



Minor Prophets

Lesson 23

Malachi Chapters 1-4

It had been approximately 100 years since the exiles to Babylonia had returned to Jerusalem. Despite delays, the process of rebuilding the Temple under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah had continued, and it was completed in 515 B.C. But the city of Jerusalem was not fully restored. Eventually, the first zeal for the project had waned, and the people began to lack in their commitment to their worship of

Yahweh. Many of the men were marrying wives outside the community or divorcing their older wives so they could marry younger ones. The priesthood was corrupt, and many people were withholding their tithes for the sanctuary. In the midst of this apostasy, the last prophet Malachi, whose name means “my messenger,” brings a word of warning to the people.

READ ALL OF MALACHI (Nehemiah and Ezra also recommended reading)

CHAPTER 1

1. *What statement does God make in Malachi 1:2, and what does He say is their response?*

2. *How does God answer them? Malachi 1:2-3. See also Romans 9:10-13.*

3. *Compare 1:4-5 to Obadiah 1. Find several parallel statements regarding Edom’s attitude and God’s judgment of them.*

4. *What statement does God make to the priests in 1:6, and what is their question back to Him?*

5. *Explain the dialogue taking place in 1:6-9.*

6. *Describe God's frustrations with their responses to Him in Malachi 1:10-14 and Isaiah 1:11-15. What does this tell you about God?*

CHAPTER 2

7. *From Malachi 2:4-7, how was the priesthood (Levi) supposed to function?*

8. *What three things does God specifically accuse them of doing? 2:8*

9. *In 2:10-17, how many times does God use the phrase "deal/dealt treacherously"? Explain the treacherous results that were taking place because of the failure of the priesthood.*



Treachery: Hebrew bagad- from the root meaning "to deceive." Describes one who does not honor an agreement, betrays, or who is unfaithful in different relationships.

CHAPTER 3



The process of refining involved heating ore to the melting point and extracting the metal. Once in liquid state, the dross or impurities could be scraped off the top. This process of refining made the ore much more precious and valuable. God uses the imagery of this process to illustrate His dealing with His people. He is the refiner and we are impure gold or silver. The upright man endures this testing without despising it. Those who refuse to be refined will instead be judged.

Complete Word Study of the Old Testament and Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament.

10. *Why does the Lord not destroy the Sons of Jacob? Malachi 3:5-6 and Genesis 17:1-8*

11. *Explain the new dialogues in verses 3:7-12 and 13-15.*

Vs. 7-12

God says...

But you say...

God's point...

Vs. 13-15

God says...

But you say...

God's point...

12. *What two groups are identified in 3:18, and what is the difference between them?*

CHAPTER 4

13. *Who is God going to send before the final days, and what will he do?*

14. *Who fulfilled that prophecy according to Jesus in Matthew 11:11-14 and Luke 1:16-17?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
