

## Spiral Downward Trend



Assyrian → Babylonians → Persians

**Under SP Domination**

Since the rebuilding of walls with Nehemiah

**After a Prolonged Wait** (approx. 100yrs)

When God's Promises don't seem to be fulfilled...

**Distractions**

**Apathy**

**Indifference**

**Discouragement**

Gradually & Subtle-ly

**Loss of Faith & Identity**

**Compromise**

**Chapter 1** **MALACHI**

**Chapter 2**

**Chapter 3**

**TODAY**

**The Day I Act:**

- Wicked
- Righteous
- 2-way Response

**As People of Israel:**

- God's Challenge
- PP's Question

• 2-way Response

**As Priests of Israel:**

- Future (warning)
- Past (ideal)
- Present (disobedience)

**As People of Israel:**

- Doubt God's love
- Dishonor God
- Despise the name of God

Setting: Return from Captivity

Things were still not promising  
& they're still under the  
domination of super powers

God sent Zechariah to encourage  
them to continue to hope in God

They're in the period of waiting.  
They found their faith challenged;  
discouragement, indifference,  
apathy, distraction by worldly  
concerns set in; all these led  
to compromise & a losing of  
their sense of faith & identity

God now sent Malachi to  
challenge their religion that's  
become nominal & easy going

**400**  
Silent Years



# 1. In reality, there is a difference between the two.

## a) Those who does not fear God

- will **give up** to serve Him  
*“it is vain to serve God” v14a*
- will be **unfaithful** to Him  
*“no profit of keeping His charge” v14b*
- will **think wrongly** of who He is  
*“permit evil to triumph” v15*

## b) Those who fear & esteem God

- know He is **always with us**  
*“the Lord paid attention and heard them” v16b*
- acknowledge **we are His**  
*“They shall be Mine, My treasured possession” v17*
- see the **difference** between the two  
*“you shall see the distinction btw r&w” v18*

# CONVICTION STATEMENTS

Even in the most intense situation(s) that we go through:

1a) We can **gravitate** towards ‘*seemingly hopeless*’ problem and **compromise** to become unfaithful to Him (Mal 3:13-15)

1b) We are **grateful** that God always hear us; protect us as His distinctive possession and thus **convict** us to fear & stay faithful to Him (Mal 3:16-18)

## 2. Knowing God repays & restores, We now hold on and hope

### a) What God will surely do

- He **repays** the unrighteous  
*“burn like an oven, stubble,  
set ablaze leaving no root and branch” v1*
- He **restores** the righteous  
*“rise with healing in its wings towards  
the sun of righteousness, leaping like calves” v2*

### b) What we should do

- **Look back** and  
**hold on** (remember) to His Word  
*“remember the law of my servant Moses in Horeb” v4*
- **Look forward** and  
**hope** with an aligned heart  
*“I will send Elijah and he will turn their hearts” v5-6*

# CONVICTION STATEMENTS

At the **day** of His First & Second Coming:

2a) The unrighteous **will be destroyed**  
due to their unrighteousness  
The righteous **will be liberated**  
towards righteousness (Mal 4:1-3)

2b) We must **hold on** (remember) **to His Word**  
that will govern us presently  
and **hope with an aligned hearts**  
for His Coming (Mal 4:4-6)