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# Malachi

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## Author

Malachi was the last prophet of the Old Testament. He was a contemporary with Nehemiah. Malachi means "my messenger."

## Book Background

The time is approximately 450-400BC. Ezra had helped to reestablish the people, 457BC. Nehemiah led the rebuilding of the walls, 444BC. Following a period of revival [[Neh 10:28-39](#)], the people had become morally lax and indifferent to God. When Nehemiah left, the people fell apart spiritually.

- Israel was neglecting the temple and worship.
- Priests were lax and giving inferior sacrifices.
- People were neglecting tithes.
- Israel was sinful and lukewarm.

## Outline

<a href="#">Mal 1-2</a> present sin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jehovah appeals to the priests.</li><li>• Malachi appeals to the people.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Mal 3-4</a> coming Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Day will judge the guilty, therefore return to God.</li><li>• The Day will bless the godly, therefore take heed.</li></ul>

## Key Verse

*Malachi 1:2 "I have loved you," says the Lord. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the Lord. "Yet Jacob I have loved; (NKJV)*

## God's Charges Against Israel

God's Charge	Israel's Response
You doubt my love.	How?
You dishonor my name.	We deny it.
Your worship is deficient.	We think it's fine.
You give me lip service.	You should be pleased with us.
You keep turning away from me.	We don't know how to turn back.
You rob me.	How?
You speak against what I've done.	Worshipping you is a waste of time.

The **curse** came because Israel would not repent. When they refused to repent, God gave them the silent treatment for 400 years. After Malachi, there were no prophets until John the Baptist [[Mal 4:5-6](#)].

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## Personal Reflection and Application

Do you ever doubt God's love ([Mal 1:1-5](#))? Why do you think that happens? Do you focus on your immediate creature comforts more than what God has promised you for eternity ([Rom 8:38-39](#))?

Are you ready for the rising of the Sun of Righteousness ([Mal 4:1-2](#))? Will it be burning or blessing for you?

- Burning for those who have rejected Him
- Blessing for those who have trusted Him

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## Small Group Conversation Guide

In what ways might we be deficient in worshipping God ([Mal 2:10-16](#))?

God desires fellowship with us. He wants the best from us and for us. "I have loved you," says the Lord. For each of the following verses, discuss our responsibility to maintain our relationship with God.

<a href="#">Luke 10:27</a>
<a href="#">John 14:15</a>
<a href="#">John 15:12</a>

How can robbing God be robbing ourselves ([Mal 3:9-11](#), [Lev 26:3-5](#))?

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## Leadership Principles from Malachi

### High Responsibility

As a godly leader, your goal is to move people to embrace God's agenda ([Mal 1:6-14](#)). In what way do you do that?

Leaders have a higher level of responsibility. God holds them accountable. Consider the ways that God holds you responsible. How well do you:

- Preserve the truth for people ([Mal 2:7](#))?
- Stimulate people's appetite for spiritual growth ([Mal 2:7](#))?
- Set an example worthy of following ([Mal 2:8](#))?
- Maintain your credibility by following God's Word ([Mal 2:9](#))?

### Serving Attitude

White linen is a symbol of holiness and purity ([Luke 9:29](#)). Gold purged of impurities is a symbol of righteousness ([Mal 3:3](#)). How do you dress as a leader, spiritually? In your daily living, in what ways can you wrap yourself in white linen and gold? Are you hiding some area on your spiritual clothing that might be rusty or tattered? Make sure that you are the clean vessel that God desires!

What is your attitude in serving God ([Mal 3:13-15](#))? Do you serve to get something from God or do you truly serve Him with gladness ([Psa 100:2](#))?

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## Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter.  
Try these:

O1. How Israel's worship was dishonoring God	O2. How priests were to keep and teach God's word
O3. What God promised to do if the people gave financially	O4. What Malachi said about the coming "day of the Lord"