
BOOK OVERVIEW

Malachi

Author: the prophet Malachi (his name means “my messenger” or “messenger of Jehovah”)

Date: 445-397 B.C.

Recipients: The Jews in Jerusalem who had returned from Babylon.

Summary: Malachi writes about God’s faithfulness and his people’s faithlessness.

Key verses: Malachi 3:9-10

Key words: ye say (11 times)

Notes:

The temple worship had become nothing more than mere ritual rather than the true worship of God.

Some believe that Malachi is not a person’s name, but a title. The Septuagint, the ancient Greek version of the Old Testament, renders verse 1 as, “The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by the hand of his messenger.”

The book is a departure from the typical prophetic approach, “Thus saith the Lord,” to more of a conversation between God and His people, “But you ask.”

The book is quoted several times in the New Testament: Matthew 11:10, 14; Mark 1:2; Luke 1:17; Romans 9:13.

Fuller’s soap (launderer’s soap) in 3:2 was used for cleansing and “fulling” (shrinking or thickening) new wool cloth.

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