



FALL STUDY 2017



MESSENGER OF THE LORD

Malachi



- **Indifferent:** “of no importance or value one way or another”
 - “being neither excessive or inadequate”
- **Indifference:** “absence of compulsion to or toward one thing or another”
 - “the quality, state or fact of being indifferent
- **Apathy:** “absence or suppression of passion, emotion or excitement.”



BACKGROUND

- Malachi: “My messenger” or “Messenger of” (the Lord)
- Clues to being post-exilic prophet
 - 1:8 – “governor”
 - 1:10 & 3:1,8 – references to the temple
 - Parallels to Ezra & Nehemiah in sins being addressed
 - Corruption of the priesthood (Neh. 13:4-9, 28-31; Mal. 1:6-2:9)
 - Marriage to idolaters (Ezra 9-10; Neh. 10:30; 13:1-3, 23-27; Mal. 2:10-12)
 - Injustice (Neh. 5:1-13; Mal. 3:5)
 - Neglecting tithing (Neh. 10:32-29; 13:10-13; Mal. 3:8-10)



DELAY FULFILLMENT DISILLUSIONED PEOPLE

Smaller
territory

Economic
privation

Prolonged
drought

Crop failure

Pestilence

Under
foreign
government

Davidic
ruler not on
the throne

Spiritual
poverty



SPIRITUAL POVERTY

- *As Malachi 3:1 implies, the Most Holy Place in this second temple had no visible manifestation of the glory of God. Though God was certainly alive & well (as revealed by his remarkable providences in eh book of Esther), it was a period in which God's people had to live more by faith than by sight.*



6 DISPUTATIONS AGAINST AN INDIFFERENT PEOPLE

#1 (1:2-5):
defending the truth of God's elective love

Indifference is a rejection of God's love.

#2 (1:6-2:9):
Israel's begrudging offerings with the focus on the priests.

Indifference is a despising of the LORD'S Name.

#3 (2:10-16):
Unfaithfulness to covenant with God (marrying idolaters) & unfaithfulness to each other (divorcing their first wives)

Indifference is unfaithfulness to God

#4 (2:17-3:5): Answer to Judah's cynicism of "Where is the God of justice" with prophecy of a messenger and the Day of the LORD

Indifference can lead to cynicism

#5 (3:6-12): Israel's begrudging offerings & negligent tithing with the focus on the people

Indifference leads to negligence.

6 (3:13-4:3): Israel doubts God's justice due to the prosperity of the wicked.

Indifference is being short-sighted & forgetting who God is



SUMMARY

4:4-6

Remember the Law of Moses
(disputes 1-3)

Be prepared for the Day of the
LORD (disputes 4-6)



JESUS FULFILLS THE PROMISE

- Jesus will deal with their doubts of God's love (Romans 5:8)
- Jesus will deal with the problem of priests who despise His name by becoming the Great High Priest (Matt. 7:28-28; Heb. 4:14)
- Jesus will deal with the problem of faithless husbands by faithfully loving his Bride, the Church. (Eph. 5:25-27)
- Jesus will deal with the question of God's justice
- Jesus will deal with the lack of respect & inadequate offerings by offering Himself (Heb. 10:10)
- Jesus will deal with the "curse" by taking it upon himself (Gal. 3:13)

