

MALACHI
Chapter One
8-14-16

Malachi was the last of the Old Testament prophets. After him, there was a great silence spiritually. This is often what the Lord does before He introduces His next grand event in His prophetic calendar.

We are in a similar condition today. There has been a spiritual dearth—a silence so to speak, prophetically; it is a longer silence than ever before in the spiritual history of man, because our Lord is planning the grandest event of all history. This time it will be the final events of the prophetic calendar: the 70th week of Daniel and then our Lord's Kingdom on earth.

THY KINGDOM COME. I believe that the message the Lord had Malachi share with the nation Israel would be the same message He would have for His church today.

His message was terrible to the wicked, but brought consolation and joy to the godly.

Malachi was the last great prophet of the Old Testament. He prophesied about 400 years before Christ's incarnation. He prophesied to the remnant who returned to the land.

Consider the etymology of his name taken from the Hebrew word “malak”.

mal'ak, mal-awk'; from an unused root meaning to despatch as a deputy; a messenger; spec. of God, i.e. an angel (also a prophet, priest or teacher);-ambassador, angel, king, messenger.

Malachi means = Messenger, prophet, preacher.

I. Intro to the Book

Malachi 1:1 The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

Unlike many of the other prophets. Malachi does not start out with when his book was written and who he is.

1. Malachi means messenger, prophet.
2. The Bible starts out saying of this book that this was the burden of the Word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. The root word means to lift up. When we have a spiritual burden we lift up our voice.

SO IT WAS—Malachi lifted up his voice.

So it is today. The godly have a great spiritual burden and are desirous of lifting up their voices to the Lord.

The Hebrew word for “burden” is the word Massa' which can also be translated “the prophecy.” The idea is to LIFT UP ONE'S VOICE. To preach an utterance!

4853[?]massa', mas-saw'; from 5375; a burden; spec. tribute, or (abstr.),

porterage; fig. an utterance, chiefly a doom, espec. singing; mental desire:-burden, carry away, prophecy, X they set, song, tribute.

II. THE ASSURANCE OF JEHOVAH'S LOVE

1. The Need for That Assurance:

Note: The Lord assures His people of His love.
Yet the remnant questions this love.

Note: The question these people may be asking, "How is it you loved us?"
The nation was looking for a great renewal with the return to the land. Instead, there were troubles, difficulties, and delays in building the wall & temple.

It is important that we have the assurance of His love.
Or we can lose hope and faith, and fall.

I John 3:19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

I John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

I John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

Malachi 1:2 I have loved you, saith the LORD.

In this world we have been experiencing catastrophic tragedies. Earthquakes and tornadoes ... recently TV showed 2 tornadoes side by side in the Midwest. We are seeing flooding, Zika virus, Ebola virus, Aids, etc. We see evil prevailing everywhere we turn, and we need the assurance of God's love!

BUT CONSIDER THIS:

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. Could God be trying to get our attention through chastening? How is it we reject this concept of tough love?!

Yet the world rejects chastening with love. SO WE SAY TODAY:

"WHEREIN HAS THOU LOVED US!"

WHY DO WE NEED TO BE ASSURED OF HIS LOVE?

I John 3:21 ... then have we confidence toward God.

We need faith and confidence in God!

2. The Evidence Of Jehovah's Love

Malachi 1:2 I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us?
Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob,
Malachi 1:3 And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

Malachi 1:4 Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever.

Malachi 1:5 And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel.

The Land of Edom is a narrow stretch of mountainous wilderness, including the ancient rock fortress of Petra.

The Lord says, "Just look at the wilderness of Edom, and this is proof enough that I have loved you..." Today it is still a wilderness.

All we have to do is look where the gospel is received and preached, and you will see evidence of God's love and blessing.

Blessing and prosperity have always followed widespread reception of the gospel. YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE BLIND TO NOT SEE IT AS PART OF U.S. HISTORY.

And now, to what can we attribute America's decline, economically and in all other ways? IS IT NOT TO HER SPIRITUAL DECLINE?

Where idolatry and witchcraft prevail, so does poverty and devastation.

II. THE LORD REBUKES THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR THEIR LACK OF ZEAL FOR THE LORD'S OFFERINGS ...

Malachi 1:6 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

Malachi 1:7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.

Malachi 1:8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1:9 And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1:10 Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

So the leaders of God's church are supposed to be men of wisdom, to lead the people to love and respect the Lord.

Acts 15:6 And the **apostles and elders** came together for to consider of this matter.

Acts 15:7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, **Men and brethren**, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

Revival must start within the ranks of God's church and leadership.

GOD'S REBUKE:

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1. *God expects us to honor him.*

A son honors his father; and a servant, his master.
God expects us to put Him first above everyone and everything else.

NOTE: The reply, "How have we despised your name?" God tells them plainly:

2. *Through their service ... and sacrifices ... in his O.T. church.*

Often, those who are most familiar with the service of God are the ones who become neglectful of honoring and fearing Him.

Eli's sons were an example.

