

THE 
KING
IS COMING

Survey of Judah Alone, Captivity, Return, and Years of Silence

LESSON 19: THE PROPHECY OF MALACHI . . . *MALACHI*

MEMORY. Memorize Mal 3:1.

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READING. Read Malachi. After doing your reading, in the space below write down something that you found to be interesting or important. It can be something that you have never noticed before or something that you want to remember and apply.

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DISCUSSION.

1. *Background.* We know very little about Malachi. His name means "my messenger," and he probably wrote his prophecy between 450 and 400 BC. What was happening in Judah during this time period (450-400 BC), and why does the prophecy of Malachi fit well with what we know was happening?

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DISCUSSION.

2. *Compassion.* The people of Israel doubted what about God? (Mal 1:2a) How should they have known that their doubt was unwarranted? (vv. 2b-5)

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DISCUSSION.

3. *Defilement.* Who specifically failed to honor God, and how did they dishonor him? (Mal 1:6-8, 12-14) What should they do for themselves and for the people? (vv. 9-11) What instruction (commandment) did God give to them? (2:1-9) How had Judah profaned the temple? (vv. 10-17)

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DISCUSSION.

4. *Messenger.* Who was God going to send to prepare the way for God? (Mal 3:1) How does God describe the day of the coming of the Lord, and what did he want his people to do before that day came? (vv. 2-7)

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5. *Theft.* How were the people robbing God? (Mal 3:8-9) How could the people repent, and what would be the result? (vv. 10-12)

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DISCUSSION.

6. *Day.* What arrogant words were they saying against God? (Mal 3:13-15) What did God do for those who humbled themselves and feared him? (vv. 16-18) Why should they do so? (4:1-3) Whose law should the people remember, whom would God send to them? (vv. 4-6)

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CONNECTION. Why is Mal 4:4-6 a fitting end to the OT, and how does it prepare for and find its fulfillment in the NT?

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APPLICATION. The remnant of national Israel and Judah that returned from captivity was not particularly faithful. God sent Ezra, Nehemiah, and Malachi to rebuke the people for their sins and exhort them to repent. Paul contends that Christians are the true remnant. The spiritual principles in Malachi are applicable to us (Christians) today. We must be a holy priesthood, a loyal people, and a reverent family. What are some ways that you can develop in your holiness, loyalty, and/or reverence for God?