

# MALACHI

## I. The Prophet

The name Malachi appears nowhere else in the Scripture, and it is seriously doubted by critical scholars whether Malachi is a proper name at all. Inasmuch as the term in Hebrew means "my angel" or "my messenger," it has been suggested that this is an anonymous prophecy, the term simply designating an office, and verse 1 should be translated "The burden of the word of Yahweh to Israel by the hand of *my messenger*."

On the other hand, every other prophetic book of the Bible bears the name of its author, so it would be strange if this one did not.

## II. The Date

The book was definitely written following the Babylonian Captivity. The date is usually fixed at between 458 and 433 BC. Malachi is the last book of the O.T. followed by 450 years of silence till John the Baptist.

## III. The Profile of the book: Taken from the *Holman Old Testament Commentary* by Stephen R. Miller

- A. Malachi is the sixth shortest book in the Old Testament (only 55 verses) and the twelfth shortest book in the Bible.
- B. Malachi uses the dialectical, or question and answer, method to convey his message. No less than twenty-seven questions appear in the book in the NIV.
- C. Ezra and Nehemiah record the historical background for this prophecy.
- D. Malachi was written after the Babylonian exile during the time of Persian control of Judah. His ministry best fits the period between Nehemiah's two terms as governor of Judah.
- E. Malachi's status as a book of Scripture has never been questioned. It is listed as Scripture in Jewish writings at least two centuries before the time of Christ and was venerated as Scripture by the authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

- F. The book is repeatedly alluded to in the New Testament as an inspired prophecy (Matt. 11:10; Mark 1:2; 9:11-12; Luke 1:17; and Rom. 9:13).
- G. Malachi's theme is stated clearly in the beginning of the book (1:2-5) namely, God's love for His people Israel.
- H. At least three messianic references are found in the book of Malachi 3:1, 4:2-3: 5-6).

#### IV. The structure of the book

Typically, after introducing a declaration of God, Malachi records the people's rebuttal with the words, "but you say,".

- A. Malachi 1:2 (ESV) "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have you loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob
- B. Malachi 1:6 (ESV) "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, 'How have we despised your name?'
- C. Malachi 1:7 (ESV) By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, 'How have we polluted you?' By saying that the LORD's table may be despised.
- D. Malachi 1:13 (ESV) But you say, 'What a weariness this is,' and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD.
- E. Malachi 2:14 (ESV) But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.
- F. Malachi 2:17 (ESV) You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"
- G. Malachi 3:7 (ESV) From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'

- H. Malachi 3:8 (ESV) Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions.
- I. Malachi 3:13 (ESV) “Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’

V. Key Verse: Malachi 1:2 (ESV) “I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob

VI. Theme: Israel’s failure to appreciate God’s love for them.

VII. God’s love and our response to it. 1:1-5

Malachi 1:1 (ESV) The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

Malachi 1:2 (ESV) “I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob

Malachi 1:3 (ESV) but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert.”

Malachi 1:4 (ESV) If Edom says, “We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins,” the LORD of hosts says, “They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called ‘the wicked country,’ and ‘the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.’ ”

Malachi 1:5 (ESV) Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, “Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!”

A. The opening message to the book of Malachi is a declaration of God’s love for His people.

Malachi 1:2 (ESV) “I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob

1. The past tense speaks not only of God’s present love for His people, but that God has showered that love upon Israel in the past.
2. Therefore, His love should be self-evident.
3. The Israelites should be acutely aware of God’s love for them.

B. Nevertheless, the thoughtless response of God’s people is, “How have you

loved us?"

Malachi 1:2 (ESV) "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have you loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob

The response is to the effect - You say that you love us, but what have you done for us lately?

C. God proclaims His love for Israel.

1. God loved Israel by choosing Jacob rather than Esau.

Malachi 1:2 (ESV) "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have you loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob

2. There were many ways that God could have cited that demonstrated He loved the Israelites not the least of which was delivering them in the land of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 4:37 (ESV) And because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power

Hosea 11:1 (ESV) When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

Hosea 11:2 (ESV) The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.

D. God's love for His people is distinguished from His love for others.

1. God loved Jacob in a way that He did not love Esau.

Malachi 1:2 (ESV) "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have you loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob

Malachi 1:3 (ESV) but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert."

2. God fought for Israel and against her enemies.

Isaiah 43:3 (ESV) For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of

Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

Isaiah 43:4 (ESV) Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.

3. God's love for Israel was unconditional and unmerited.

Deuteronomy 7:6 (ESV) "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 7:7 (ESV) It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples,

Deuteronomy 7:8 (ESV) but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

- E. The New Testament speaks of God's love for Jacob as being salvific love.

Romans 9:11 (ESV) though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls—

Romans 9:12 (ESV) she was told, "The older will serve the younger."

Romans 9:13 (ESV) As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

1. Much has been written on this subject of God's love for Jacob and God's hatred of Esau. There is a sense in which God loves all humanity and there is a sense in which God has a special love (a redeeming love) for His own. In a comparative way, God's love for all humanity seems to us like hatred in contrast to the love He has for the redeemed.
  - a. For example, note Luke 14:26 (ESV) "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.
  - b. Love for God is contrasted with love to one's father, mother or children. The point is not that we are to fail to love our children, but rather that our love for God must surpass the love that we

have for our children.

2. It is profound that the admonition that husbands are to love their wives is founded upon Christ's love of the church. Ephesians 5:25 (ESV) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
3. We know that we are to love all mankind, including our enemies. That does not, however, mitigate the fact that we are to love our own wives, in a unique way, distinguishable from our love for others, in keeping with Christ's unique love for His church.
4. The stress of the passage in Malachi is on the undeniable love that God has for His own.

#### VIII. Conclusion:

- A. Since God has chosen us, we should have no doubt that God loves us.

Ephesians 1:3 (ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

Ephesians 1:4 (ESV) even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **In love**

Ephesians 1:5 (ESV) **he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,**

Ephesians 1:6 (ESV) to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

- B. Even when outward circumstances seem to be difficult we should know and realize that God still loves us.

Romans 8:31 (ESV) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:32 (ESV) He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:33 (ESV) Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Romans 8:34 (ESV) Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who

died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Romans 8:35 (ESV) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Romans 8:36 (ESV) As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

Romans 8:37 (ESV) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Romans 8:38 (ESV) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

Romans 8:39 (ESV) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- C. The greatest way that we have experienced God’s love is in His choosing to save us.

John 15:13 (ESV) Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.



Contribute to nmattia/niv development by creating an account on GitHub. niv. Painless dependencies for Nix projects. Read more in the Getting started section below. Install. niv is available in nixpkgs on the master branch as niv. It is also available on the release-19.09 branch as haskellPackages.niv. Otherwise, run: `$ nix-env -iA niv -f https://github.com/nmattia/niv/tarball/master --substituters https://niv.cachix.org --trusted-public-keys niv.cachix.org-1:X32PCg2e/zAm3/uD1ScqW2z/K0LtDyNV7RdaxluLgQM=`. THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION, NIV Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. www.biblica.com. Anuncios. Read the Bible online, in The New International Version (NIV), or a variety of other languages and translations. Cebuano | Ang Pulong Sa Dios (APSD-CEB) | EeÅtina | Slovo na cestu (SNC) Dansk | Bibelen pÅ