

# Malachi



## Post-Exilic Returns

Sequence	Date	Scripture	Jewish Leader
First	538 B.C.	Ezra 1-6	Zerubbabel, Joshua
Second	458 B.C.	Ezra 7-10	Ezra
Third	445 B.C.	Nehemiah 1-13	Nehemiah

### The Return from Babylon Seventy year captivity: 605-538 BC

First Stage	Interval	Second Stage	Interval	Third Stage
Ezra 1-6		Ezra 7-10		Nehemiah 1-13
Under Zerubbabel		Under Ezra		Under Nehemiah
538-516 BC		458-457 BC		445-432 BC
20 years	58 years	1 year	13 years	12 years
Temple rebuilt		Worship restored		Jerusalem fortified
50,000 return		2,000 return		
Haggai & Zechariah	Esther			Malachi

## The People's Expectation

- Fruitful Land
- Large Population
- Powerful, Influential Nation
- Servitude of all the Nations



## Expectation vs. Reality

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Fruitful Land                | • Drought                     |
| • Large Population             | • Small Population            |
| • Powerful, Influential Nation | • Weak, Fledgling Nation      |
| • Servitude of all the Nations | • Under the control of Persia |

## Organization

- 1:2 "How have You loved us?"
- 1:6-7 "How have we (the priests) despised Your name?"
- 2:14 "For what reason?" (ie. "why doesn't God accept our sacrifices?")
- 2:17 "How have we wearied Him?"
- 3:7-8 "How shall we return?"
- 3:13 "What have we spoken against You?"

## Recurring Pattern in Malachi

1. God's indictment of Israel (1:2a)
  2. Israel's lame defense (1:2b)
  3. God sets the record straight (1:2c-5)
- After indictments 2, 4, and 6, God pronounces three judgments.



## Questioning God's Character

- The Question of God's Love (1:2-5)
- Question #1: "How have You loved us?" (1:2)
- God's Answer: Election!



## Questioning God's Character

- The Question of God's Greatness (1:6--2:9)
- Question #2: "How have we [the priests] despised Your name?" (1:6)
- God's Answer:
  - Contempt for His Worship (1:7-14)
  - Carelessness with the Truth (2:5-9)



## Questioning God's Character

- The Question of God's Righteousness (2:10-16)
- Question #3: "Why doesn't the Lord accept our worship?" (2:14)
- God's Answer:
  - Violated the covenant
  - Two ways...
    - Married pagan wives (2:10-12)
    - Violated marital covenant (2:14-16)



## Questioning God's Character

- The Question of God's Justice (2:17--3:6)
- Question #4: "How have we wearied Him?" (2:17)
- God's Answer:
  - Questioned God's rule of the moral universe



## An Apologetic for God's Justice

- 1) God's justice will come (3:1-4)
  - I have already appointed My Messenger (Messiah) to set everything right.
- 2) God's justice is impartial (3:5)
  - "I will draw near to you."
- 3) God's justice is tempered with grace (3:6)

## Questioning God's Character

- The Question of God's Forgiveness (3:7-12)
- Question #5: "How shall we return?" (3:7)
- God's Answer:
  - By genuine repentance



## Questioning God's Character

- The Question of God's Faithfulness (3:13--4:3)
- Question #6: "What have we spoken against You?" (3:13)
- God's Answer:
  - The final chapter is not yet written.
    - The righteous will be rewarded (3:16-18)
    - The wicked will be destroyed (4:1)
    - The righteous will triumph in the Sun of Righteousness



## The Lord's Application (4:4-6)

- The Day of the Lord is coming— Prepare!
- How?
  - Obey My Law! (4:4)
  - Respond to My Messenger (4:5-6)

## Malachi's Implications for Us

- 1) We can be confident of God's love because He has sovereignly chosen us from eternity for Himself.
- 2) God's greatness is unfathomable, and demands that we treat Him with fear, honor, and respect, especially in our worship and in how we treat His Word.
- 3) God is righteous and expects His people to deal righteously with others. No spiritual activity pleases God if our human relationships are stained with unconfessed, unrepentant sin.

## Malachi's Implications for Us

- 4) God sovereignly rules the moral universe and will in His time right all injustice. We must never mistake His patience with sinners as a lack of goodness or of power.
- 5) God is always ready to receive back to Himself any of His sinning children who are willing to repent and obey.
- 6) God always keeps His covenants and He will never forget the one who fears Him. He will reward the righteous and punish the wicked.