



Bible Books Book by Book Series

MALACHI

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

Course Text: Malachi

The book of Malachi covers the time period of approximately 420-400 B.C. or right after Ezra. Malachi brings a mixed message. He declares the love of God for his people but he also brings admonishments for their many sins. There is one sin that is not mentioned in this book; idolatry. The Israelites have finally learned not to worship the pagan Gods of their neighbors.

I believe there are four themes in Malachi:

- (A) *Divine love* God reminds His people of a special love for them ; and that was why He dealt with them as He did. Sometimes we cannot at the time see why something happened to us the way it did; but later we found out it was to help us know God better- to know of His love and His faithfulness.
- (B) *Divine displeasure.* God was displeased with them because:
 - They lacked reverence for Him and His house
 - They lacked sound teaching
 - They were unfaithful
 - They were indifferent to human need
 - They withheld God's rightful duesWe need to look at our Christian walk and see if any of this applies to us.
- (C) *Divine promises.* The message of judgement is relieved with promises that God would intervene and bless. Today we see the intervention of God is sending Jesus to pay for our sins. If Jesus had not come our sins would have resulted in eternal judgement for us.
- (D) *Divine remembrance* God knows all about those who are His and He will vindicate them. Jesus knows all about you and He still loves you and thinks you are so special.

Suggested methodology for small group study:

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on page 9. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the Malachi.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about two hours.

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Malachi Chapter 1 Dialog & Rhetorical Questions

In Malachi we see the power of questions. Some of the questions are rhetorical. That means that the answer to the question is suggested by the question, and no actual answer is expected. Some are a device to show a kind of dialog between God and His people. There are 28t questions in Malachi. After reading the book answer each one of Malachi's questions below. If it is rhetorical, give the answer that is implied or suggested by the question. If it is part of the dialog, write the answer given by Malachi.

[A] Mal 1:2 How have You loved us? _____

[B] Mal 1:2 Was not Esau Jacob's brother? _____

[C] Mal 1:6 Then if I am a father, where is My honor? _____

[D] Mal 1:6 And if I am a master, where is My respect? _____

[E] Mal 1:6 How have we despised Your name? _____

[F] Mal 1:7 How have we defiled You? _____

[G] Mal 1:8 But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? _____

[H] Mal 1:8 And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? _____

[I] Mal 1:8 Why not offer it to your governor? _____

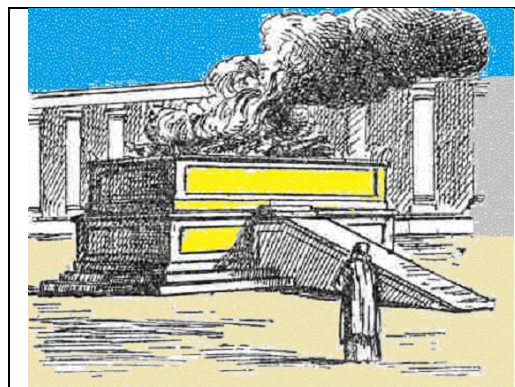
[J] Mal 1:8 Would he be pleased with you? _____

[K] Mal 1:8 Or would he receive you kindly? _____

[L] Mal 1:9 But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us? _____

[M] Mal 1:9 With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly? _____

[N] Mal 1:13 Should I receive that from your hand? _____



You are presenting defiled food upon My altar.

Picture by Bihn & Bealings Public Domain

----- ANSWERS -----

Remember your answers do not have to match word for word. You just need to have the same idea.

[A] Mal 1:2 How have You loved us? He did not destroy them like He did the nation of Edom.

[B] Mal 1:2 Was not Esau Jacob's brother? Yes, they were brothers. Gen 25:20-28

[C] Mal 1:6 Then if I am a father, where is My honor? The priests despised His name instead of honoring Him by bringing defiled blood to sacrifice to Him.

[D] Mal 1:6 And if I am a master, where is My respect? The priests despised His name instead of respecting Him by bringing defiled blood to sacrifice to Him.

[E] Mal 1:6 How have we despised Your name? By presenting defiled food upon His altar.

[F] Mal 1:7 How have we defiled You? By saying the table of the LORD is to be despised.

[G] Mal 1:8 But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? Less than your best for God is evil.

