

INTRODUCTION TO Malachi

BOOK BASICS

READ ALONG

- 08/14 Malachi 1-2
- 08/17 Malachi 3-4

WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 36. ZEPHANIAH
- 37. HAGGAI
- 38. ZECHARIAH
- 39. **MALACHI**
- 40. MATTHEW
- 41. MARK
- 42. LUKE

KEY VERSE

- **Malachi 3:1-2**, “Behold, I will send my messenger and he will prepare 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. But who can endure the day of his coming and who can stand when appears?”

KEY THEME

- Although the people had returned to the land and built a temple, they had not experienced overwhelming blessings. The temple was not filled with God’s glory and presence. They were not experiencing prosperity, peace, expansion, blessing, but rather poverty, drought, and pestilence. God addresses their concerns with indictments and promises!



DATE
Mid-Fifth
Century BC



TYPE
Prophecy



AUTHOR
Malachi

Malachi is one of three “post-exilic” prophets. A remnant of Israel has returned to Palestine after the Babylonian exile. The major emphasis of the book is a denunciation of the continued rebellion of the people and a pronouncement of God’s judgment against them.

The book is arranged into six disputations in which God brings charges against His people, the response of the people is verbalized (not necessarily verbally, but rather their functional response is put into words), and then God replies.

Malachi’s name means, “my messenger” – of course, indicating his prophetic ministry, but also giving us a bit of a wordplay referring to the prophecy about the future in 3:1 (*Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me*). Perhaps Malachi’s ministry—the last book in our OT—is meant to foreshadow the first prophet we are introduced to in the NT, John the Baptist (3:1; 4:4-6). He is the one who is preparing the way for the coming of the Lord!

BASIC STRUCTURE

4 CHAPTERS, 55 VERSES

