

MINISTRY OF MALACHI  
INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW  
(Malachi 1:1)

- I. CONTEXT of the Book
  - A. Identifying the AUTHOR of Malachi
    - 1. Possibly anonymous by one called “MY MESSENGER”
    - 2. Probably an otherwise UNKNOWN prophet named Malachi
  - B. Determining the DATE of Malachi’s writing
    - 1. TRADITION places it LAST in the OT chronology
    - 2. Had to FOLLOW the ministries of Haggai and Zechariah (515 BC)
    - 3. Could have been during the ministry of EZRA (458 BC)
    - 4. Probably DURING or just AFTER Nehemiah’s administration (ca. 430 BC)
  - C. Understanding the CIRCUMSTANCES of Malachi’s writing
    - 1. God SPOKE to ISRAEL through Malachi (Mal. 1:1)
    - 2. Malachi was in JERUSALEM
    - 3. The people were in SPIRITUAL DECLINE
      - a. They had gained semi-INDEPENDENCE and RELIGIOUS liberty

- b. They had lost REVERENCE for the Lord and RESPECT for His Word

## II. CONTENTS of the Book

### A. Identifying Malachi's LITERARY style

- 1. A continuous DISCOURSE
- 2. Written in PROSE
- 3. Uses rhetorical QUESTIONS and supplies typical ANSWERS

### B. Highlighting Malachi's THEOLOGY

- 1. Concerning GOD
  - a. God is SOVEREIGN over ISRAEL and ALL NATIONS (cf. 1:5, 11, 14; 3:12)
  - b. God is IMMUTABLE, and therefore RELIABLE (3:6)
  - c. God is HOLY and JUST (1:8, 13; etc.)
- 2. Concerning FUTURE things
  - a. Predicted the coming FORERUNNER (3:1; 4:5; cf. Matt 11:14; 17:12-13)
  - b. Predicted final JUDGMENT on the WICKED and the ultimate BLESSEDNESS of HIS PEOPLE (4:1-6)

### C. Summarizing Malachi's MESSAGE

- 1. Rebuke for their DEFILING of the PRIESTHOOD
- 2. Rebuke for their DISHONORING of MARRIAGE
- 3. Rebuke for their DISRESPECT for GOD