests despise the Lord [1:6-14].
 - Their fraudulent and blemished offerings reveal their disdain for the Lord.
 - Amazingly, the people of Israel are in denial [1:6].
 - The priests are warned that cursing is going to get worse [2:1-9].
 - The refuse of their feasts [Ex 29:14; Lev 4:11; 8:17; 16:27] will be rubbed in their faces [2:3].
 - Their instruction had led many astray [2:8-9].
 - Their spiritual depravity has led to dysfunction in their families [2:10-17].
 - God is their Father which makes treachery in their families an abomination.
 - Outward religious observance is meaningless when family life is a mess.
 - Malachi is similar to Ezra and Nehemiah in that he addresses the rampant divorces, mixed marriages, and idolatry.
 - Malachi (my messenger) tells of the coming of “My messenger” [3:1-7].
 - This expands upon the Isa 40:3 prophecy.
 - Mal 3:1a is quoted with reference to John the Baptist [Matt 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:27].
 - Mal 3:1b-4 is not quoted in the Gospels and is not fulfilled by the 1st Advent.
 - The smelting process will come during the Tribulation and 2nd Advent [Zech 13:9; Dan 12:10].
 - Malachi’s message includes an indictment against Israel for robbing God [3:8-12].
 - Israel failed in the giving of required tithes and freewill offerings.
 - The Lord must not be put to the test [Deut 6:16], but in this case He demands it [3:10].
 - When God rebuked the proud [3:13-15] those who feared Him responded humbly [3:16-18].
 - This fear of the Lord will be absolutely essential during the coming Tribulation of Israel [4:1-6].

- Applications for Today
 - The Levitical Priesthood of Israel came under judgment for their worthless sacrifices, so how much more severe will the punishment be when the Royal Priesthood of the Church offers defiled sacrifices [Luke 12:48; 1 Pet 4:17; Heb 10:29-31; 12:15,18-29; 13:10-16].
 - We should learn from the examples of earlier generations [Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 10:6, 11].
 - We should build upon what we have learned from those who came before us [1 Pet 1:12; Jn 14:12; Heb 6:9-12; 13:7; 2 Cor 10:12-18].
 - Our stewardship of grace ought to provide the brightest testimony of God the Father's grace in His A to Ω plan [Eph 2:7; 3:4-10; Rom 15:27; 1 Cor 9:11; 2 Cor 8:1-15; 9:6-15].
 - Every generation is responsible before the Lord to train the hearts of the children [Luke 1:17; Gen 18:19; Ps 78:1-8; Prov 22:6; Isa 28:9; Eph 6:1-4].