

GOD'S MESSAGE AND MESSENGER
MALACHI 1-4 / 2-10-19 / PM

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 servicing God—3:13-14, 16-17.