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They were being neglectful in their offerings and service for Him, offering not the best, but the blind, lame, and sick for an offering.

They started to look at their giving and service for the Lord as a waste; therefore, they were not giving their best.

God expects our best.
We devote the first day of the week to Him.
We give Him the first tithe of our income.
We should give him our best.

So often we give the Lord our leftovers—the things we don't want anyway.

Do we give God the leftovers or the first fruits?

Do we give Him the best, or do we give him tokens?

DAVID WOULD NOT OFFER A SACRIFICE WHICH COST HIM NOTHING. DO WE OFFER TO GOD SACRIFICES, OR DO WE LOOK FOR A CHEAP WAY OUT?

We are so *price conscious* today. We buy something if it is \$.02 cheaper. Imagine when you go to do something for the Lord, saying, I can't buy that—it's too cheap. I can't give that to the Lord, it doesn't cost enough! Sometimes we equate value by how much we pay for something. So it is with our sacrifices for God, what value is it if it doesn't cost us anything?!

NOTE: THIS IS HOW DAVID OPERATED IN THE AREA OF SACRIFICING AND GIVING TO GOD ...

II Samuel 24:24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

3. Here is the test -

Malachi 1:9 And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1:10 Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

A. Do they shut the doors for nought? In other words, they are being paid to do the Lord's work in the temple.

The priests were always clamoring for more pay.

1:9 Beseech God ... that he will be gracious to us.

Apparently God had brought a famine and a plague; and they were praying for some relief, but would not acknowledge that the plague was because of their sin.

Why is it that whenever anyone mentions that a catastrophe may have come because God is trying to get our attention, people go into spiritual cardiac arrest?

What good is it to pray for God to be gracious without acknowledging your sin and wrong doing?

Malachi 1:9 And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts.

THIS HAD BEEN BY YOUR MEANS. YOU HAVE BROUGHT IT ON YOURSELVES. YOU EARNED WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU.

MATTHEW HENRY:

Note: Those who have by their sins helped to kindle a fire are highly concerned by their repentance, prayers, and the personal reformation, to help to quench it. We must see how much God's judgments are by our means, and be awakened thereby

to be earnest with Him to return in mercy; and, if we take not this course, how can we think He should regard our persons?

Will He *regard your persons*, saith the Lord of hosts.

The Hebrew word for regard has the idea of accepting, honoring, respect,

5375[?]nasa', naw-saw'; or nacah (Psa. 4:6 7), naw-saw'; a prim. root; to lift, in a great variety of applications, lit. and fig., absol. and rel. (as follows):-accept, advance, arise, (able to, armour, suffer to) bear (-er, up), bring (forth), burn, carry (away), cast, contain, desire, ease, exact, exalt (self), extol, fetch, forgive, furnish, further, give, go on, help, high, hold up, honourable (+ man), lade, lay, lift (self) up, lofty, marry, magnify, X needs, obtain, pardon, raise (up), receive, regard, respect, set (up), spare, stir up, + swear, take (away, up), X utterly, wear, yield.

God is no respecter of persons. Here is how it works. If you do right you will be accepted. If you do not do right, you won't! Do good and God will bless, do evil and God will punish you!

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

B. ALL THEY CARED ABOUT WAS WHAT THEY COULD GET, BUT GOD WILL VINDICATE HIS NAME:

Malachi 1:10 Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

Malachi 1:11 For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

1. They were getting paid to do God's service, this made their sin even worse.

Note: This was all a precursor to what we see in the New Testament where the priests and religious leaders are indicted by our Lord for their covetousness.

God had no pleasure in their religious service.

Note: It is may be for this reason that our Lord has simplified His service in the New Testament assembly.

In the temple men were employed for the service of the Lord. There was an intricate service that was prescribed by the law. Maintaining the sacrifices was labor intensive. When you skin a deer and dress it, you learn a little about the service that took place at the altar of God! The priests were employed and set apart for these tasks. All this service has now been fulfilled in Christ and thus the following prediction by the LORD:

Malachi 1:10 Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

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2. Note the prediction: My name shall be great among the gentiles.

God was going to remove the priesthood and give His covenant to a foolish nation, even the New Testament church.

Let us take heed. NOTE: GOD WILL GATHER TO HIMSELF A PEOPLE.
IF WE REJECT HIM, SOMEONE ELSE WILL RECEIVE HIM.

Do we really think we are indispensable to God?
Do we really think God needs us?

Remember in the days of Noah the whole world rejected Him except Noah!
Who lost out?

We should fear and tremble before Him!

Romans 11:18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

Romans 11:19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

Romans 11:20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

Romans 11:21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.

Romans 11:22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

Romans 11:23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

Romans 11:24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Romans 11:27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Romans 11:28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

III. A SHARP REBUKE AND WARNING TO THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS:

Malachi 1:12 But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible.

Malachi 1:13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

Malachi 1:14 But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.

1. THESE JEWS HAVE PROFANED THE NAME OF THE LORD!

Malachi 1:12 But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible.

