I. **FIRST, MALACHI WAS GOD’S MESSENGER.**

A. The name means “my messenger”—1:1.

B. He predicted the coming of another messenger, John the Baptist—3:1.

II. **SECOND, MALACHI DELIVERED GOD’S MESSAGE.**

A. The style of Malachi’s message is called “didactic-dialectic”. It involves asking a question and then answering it. It became a favorite style of teaching in the Jewish synagogues.

B. Notice six messages from God through Malachi;

1. First, they doubted God’s love—1:2a.
   
   a. Israel’s captivity and difficulty since they returned caused them to question God’s love. Don’t we do the same today?

   b. Malachi’s answer was to contrast God’s love of Israel with his attitude toward Edom (Esau’s Descendants)—1:2b-3.

2. Second, they dishonored God’s name—1:6.
   
   a. How did they dishonor God? They failed to give God their best—1:7-10.

   b. Are we ever guilty of this?

3. Third, they divorced their wives—2:10-11.
   
   a. Each of us must come to an understanding of what the Bible says about divorce. Personally I do not believe it is the “unpardonable” sin.

   b. Neither, however, do I believe that it is to be done as the “first resort”.
4. Fourth, they tried God’s patience by questioning His justice—2:17.

Malachi’s answer was a promise of two future messengers who would bring not only God’s justice but His judgment on evil as well. Who are these messengers?

   a. One was John the Baptist—3:1a; 4:5-6; Matthew 11:14.

   b. The other messenger was Jesus—3:1b-3.

5. Fifth, they forsook God’s ordinances.

   a. Malachi reminded Israel that God had always been faithful to Israel—3:6.

   b. Israel had not been faithful to God, though—3:7a.

      i. One example of their unfaithfulness was in the area of tithing—3:8.

      ii. Malachi called them to obey God in this area—3:10.

6. Sixth, they didn’t see any advantage in worshipping or serving God—3:13-14, 16-17.