

# A LOOK AT THE BOOK MALACHI

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## **Author**

The prophet's personal background is unknown except for his name and his prophecy. His name means "my messenger."

## **Date**

Similar problems to those found by Nehemiah on his second visit to Jerusalem in about 425 B.C., give evidence for a similar date. Malachi probably prophesied a little later, around 430 to 420 B.C.

## **Background**

The historical background is similar to Haggai and Zechariah:

Return to the land

Reconstruction of temple and city

Time has passed since the writing of the other two. The people have become corrupt. Their morals have deteriorated. They have stopped the tithe and demonstrated their lack of respect for God.

## **Purpose and theme**

God wants them to get on with the moral and spiritual reconstruction of their lives.

The prophet reminds the people of God's love and encourages them to conduct themselves before the heathen as the chosen ones of God.

He urges them to live in a manner which reflects their position in God's program.

They should abandon their ritualistic, insincere worship, and offer true worship to God, from the heart.

God's love requires them to respond in love and obedience.

## **Application**

*What are the implications of this prophecy for our lives today?*

*What do we share in common with Israel at that time?*

*What does God want us to do about it?*

*Any lessons for your own life for you to think about?*

## MALACHI

God's love requires repentance and obedience.

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DECLARATION OF DIVINE LOVE 1:1-5	DENUNCIATION OF ABUSE OF GOD'S LOVE 1:6-3:6		DESIRE FOR POSITIVE RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE 3:7-4:6
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Introduction 1:1	Offenses of the priests 1:6-14	Offenses of the people 2:10-17	Call to repentance 3:7-12
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