

## MALACHI: TRUE WORSHIP

**A. Author:** Malachi

**B. Title:** Named after the Prophet; means "My Messenger."

**C. Theme:** God's people need a reformation in their worship in order to prepare for the coming of Messiah.

**D. History:**

587 B.C.: Southern Kingdom (Judah) fell to Babylon

539 B.C.: Persian King (Cyrus) allowed exiles to return to Jerusalem

518 B.C.: Second Temple Dedicated

445-420 B.C.: Nehemiah rebuilt the Jerusalem wall/  
Malachi prophesied

*Malachi faced indifference, caused by disappointment and skepticism, that led to a neglect of temple service.*

*The priests performed their offices perfunctorily, but their hearts were not in their work. Anything was good enough, for Yahweh, they thought, and offered lame and blind animals on the altar. The people were unwilling to pay their proper religious dues. Mixed marriages and divorces predominated, accompanied by a moral decline. Yet, there was a faithful nucleus in the community (3:16).*

-Clyde T. Francisco, *Introducing the Old Testament*, p 226

**E. Outline:**

### 1. GOD'S LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE (1:1-5)

a. An Expression of God's Love (1:2)

b. A Comparison with Esau's Descendants (Edom) (1:2-5)

### 2. THE PEOPLE'S IRREVERENCE TOWARD GOD (1:6-2:17)

a. Unacceptable Sacrifices (1:6-9)

b. Irresponsibility in their Witness (1:11-13)

c. A Corrupted Priesthood (2:1-2,8-9)

d. Spiritual Infidelity (2:10-11)

e. Breakdown of the Family (2:14-16)

### 3. THE COMING OF MESSIAH (3:1-4:6)

a. The Forerunner (3:1)

b. A Day of Cleansing (3:2-3,6)

c. A Call to Return to the Lord (3:7)

d. A Call to Quit Robbing God (3:8-11)

e. The Remnant Rises (3:16)

f. A Day of Contrasts (4:1-2)

g. The Coming of Elijah (4:5-6)

### F. Real Life Lessons from Malachi

1. God loves His people, even when they are unfaithful to Him.
2. Irreverent worship results in the breakdown of God's people.
3. The leaders should set the standard in worship.
4. Spiritual unfaithfulness leads to the breakdown of the family.
5. Jesus came to bring cleansing on those who followed Him and judgment on those who did not.