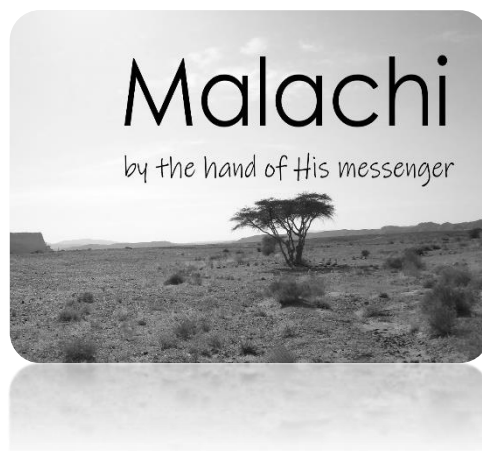


MALACHI 3 vs 1

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Remember: Malachi means... **my messenger**. This book was written about 400 BC, approximately 100 years after the **House of Judah** returned to Jerusalem and the 2nd Temple – an extension of what King David one-day thought was a good idea... though the LORD protested. Nonetheless He assured David: his son Solomon would construct it. Now, it had been rebuilt with the encouragement of the prophets Ezra and Haggai, and the watchful eye of Nehemiah, officer in the court of Artaxerxes... governor over the city and temple restoration. Dr. Gene Scott pointed out: often prophecies have double fulfillment... not only to the nearer, more immediate history unfolding; but also, until the times of the Gentiles end.



With a careful reading of Malachi, you can hear the many words the Lord Jesus spoke, the night He was betrayed; you can hear, Peter's last words to the faithful; you can even hear what prompted the church of Philadelphia in the Revelation... prior to Messiah coming in power and great glory. Bible scholars point out the last verse of the previous chapter... belongs best with this chapter 3:

17 You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, [7] How have we wearied Him?

And notice the answer comes without hesitation.

When you say, [8] Everyone who does evil... is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them / they presumed to know His ways, forgetting like a Father, He is caring, slow to anger, and quick with mercy; He will suffer to His own hurt... His slow response show His great love; the crucifixion of His beloved Son is shows that He finds no delight in sin and what is evil.

Moses already warned them 1000 years earlier about their inaccurate, faulty thinking when he said: Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart; you will serve your enemies whom the Lord will send, until He has destroyed you – Deuteronomy 28:47. Dr. Dallas Willard of USC once said, we know God is powerful, and if His power is anything like electricity, then He is dangerous... and we better learn how to approach Him correctly.

Or you say, [9] Where is the God of justice? Those who ask: do they really want to know? When He appears, it will all be over, and eternity will be a very long time. Where is He? Where His word says we can find Him: Seated on the Throne; listening for the faintest voice to call Him.

1 Behold, I will send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me / and we know John the Baptist did just that: preparing the hearts of many in his generation... calling them to have a METANOEO moment: a time to rethink what they had been poorly taught; a time to relearn what the prophets of both houses: **Israel** and **Judah** had really foretold about Messiah... the Anointed sent by God.

John the Baptist knew his assignment; he knew he was **not the Christ**; which means John knew he was NO substitute for Christ; definitely. John externally, outwardly baptized those who gathered; but John also told us... when He who was greater than him -- would arrive... He would baptize with **the Holy Spirit**... and **with fire**... which sure punches holes in our limited understanding about baptism: doesn't it?

I will send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me...

and the LORD, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple / and they were searching for a good Teacher; who could answer the nagging, basic questions of life: What is really going on? Who is really well off? Who is really a good person? How do you really become a good person? And all the questions we are wired from birth to ask, starting with: Why? -- questions that are not and cannot be answered in any 21st century university. **When He comes it will be very sudden and quite unexpected**; with 400 years of silence, and no voice after Malachi was heard in the land,

even the Messenger of the covenant

the greatest years of Scottish history and prosperity and world influence arise from when their public leaders signed with their lives to uphold: **the Scottish National Covenant of 1638**. the word: **covenant**... is first used in the days of Noah... **when God gives His solemn promise to Noah**... not only before the devastation; but also, immediately after the terrible experience Noah and his family endured... Now, fast forward to Malachi; little did the people know the Messenger was in possession of a Good Message with a Better covenant,

the LORD, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple... even the Messenger of the covenant... whom you delight: behold, He will come, says the LORD of hosts / be assured, He will come; and why is He coming? Simple! The assembly regularly sang about it: The heavens declare the glory of God; **the Bridegroom is coming out of His starry residence; the Strong man is joyous; He's running a race** -- **Psalm 19**, so He is in a hurry, right? And this side of the Resurrection we must pause and rethink some of these verses. Definitely, He is not angry! Without a doubt, He is jubilant, He might need to calm down; He is in search of **His Bride** -- **the Love of His life**.

²But who may abide the Day of His coming? / and don't you love how the LORD moves effortlessly from joy and bliss... to taking care of unfinished business? From our New Testament advantage, with these words... we have raced past the joyous **Feast of Trumpets**... **the 5th Day of the LORD**; and crashed into the severe **Day of Wrath... the 6th Day of the LORD...** **the official coming of the Son of man** with power and glory... to settle scores with a faithless world: 2 of 3 Days still on His calendar; distinct Days that belong to Him and find fulfillment in something He does; apart from Christ... those Days have NO significance.

and who will stand when He appears? / nobody I know; but we do know... every knee will bow... and will they all bow willingly? Probably not, but by then it really won't matter, will it?

for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap / with these words, we are definitely informed: someone is going to be taken to the cleaners. Daniel wrote: many will be purified, and made white and tried -- **Daniel 12:10**; yet Paul would not have the Church ignorant who that is, For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord -- **1Thessalonians 5:9**:

³ And He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He will purify the *ill-taught, faithless* sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may rightly offer to the LORD an offering.