[H] Mal 1:8 And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Less than your best for God is evil

[I] Mal 1:8 Why not offer it to your governor? Because he would not accept it.

[J] Mal 1:8 Would he be pleased with you? No.

[K] Mal 1:8 Or would he receive you kindly? No

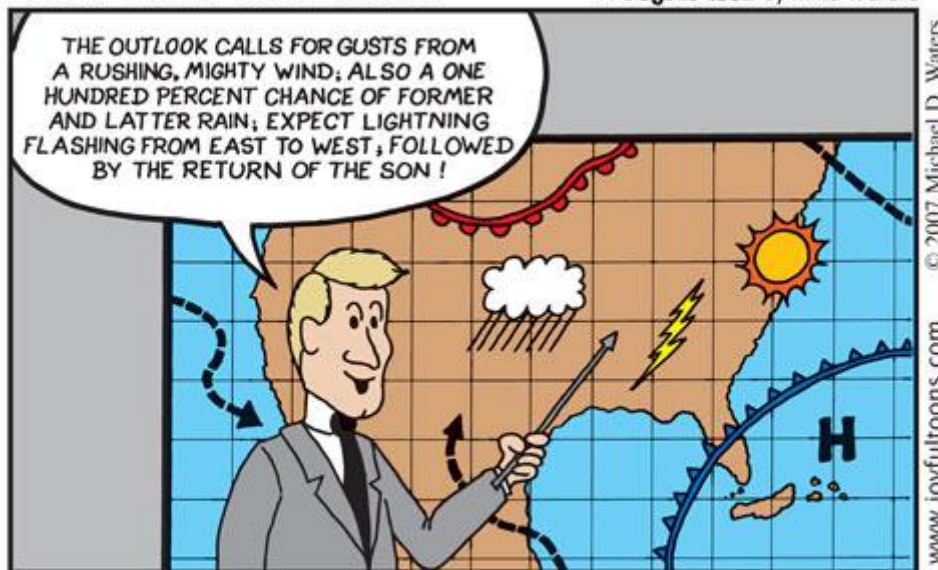
[L] Mal 1:9 But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us? Yes

[M] Mal 1:9 With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly? No

[N] Mal 1:13 Should I receive that from your hand? God will not find what is stolen or damaged acceptable.

LAST DAYS FORECAST

A Joyful'toon by Mike Waters



But for you who reverence my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.

- MALACHI 4:2 NIV
ALSO HOSEA 6:3, ACT 2:2, MATTHEW 24:27

Malachi Chapter 2 Dialog & Rhetorical Questions

Answer each one of Malachi's questions below. If it is rhetorical, give the answer that is implied or suggested by the question. If it is part of the dialog, write the answer given by Malachi.

[O] Mal 2:10 Do we not all have one father? _____

[P] Mal 2:10 Has not one God created us? _____

[Q] Mal 2:10 Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers? _____

[R] Mal 2:14 For what reason? _____

[S] And what did that one (with the Spirit) do while he was seeking a godly offspring? _____

[T] Mal 2:17 How have we wearied Him? _____



**She is your companion
and your wife by covenant**

Picture by Bihn & Bealings Public Domain

----- ANSWERS -----

Remember your answers do not have to match word for word. You just need to have the same idea.

[O] Mal 2:10 Do we not all have one father? Yes. God is our Father.

[P] Mal 2:10 Has not one God created us? Yes, one God created us all.

[Q] Mal 2:10 Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers? Because we are sinful people.

[R] Mal 2:14 For what reason? Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

[S] And what did that one (with the Spirit) do while he was seeking a godly offspring? They were loyal to their wife.

[T] Mal 2:17 How have we wearied Him? In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them," or when you ask, "Where is the God of justice?"

"I hate divorce"

says the Lord, the God of Israel.

**"So take heed to your
spirit, that you do
not deal break
faith."**

Malachi 2:16



Malachi Chapter 3 Dialog & Rhetorical Questions

Answer each one of Malachi's questions below. If it is rhetorical, give the answer that is implied or suggested by the question. If it is part of the dialog, write the answer given by Malachi.