They have profaned the name of the Lord by their slack attitude toward His ordinances—through not giving the best offerings and through offering the lame ... and the blind ... and sick.

2. Note: Their lax attitude ...

Malachi 1:13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

Malachi 1:14 But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.

Notice - we are in a sad state when serving the Lord is weariness.

When prayer is weariness.

When attending his services is weariness.

When singing his songs is weariness.

When witnessing is weariness.

When teaching a Sunday School class is weariness.

When singing in the choir is weariness.

WHAT WEARINESS IT IS.

God knows our hearts. God knows whether we are giving Him our best.

How many say, "Why should I go to church? I probably heard what is going to be said before anyway."

Yeah, why eat breakfast? You probably ate that same food before.

Same old coffee.

Same old water.

Same old milk.

Same old cereal.

It is amazing that the Lord likens the Bible to MILK, WATER, MEAT, AND BREAD. There is a reason for that!

NOTE: Only dead or sick people tire of eating!

What are you going to have today? Anything new?
Why eat it again if it is the same?

Will adding poison to it make it more interesting? That's what we do today. Unless we add some rock 'n roll to the service, no one wants to come. We need some entertainment with the Word!

WHAT WEARINESS, PEOPLE SAY! How wicked it is to say this.

THE LORD'S TABLE ...

How many different ways can you say:

I Corinthians 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

How many different ways can you say:

I Corinthians 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

Well someone could say, "I don't need to come and partake of that. I already heard that story before!"

WILL YOU SAY, "Oh, what weariness. Oh, how boring!"

I say, "Oh, what wickedness is in our hearts to dishonor God so! It is amazing He doesn't just snuff us out! What longsuffering He has toward us!

1:14 NOTE THE CURSE THAT IS HEAPED UPON PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUCH AN ATTITUDE.

Malachi 1:14 But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.

God will honor those who honor Him.

Do we think we do God hurt by not serving Him and giving Him our best?

The Lord reminds the Jews:

Malachi 1:11 For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

One commentator writes:

"1. These ordinances and sacrifices were imposed till the time of reformation, Heb. 9:10. When the hour came in which the true worshippers worshipped the Father in spirit and in truth, then

this incense was offered, even this pure offering. (2.) Instead of his being worshipped and served among the Jews only, a small people in a corner of the world, he will be served and worshipped in all places, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same; in every place, in every part of the world, incense shall be offered to his name; nations shall be discipled, and shall speak of the wonderful works of God, and have them spoken to them in their own language. This is a plain prediction of that great revolution in the kingdom of grace by which the Gentiles, who had been strangers and foreigners, came to be fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God, and as welcome to the throne of grace as ever the Jews had been. It is twice said (for the thing was certain), My name shall be great among the Gentiles, whereas hitherto in Judah only he was known, and his name was great, Ps. 76:1. God's name shall be declared to them, the declaration of it shall be received and believed, and there shall be those among the Gentiles who shall magnify and glorify the name of God better than ever the Jews had done, even the priests themselves.

2. That they shall not go unpunished, v. 14. Here is the doom of those who do like these priests, for the sentence on them is a sentence on all such. Observe, (1.) The description of profane and careless worshippers. They are such as vow and sacrifice to the Lord a corrupt thing when they have in their flock a male. They have of the best, wherewith to serve and honour him, so bountiful has been in his gifts to them, but they put him off with the worst, and think that good enough for him, so ungrateful are they in their returns to him. This was the fault of the people, but the priests connived at it, and indulged them in it. We find a distinction in the law which allowed that to be offered for a free-will offering which would not be accepted for a vow, Lev. 22:23. But the priests would accept it, though God would not, pretending to be more indulgent than he was, for which he will give them no thanks another day. (2.) The character given of such worshippers. They are deceivers; they deal falsely and fraudulently with God; they play the hypocrite with him; they pretend to honour him, in making the vow, but, when it comes to be performed, they put an affront upon him, to such a degree that it would have been better not to have vowed than to vow and thus to pay; but let not such be themselves deceived, for God is not mocked. Those who think to put a cheat upon God will prove, in the end, to have put a damning cheat upon their own souls. Hypocrites are deceivers, and they will prove self-deceivers, and so self-destroyers. (3.) The doom passed upon them: They are cursed; they expect a blessing, but will meet with a curse, the tokens of God's wrath, according to the judgment written. (4.) The reason of this doom: "For I am a great King, saith the Lord of hosts, and therefore will reckon with those who deal with me but as a man like themselves; my name is dreadful among the heathen, and therefore I will not bear that it should be contemptible among my own people." The heathen paid more respect to their gods, though idols, than the Jews did to theirs, though the only true and living God. Note, The consideration of God's universal dominion, and the universal acknowledgment of it, should restrain us from all irreverence in his service."

But we conclude this chapter's study with the sobering thoughts that:

THE BEAT GOES ON.

Now it is the church itself that despises His ordinances.

Consider these verses:

Hebrews 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 10:30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 12:26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

Hebrews 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Hebrews 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.