

minor

PROPHETS

- Malachi -

November 17, 2019 - Pastor Billy M. Gotcher

INTRODUCTION

MALACHI 1:1 THE BURDEN (ORACLE) OF
THE WORD OF THE LORD TO ISRAEL BY MALACHI.

BACKGROUND & DATE OF WRITING

- ZERUBBABEL LED THE FIRST RETURN OF 49,897 EXILES IN 538 B.C.
- THE 2ND RETURN WAS LED BY EZRA AND IT INCLUDED 4000-5000 EXILES AND TOOK PLACE IN 458 B.C.
- THE 3RD RETURN WAS LED BY NEHEMIAH IN 444 B.C.
- THE BEST CORRELATION PLACES MALACHI'S PROPHETIC MINISTRY BETWEEN NEHEMIAH'S TWO TRIPS TO PALESTINE, THUS SHORTLY AFTER 433 B.C.

STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

- 1:2-5 - YAHWEH'S COVENANT LOVE FOR ISRAEL.
- 1:6-2:9 - THE POLLUTION OF THE TABLE OF YAHWEH BY THE PRIESTS AND THEIR CORRUPTION OF THE COVENANT OF LEVI.
- 2:10-16 - JUDAH'S UNFAITHFULNESS THROUGH VIOLATION OF THE MARRIAGE COVENANT.
- 2:17-3:5 - YAHWEH IS COMING TO JUDGE THE WICKED AND TO PURIFY HIS PEOPLE.
- 3:6-12 - YAHWEH'S DESIRE TO BLESS HIS UNFAITHFUL PEOPLE.
- 3:13-4:3 - THE JUSTICE OF GOD AS EVIDENCED BY THE FATE OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.

OCCASION & PURPOSE

- ISRAEL HAD BECOME **INCREASINGLY APATHETIC** TOWARD THE TEMPLE RITUAL AND THE MOSAIC LAW. THEIR APATHY TOWARD KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS CAUSED THEM TO BE **UNMOVED BY THEIR OWN DISOBEDIENCE** AND GOD'S COVENANT CHASTENING.
- MALACHI'S PURPOSE WAS TO CALL THE NATION TO A **RENEWED ALLEGIANCE TO YAHWEH** — THEIR COVENANT KEEPING GOD.

DISPUTING WITH GOD

A. GOD'S ASSERTION: "I HAVE LOVED YOU,"

- MALACHI 1:2A "I HAVE LOVED YOU," **SAYS THE LORD.**

➤ DEUTERONOMY 7:6–7 “FOR YOU ARE A HOLY PEOPLE TO THE LORD YOUR GOD; THE LORD YOUR GOD HAS **CHOSEN YOU TO BE A PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF**, A SPECIAL TREASURE ABOVE ALL THE PEOPLES ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. ⁷ THE LORD **DID NOT SET HIS LOVE ON YOU** NOR CHOOSE YOU **BECAUSE YOU WERE** MORE IN NUMBER THAN ANY OTHER PEOPLE, FOR YOU WERE THE LEAST OF ALL PEOPLES;

➤ DEUTERONOMY 7:8 BUT **BECAUSE THE LORD LOVES YOU,** AND BECAUSE HE WOULD KEEP THE OATH WHICH HE SWORE TO YOUR FATHERS, **THE LORD HAS BROUGHT YOU OUT WITH A MIGHTY HAND,** AND **REDEEMED YOU** FROM THE HOUSE OF BONDAGE, FROM THE HAND OF PHARAOH KING OF EGYPT.

➤ EPHESIANS 1:4–5 JUST AS **HE CHOSE US IN HIM** BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, THAT WE SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLAME BEFORE HIM **IN LOVE,**
⁵ HAVING PREDESTINED US **TO ADOPTION AS SONS** BY JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF, **ACCORDING TO THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL,**

DISPUTING WITH GOD

B. OUR OBJECTION: “I DON’T CALL THAT LOVE – YOU ARE NOT LOVING ME THE WAY I WANT TO BE LOVED.”

- MALACHI 1:2B I HAVE LOVED YOU,” SAYS THE LORD.
“YET YOU SAY, ‘***IN WHAT WAY HAVE YOU LOVED US?***’

➤ JAMES 1:2 MY BRETHREN, **COUNT IT ALL JOY**
WHEN YOU FALL INTO VARIOUS TRIALS

- 1 PETER 4:12–13 BELOVED, DO NOT THINK IT STRANGE CONCERNING **THE FIERY TRIAL WHICH IS TO TRY YOU**, AS THOUGH SOME STRANGE THING HAPPENED TO YOU; ¹³ BUT **REJOICE** TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU PARTAKE OF CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS, THAT WHEN HIS GLORY IS REVEALED, YOU MAY ALSO BE GLAD WITH EXCEEDING JOY

- PSALM 119:67–68 BEFORE I WAS AFFLICTED I WENT ASTRAY, BUT **NOW I KEEP YOUR WORD.** ⁶⁸ **YOU ARE GOOD, AND DO GOOD;** TEACH ME YOUR STATUTES.
- PSALM 119:71 **IT IS GOOD FOR ME THAT I HAVE BEEN AFFLICTED,** THAT I MAY LEARN YOUR STATUTES

DISPUTING WITH GOD

C. GOD'S RESPONSE: "YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED MY GRACE."

1. MY GRACE TO SINNERS IS UNDESERVED KINDNESS, TOGETHER WITH PATIENT ENDURANCE.

➤ MALACHI 1:2C–3 WAS NOT ESAU JACOB'S BROTHER?" SAYS THE LORD. "YET JACOB I HAVE LOVED; ³ BUT ESAU I HAVE HATED, AND LAID WASTE HIS MOUNTAINS AND HIS HERITAGE FOR THE JACKALS OF THE WILDERNESS."

2. THE MAJESTY OF MY GRACE WILL BE MADE KNOWN TO THE NATIONS, v. 4-5.

- MALACHI 1:4 EVEN THOUGH EDMON HAS SAID, “WE HAVE BEEN IMPOVERISHED, BUT WE WILL RETURN AND BUILD THE DESOLATE PLACES,” THUS SAYS **THE LORD OF HOSTS**: “THEY MAY BUILD, BUT **I WILL THROW DOWN**; THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE TERRITORY OF WICKEDNESS, AND THE PEOPLE AGAINST WHOM THE LORD WILL HAVE INDIGNATION FOREVER.

2. THE MAJESTY OF MY GRACE WILL BE MADE KNOWN TO THE NATIONS, v. 4-5.

➤ MALACHI 1:5 YOUR EYES SHALL SEE,
AND YOU SHALL SAY, '**THE LORD IS MAGNIFIED BEYOND
THE BORDER OF ISRAEL.**'