

Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup> 2013  
Malachi – God’s Messenger  
Part One  
Study Questions

1). Pr 12:15 ¶ *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.*

a). How does this scripture aptly describe the history of the Children of Israel and which scriptures did we also look at in connection with this?

b). After Solomon’s death what happened to the historical kingdom?

c). What happened to the Northern Kingdom of Israel because of their unfaithfulness?

d). What happened later to the Southern Kingdom of Judah because of their unfaithfulness?

e). What did the Babylonians do that in effect combined these 2 captivities?

f). Read Daniel 9:1-3 – What do we learn in these verses about the Babylonian empire and the Jewish captivity?

g). In relation to the return of a remnant to Jerusalem when does God call Malachi to prophesy?

- h). What had been accomplished by this time in Jerusalem?
- i). Why do you think God called Malachi to prophesy and what might we know about the spiritual condition of the people by this time?
- j). What would account for them becoming like this?
- k). What does the name Malachi mean?
- l). What is unique about the position of this Book in the OT?
- m). What does God say to Israel in this Book and how long does He remain silent afterwards?
- n). How does this connect with our opening scripture from Proverbs?
- o). What is the next event to happen in God's calendar following the end of Malachi?
- p). Where would we find a parallel with the Book of Malachi in the NT?
- q). To whom is God speaking in this Book and what is the nature of what He says?
- r). What is the next event on God's prophetic calendar following the end of the Revelation?
- s). How does God describe the spiritual condition of the Church at the time preceding this event and how is this similar to Israel in the days of Malachi?

t). What parallels are you beginning to see between Malachi and the beginning Chapters of the Revelation and why would this make Malachi a profitable Book for us to study?

2). Mal 1:1 ¶ *The burden of the word [ lit. oracle/prophecy] of the LORD to Israel by [by the hand of] Malachi.* – What is significant about this opening verse?

a). What encouragement would there be in this for Israel?

b). What parallel is there with Chapters 2-3 of the Revelation and what encouragement is there for us in this?

3). Mal 1:2 *"I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?'"* – How should we literally understand the phrase, 'I have loved you'?

a). What are the ways in which God has demonstrated His love for His people Israel?

b). Which scriptures did we look at in connection with this?

c). What was Israel's response to God's statement?

d). What would make them ask a question like this?

e). By asking this question what are they in effect doing?

f). Why might we ask the same question?

4). Read Romans 5:8 – What does this verse tell us about God’s love for us?

a). Read Hebrews 12:5-7 – what do we find in these verse about God’s love and what had the original recipients of this letter forgotten?

b). What relationship is there between God’s love for us and His purpose for us?

c). Which scripture did we look at in connection with this?

d). What do we read in Revelation 2:4?

e). What would it mean to leave our first love?

f). What are the ramifications for doing this?

5). Read Malachi 1:2-3 – What does God say in these verses with regards to His love for the nation?

a). Within what context should we understand what it means that God loved Jacob, but hated Esau?

b). What commentary does Romans 9:7-13 provide on this?

c). What do we know about the nature and character of Jacob and Esau?

- d). What does Esau do that would single him out for the Lord's opposition?
- e). What warning is God giving Israel through drawing from this example?
- f). What does the Book of Hebrews have to say to us with respect to Esau?
- g). Why would this be the same for both Israel in the past and the Church in the present?
- 6). Any final thoughts?