⁴ Then will the offering of **Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant to the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years** / and are these words anticipating the future... millennial kingdom? When the Lord rules with a rod of iron?

I've wondered what it will be like after the great battle Armageddon. The Church will be gone, and the world will be in utter ruin; so then, does the Lord rule a world filled with hard heads and recalcitrant jackasses? Probably, but here we also read He hasn't changed in the slightest. As He judges in the present... so He will judge rightly in the future; His truth marches on; His rights... and His ways do not change.

⁵ And I will come near to you to judgment, and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those who oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and who turn aside the stranger from his right, and do not fear Me says the LORD of hosts / then or now; pharma the hocus pocus workers, the liars / the greedy thieves. And those who despicably treat the foreigner in our midst, or the most vulnerable to be abused, who must presume God was a pushover. And in this one verse, notice how many of His 10 commandments were violated? 10 commands even the littlest children who are taught... learn to love and do.

⁶ For I am the LORD, I change not; so, you sons of Jacob are **not consumed.**

⁷ Even from the days of your fathers you turned away from My ordinances, and have **not kept them** / someday, count how many times in the book of Deuteronomy Moses used the words: **keep** and **do** – always relating to the 10 commands God wrote with His hand for His people, that if they would do them... they would live long and prosper in the land... promised to Abraham. And isn't it interesting; Jesus repeatedly used the same word the night He was betrayed, as He spoke to His followers: the one who does not love Me, does not keep My words.

Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.

But you say, **[10] How will we return?** / and the Lord's response is from chapter 1.

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8 Will a man rob God? / Apparently **YES!** Though they will lie and argue: No, of course not.

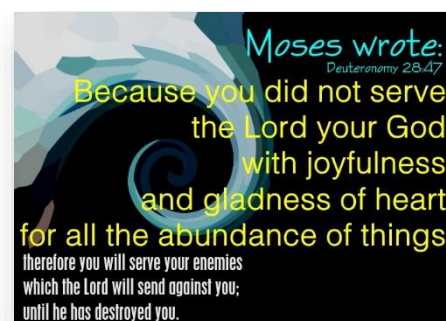
Yet you have robbed Me.

But you all say, [11] How have we robbed You? / and notice the answer comes back swiftly.

In tithes and offerings / in giving the 10th portion; as well as additional opportunities to freely give; God is a Giver, He loves... hilarious givers; He expects His people to work in such a way... so they help others; He says, It is more blessed to give than to receive -- in other words, we remind Him of His Father when we give, rather than when we have our hand out to take.

9 You are cursed with a curse: for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation / for their thievery, the Lord announced a curse on them all; what had been opportunity for blessing, He assigns and binds to them destruction.

But still one last time... the Lord kindly says, turn to Me.



[10] Bring the whole tithe / all the tenth... **to the storehouse, that there is food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing that overflows** / in the bible, the Lord God challenges you and me to: give 10%; and be blessed with 90%.

[11] Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, and he will not destroy the fruit of your ground; and your vine in the field will not drop its fruit before the time, says the LORD of hosts. / only on this formula the Lord says we can test Him: we give 10% and be blessed by Him with 90%.

[12] And all the nations will call you blessed: for you will be a delightful land, says the LORD of hosts / come rain or shine, give 10% and ask the Lord for wisdom how to use the 90%.

[13] Your words have been stout against Me, says the LORD. Yet you say, [12] What have we spoken against You? / your words are fat headed and arrogant... like sassy children, they continue to whine.

[14] You have said, [13] It is vain to serve God / you say, it is empty, and not worth it to serve God:

and [14] what profit is there if we keep His ordinance? and [15] we have walked sadly before the LORD of hosts? / why? Jeremiah said His word caused him to rejoice! Yet the people of the day... no longer would agree with the Psalmist who wrote: I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might guard to protect Your word. I have not departed from your judgments: for You have taught me. How sweet are Your words to my taste; more than honey to my mouth. Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path. I have sworn and will do it; I will guard to protect your righteous judgments -
- Psalm 119:

¹⁵ So now we call the proud / we call the arrogant... blessed? not only are the workers of wickedness built up? but, they also test God and escape? / from Malachi's vantage point, things weren't looking too good; but this side of the cross, we know better what one writer asked: How will we escape... if we neglect such a great salvation? Hebrews 2.



¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke one to another and the Lord gave attention, and heard it, and a book of Remembrance was written before Him for them who fear the LORD, and who esteem His name / the book of Life. thankfully, in every generation... even in ours, and until the LORD comes for His people, there will be a faithful remnant strengthening one another; written in the book of Life... not very complicated is it?

Those who feared the Lord; who valued His name; God remembers them, in every nation, from the rising to the setting of the sun. Notice this is not a book of the dead. The parable of the Bridegroom coming... tells us He searches the wedding registry to see the names of those who are to attend. 5 foolish virgins were not prepared, their names were not on the list. Matthew 25.

Speaking to religious leaders when Jesus lived among us, He reminded them: God is God of the living, not of the dead... Abraham, Isaac and Jacob... Noah, Rahab, Daniel, Malachi along with all the others who feared the Lord; now their souls are present with the Lord, awaiting His coming... one day they all will awaken in His likeness.



¹⁷ And they will be Mine, says the LORD of hosts, in that Day when I make up My jewels / when Messiah comes to settle the score; when He prepares His own possession;

and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son who serves him.

¹⁸ Then will you return, and discern between the right and the wrong, between the one who serves God... and the one who does not serve Him.

