

“Great People of the Old Testament”

LECTURE 27: Malachi

1. The Context of Malachi

Malachi – “my messenger”

(no biographical data...some think it may be a title rather than a name)

Two clues as to the timeline...

(1:8) existence of a governor (not king) – post return from exile

(3:10) the temple storehouse – post temple rebuild

586 BC – temple destroyed

516 BC – rebuilt temple dedicated

445 BC – Nehemiah arrives / walls

433 BC – Neh. temporary absence (back to Persia)

...quite possibly a contemporary of Ezra & Nehemiah (later period)

The last prophet until John the Baptist (c. 400 years later)

BRIDGE – OT ends (4:5) – I will send ELIJAH...

NT begins – Elijah (John) proclaiming the Messiah is at hand!

Unique style – question after question...

e.g. – *“I have loved you,” says the Lord.*

But you ask, “How have you loved us?” (1:2)

If I am a father, where is the honor due me?

If I am a master, where is the respect due me?

It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name,

But you ask, “How have we shown contempt for your name?”

You place defiled food on my altar.

But you ask, “How have we defiled you?” (1:6-7)

2. Areas of focus/applications from Malachi

Scrolling through Malachi...

1:2 – *“I have loved you,” says the Lord.*

1:6 – *It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name.*

2:7 – *For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instructions—because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty.*

2:10 – *Have we not all one Father? Did not God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our fathers by breaking faith with one another?*

3:1 – *See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come...*

3:6 – *I the LORD do not change. (So you...are not destroyed)*

3:8 – *Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, “How do we rob you?” In tithes and offerings.*

3:16 – *A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.*

3:17 – *They will be mine...I will spare them.*

4:2 – *the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in his wings.*

4:5 – *See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.*

A final overview...

A time when idolatry had ended...but apathy in religious life

1. Bringing LEFTOVERS to God

...(moldy bread, sickly lamb, corn w/weevils)

- calls for “first-fruits”/ God deserves the best!

- two problems: (a) self-centered

(b) lack of trust that God will provide!!!

2. The priests – in form only – empty – hearts not in it

- leading people astray

- TV preachers / authors today?

- none of us should cause others to stumble

3. General spiritual apathy – lethargy

- 9/11 was wake-up call...people went back to old apathy!

- does what I do make any difference?

One difference now from 100 years ago...

media / internet - weight of worlds problems instantly on us,
not more problems—just all in our face

we carry it—too heavy!

Let God carry it—do our part where we are called,
until the Messiah returns!

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing – verse 3
(Charles Wesley / Felix Mendelssohn)

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”