

MALACHI

The last book of the Old Testament
Name means "my messenger"

Not only is it the last book in the Old Testament, it is the last biblical writing in the chronological timeline until the New Testament (430 BC)

The themes are:

- Sins of the priests
- Sins of the people
- Blessings for the faithful

-the sins of the Priests (1-2:9);

- stolen animals for offerings, defiled His alter

Mal 1:8 "But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?" says the LORD of hosts.

Story of the two calves

- a farmer's cow had twins
- he was so excited he told his friend he would give one to the Lord
 - when it was grown, he would sell it and give the money to church
 - his friend asked "which one is the Lord's calf?"
 - he responds "oh, it doesn't matter, I'll just pick one when I sell them"
- a week later his friend sees him and notices he is sad
 - "what's wrong" he asks
 - "bad news...the Lord's calf died last night"

-the sinful people (2:10-3:15),

- they were divorcing their wives and calling evil good
- but He doesn't give up on them

Mal 3:7 "..... Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?'"

Mal 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

Mal 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

Mal 3:11 "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast *its grapes*," says the LORD of hosts.

-Many people says that you are robbing God if you don't give your full 10%

-that is not what God was after

-they were robbing Him by giving sick animals as offerings, stealing animals to offer, etc...

-Their motivation was all wrong

-They had the same motivation that overtook Ananias and Saphira

-I believe that's why God took their lives

-they were to be an example that God would not tolerate that behavior in the Church

-if God needed money from us, He would just take it

-He wants our heart, our loyalty; not just blind meaningless acts of religion

-blessings for those who repent (3:16-4).

Mal 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.

Mal 3:17 "They will be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare *My* own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."

The book (and the Old Testament) closes with this verse:

Mal 4:6 "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."

Jesus Type:

Mal 3:1 "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

Mal 3:2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

Mal 3:3 "He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.

After the close of this Malachi, God does not speak through another prophet for a long time

-but Malachi prophesied:

Mal 4:5 "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.

-400 years later, John comes on the scene as the last of the "Old Testament" prophets

-begins his ministry before the birth of the Messiah

Jesus says:

Mat 11:13 "For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John.

Mat 11:14 "And if you are willing to accept *it*, John himself is Elijah who was to come.