[U] Mal 3:2 Who can endure the day of His coming? _____

[V] Mal 3:2 And who can stand when He appears? _____

Malachi 3:3 When refining silver, a silversmith holds the silver in the very center of the hottest part of the fire to burn away any impurities. He has to watch it very carefully the whole time, because if he leaves it in the fire for too long, it will be destroyed. He can tell it is pure, when it becomes shiny enough to be a mirror, and he can see his own face in it. When you feel like you are in the center of the fire, be assured the Lord has His eye on you, watching carefully to make sure you will not be destroyed. He will know you have been there long enough, when He can see Himself in you.

[W] Mal 3:7 How shall we return? _____

[X] Mal 3:8 Will a man rob God? _____

[Y] Mal 3:8 How have we robbed You? _____

[Z] Mal 3:13 What have we spoken against You? _____

Malachi - Bridge to the New Testament

Malachi 3:1 is seen by most Bible believing scholars as a prophecy of the coming of John the Baptist. Because Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament both in time and in terms of where it appears in most Bibles, and because John the Baptist is one of the first events reported in the Gospels, Malachi is considered to be "The Bridge connecting the Old and New Testaments.

[B1] Read Matthew 17:10-13 and Malachi 4:5. Who does Jesus say John the Baptist is? _____

[B2] Let's look at some other connections between Malachi and the New Testament. Match each of these verses in Malachi to the corresponding passage in the New Testament:

Malachi 1:3	Matthew 11:10-14
Malachi 2:10	Luke 1:17
Malachi 3:1	Romans 9:10-13
Malachi 3:2	Ephesians 4:6
Malachi 4:6	Revelations 6:17

----- ANSWERS -----

Remember your answers do not have to match word for word. You just need to have the same idea.

[U] Mal 3:2 Who can endure the day of His coming? Only the pure.

[V] Mal 3:2 And who can stand when He appears? Only the holy.

[W] Mal 3:7 How shall we return? By doing what is right.

[X] Mal 3:8 Will a man rob God? "No," is the expected answer to this rhetorical question. They knew they were not supposed to rob God. The actual answer is, "Yes," as Malachi explains. They were robbing God.

[Y] Mal 3:8 How have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings.

[Z] Mal 3:13 What have we spoken against You? By saying, "It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts?"

[B1] Mal 4:5 Who does Jesus say John the Baptist is? Elijah Matt 17:13. Also see Matt 11:14; Mark 9:11-13

[B2] Match each of these verses in Malachi to the corresponding passage in the New Testament:

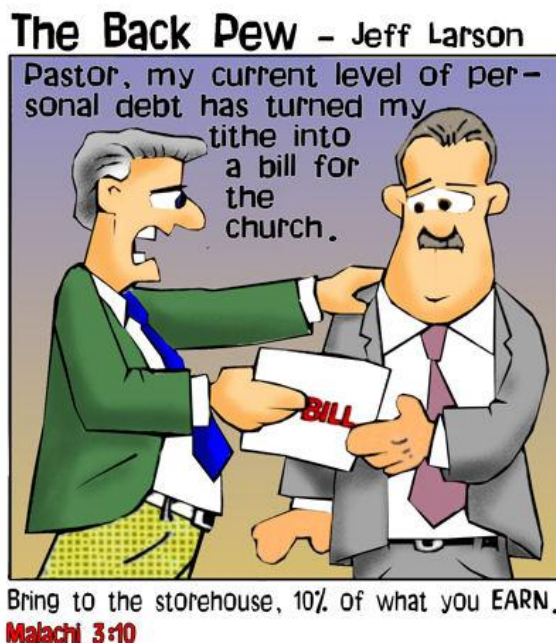
- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Malachi 1:3 | Romans 9:10-13 |
| Malachi 2:10 | Ephesians 4:6 |
| Malachi 3:1 | Matthew 11:10-14 |
| Malachi 3:2 | Revelations 6:17 |
| Malachi 4:6 | Luke 1:17 |

Also see:

- Malachi 1:11 and Matthew 8:11
- Malachi 2:9 and James 2:1-9
- Malachi 2:10 and John 8:41
- Malachi 2:15 and Matthew 19:4-5
- Malachi 2:16 and Matthew 19:6-8
- Malachi 2:17 and 2 Peter 3:4
- Malachi 3:1 and Luke 1:76

- Malachi 3:1 and Luke 7:27
- Malachi 3:1 and Mark 1:2
- Malachi 3:2 and 1 Corinthians 3:13-15
- Malachi 3:2 and Matthew 3:10-12
- Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 6:17-18
- Malachi 3:6 and James 1:17
- Malachi 3:6 and Romans 11:29

- Malachi 3:7 and Acts 7:51
- Malachi 3:10 and 2 Cor 9:6-8
- Malachi 3:17 and 1 Peter 2:9
- Malachi 4:1 and 2 Peter 3:7
- Malachi 4:1 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8
- Malachi 4:1 and Luke 3:17
- Malachi 4:1 and Matthew 3:12



(1) The first nine verses of Malachi Chapter 2 have no questions. What is this passage about?

