

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



Spiral Downward Trend



Distractions

Apathy

Indifference

Discouragement

Assyrian → Babylonians → Persians

Under SP Domination

Since the rebuilding of walls with Nehemiah

After a Prolonged Wait (approx. 100yrs)

Gradually & Subtly

Loss of Faith & Identity

Compromise

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Chapter 1

MALACHI

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

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)