Think & Pray _____

(2) Malachi Chapter 4 has no questions. What is this chapter about?

Think & Pray _____

(3) Do you see any behavior in God's church today that is similar to what Malachi was saying God's people were doing back then? Explain.

Think & Pray _____

(4) If someone asked you what Malachi was about what would you say?

Think & Pray _____

(5) How can the lessons of Malachi be applied to our own life?

Think & Pray _____

(6) Which verse or passage would you select to memorize from Malachi? Why?

Think & Pray _____

If you have any questions about Malachi, now is the time to discuss them with your classmates.

----- ANSWERS -----

(1) Malachi 2 The covenant was to bring life and peace. It had certain things they needed to do- not lie or cheat, live good righteous lives, and turn from their lives of sin. The priests had left God's paths. Their guidance was causing some to stumble into sin, therefore, the Lord made them despised and humiliated in the eyes of all people. In chapter 1 God tells of His love for Israel. I know this is why he had to do this thing. The people He loved were being deceived. The application to this is to always check what a preacher says by the Word of God.

(2) Malachi 4 This chapter describes the judgment of God. It says the wicked will be punished, but the righteous will be rewarded. It is talking about the day of the Lord. There are three points. (A) The effect on the wicked- In Romans 6: 23 it says the wages of sin are death. (B) Blessings for the righteous- In the above verse it says if we accept Jesus in our heart we have eternal life. (C) We are accounted righteous by salvation- (read Romans 4) The prophet prepares the way. In this time it was Elijah. Today we have Jesus. If we read His words we will know the way. (John 14: 6) Before that judgment day, Elijah will come to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children. Most people understand this prophesy to be about John the Baptist. Matthew 11:14 "And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come." Jesus is the one who comes with healing in his wings.

(3) God's People Then & Now They want it their way, not God's way. We must pray for the church today. The main thing to consider in a church is - are they presenting the true message? Are they telling salvation is not by works? Are they presenting Jesus as the only way to Heaven? Another thing is we sometimes don't trust God will take care of us and thus we give Him our leftovers. I know for many years our money was "tight" and we never budgeted a 10% contribution to God's work. It isn't that the church needed our money or that God would "repay" us financially. But putting God first financially shows how we prioritize everything in our life. If we put God first, in money, and everything else, we will have many blessings and He will take care of us. Another thing like those days is - often, preachers and Bible teachers, may not teach God's laws and instruct against sin. They may "play church" and say everyone is welcomed but not challenge us to live righteous lives.

(4) Malachi Summary See my remarks on page 1.

(5) Malachi Life Application The thing that stood out most to me was the strong connection between this book and so many New Testament passages. We do need to understand that God's Word is included in both the Old and New Testament, and listen to the whole counsel of God. I think Malachi is a message of three parts:

- (A) *A message of love* - The prophet reminded the people of God of His great love for them. In John 3: 16 Jesus reminds us of His love for us. He loved you so much He sent His son to die for you. Remember God's love No matter what you have done God loves you so much. You are very special to Him.
- (B) *A message of admonition* - Malachi rebukes the priest for not showing God the reverence and honour which He was due. They became objects of God's wrath. The prophet then turns to the people and rebukes them for their unfaithfulness in worship and the marriage vows. . In Eph 2: 1- 4 it says the same thing about us when we were away from God. Put God to the test He offers. He longs to pur our spiritual blessings on His people. He challenges us to fulfil our obligations to Him and put Him to the test. This is a challenge to the people of all generations. God is able to do what He says He will do. Return to Him today we need to get back to Jesus making Him the center of everything we do.
- (C) *A message of judgement and hope* - It is a call to repent. Today the same call is going out. We must remember repentance is a total U-turn-forsaking the sin.

(6) Something to Remember I like Malachi 4:2 "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall."