



PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

Malachi

REVERING THE LORD,
STANDING IN AWE
OF HIS NAME

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

MALACHI

REVERING THE LORD, STANDING IN AWE OF HIS NAME

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Hebrew Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELEIN, FRANK E., ED.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 7, Daniel and the Minor Prophets

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1992

FEINBERG, CHARLES L.

The Minor Prophets

Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1952

WALVOORD, JOHN F., ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

CARSON, D. A.

The New Bible Commentary

Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994

KEIL, C. F., DELITZSCH, F.

Commentary on the Old Testament

Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2002

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.



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PRECEPT
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Malachi
Lesson 1, Overview and Chapter 1

LESSON ONE

Overview and Chapter One

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Malachi
“Malachi at a Glance”
“Israel’s Division and Captivity”
“The Rulers and Prophets of Malachi”
Cross-references

I HAVE LOVED YOU

Have you ever questioned God’s love for you? If so, what caused you to doubt the sincerity or genuineness of His love?

And what happened? What happens in or to a relationship when love is doubted?

DAY ONE

What a book you are about to study for the next three weeks! It is God’s final word in the Jewish Bible, the closing book of what the Church calls the Old Testament. There were no books of the Bible written in the 400 years between Malachi and the Gospels. No accounts of prophets bringing God’s Word to His people Israel as in former days. Silence from God. Like Amos prophesied to the northern kingdom in the days of Jeroboam, they experienced “a famine for hearing the words of the LORD” (8:11).

Yet God is sovereign, omniscient. He knows what He is going to do. Silence will follow these final words. So what does He say through Malachi—and why? What does He want the people to think about? To remember? (By the way, Malachi means “My messenger.”)

This is what you are about to discover for yourself as you inductively study this short but incredibly timely book. Application to the people of God today couldn’t be more needed. Therefore, we suggest that you begin each day with prayer, asking God to use this book to show any area of weakness that’s causing you to stray from Him and His precepts of life.



Your assignment for today is twofold:

1. Prayerfully read the book of Malachi in a setting where there is no distraction. As you read it, remember these are God's words, not man's. They were written by holy men of God under the divine inspiration of God, thus they are "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). Man did not invent them; rather these holy men carried along by the Spirit of God spoke from God as 2 Peter 1:20-21 tells us.

If it is not too distracting, it would be good for you to read the book aloud, slowly, thoughtfully. Hearing the words has a powerful impact. As you read, you might want to color every occurrence of *says the Lord (of hosts)*. Some of us use yellow (our color for God). Use the text of Malachi which is printed out as Observation Worksheets in the Appendix of this study.

2. Now read Malachi again, this time using your Observation Worksheets.
 - a. Notice Malachi 1:1. According to this verse, what is the book of Malachi and who is it delivered to?
 - b. Oracle means "burden."¹
3. As you come to every *but you say*, underline or mark it in a distinctive way or color so that it pops and you can see its every occurrence throughout Malachi. (Also mark *by saying, when you say, you have said*.)
4. Now look at every place you marked "but you say." Using the chart at the end of the lesson, list what you learn.
5. Finally, think about what you've observed. How would you describe the spiritual condition of these people? Record your insights below in as few words as possible. Do you relate to any of this?

¹James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996, H4853).



DAY
TWO
AND
DAY
THREE

1. Yesterday you did a brief overview of Malachi. What is the timing, the historical setting of the book of Malachi? Let's explore that so you can see *when*—in the history of Israel—this is being said.
 - a. If you are just growing in your knowledge of God's Word and are not familiar with Israel's history, you might want to look at the chart "Israel's Division and Captivity," found in the Appendix. This chart will take you from the division of the kingdom into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, through their captivities, and beyond the seventy years of exile or captivity of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
 - b. In light of all you've just read in Malachi, take time now to look at another chart taken from *The New Inductive Study Bible*: "The Rulers and Prophets of Malachi," also in the Appendix.
 - 1) Record where, according to this chart, Malachi fits in time.
 - 2) Nehemiah is a historical book; Malachi is a prophetic book from a messenger of God sent at a specific time to speak for Him. What's the relationship between Malachi and Nehemiah?
2. Looking at the events of Ezra and Nehemiah on "The Rulers and Prophets of Malachi," what do you know about the state of Jerusalem and the temple that had been destroyed when Babylon conquered Judah?
3. What part of temple worship is mentioned in Malachi?
4. Now that we have an overview of Malachi, let's observe chapter 1 more closely so that we can see exactly what is happening.

On the back cover of this workbook there is a **Key Word Bookmark** that serves two purposes.



- a. *First*, it lists key words which appear throughout the Bible and gives you suggested ways of marking them so that you can be consistent throughout the Word of God. A **key word** helps unlock the meaning of the text and is frequently repeated. Please note, the markings on the bookmark are merely suggestions—there is no right or wrong way to mark.
 - b. *Second*, on the other side of the bookmark you will find space to list key words used in Malachi as you study. Mark or color them as you will do on your Observation Worksheet. Then you can use this as a reminder of the words you want to mark.
5. Now let's observe Malachi chapter 1. Mark the following key words and their synonyms or pronouns in distinctive ways.
- a. *love* (See the bookmark for a suggested marking.)
 - b. *hated, does not love* (Some mark these the same way they mark *love* but with a slash through it, or with a black heart.)
 - c. *Esau/Edom* (You do not need to put this one on your Key Word Bookmark.)
 - d. *priests*
 - e. *sacrifice, offering*
 - f. *despise(d)*
 - g. *polluted*
 - h. *profane*
 - i. *evil* (Some mark this the way they mark *sin* throughout their Bibles. See the bookmark for a suggested marking.)
 - j. *nations* (except for the nation of Israel. Don't mark Israel the same way you mark the nations. See the bookmark for a suggested marking.)
 - k. *fear(ed)*
 - l. *My name (Your name)*
 - m. *curse (cursed)* (See the bookmark for a suggested marking.)
 - n. anything that tells you *when* or *where*. Some of us mark references to time with a green circle and double underline geographical locations with green lines.
6. Now what do you think the main theme of Malachi chapter 1 is? How would you summarize its content using words from the text? Record this on the "Malachi at a Glance" chart found in the Appendix.

Whenever there was a problem, God sent His messenger to warn His people. O Beloved, do you realize that this is one of the roles of the Word of God today? The things which were written beforehand were written for our warning, for God does not change. Sin is always sin, no matter the culture.



DAY
FOUR

1. Let's look at the first five verses of Malachi 1. As you look and think about these verses, what point is God making and why? How is He making it?

2. Let's get a little biblical history on Esau and learn why he is also referred to as Edom.
 - a. Genesis 25:19-34—Just do a read-through and list below who Esau is and why he is called Edom.

 - b. Genesis 28:6-9 (Ishmael was the son of Abraham by Sarah's maid Hagar.)

3. Now let's go back to Malachi 1:3-4. The questions are simple, but answering them will help you make sure you've observed the text accurately.
 - a. What has God done to Edom? For how long?

 - b. What might Edom say?

 - c. Who will prevail, and how do you know this?



Lesson 1, Overview and Chapter 1

- 6



Lesson 1, Overview and Chapter 1

- As we bring today to a close, Beloved, think about all you have seen just these past four days. God loved Jacob (Israel) but was Israel at this stage in their history that loveable? What would it mean to know that even if you are a mess or have messed up that God loves you? And what should it make you want to do with the messes in your life? Think about it . . . talk to God about it.*

DAY FIVE

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2. Read Malachi chapter 1 again using your Observation Worksheet.
 - a. Who are verses 6-14 directed to?
 - b. Now, paying attention to the key words which you have so carefully marked, what are the *main* issues the Lord deals with in these verses? List them below.
3. What was the priest's responsibility in serving the Lord with respect to the sacrifices and offerings? Let's check out some verses from the Torah, the book of the Law, the five books of Moses, the first five books of the Bible. As you do, observe the references to the name of the Lord.
 - a. Leviticus 21:6, 8, 17
 - b. Leviticus 22:1-2, 20-25
4. What did you learn from these verses and from Malachi chapter 1 about the name of the Lord? And what do you think profaning and despising the name of the Lord means?



5. What do you think God means when He calls the priests to shut the doors—the doors? Is there any possible application to today?

6. Read Malachi 1:11, 14. What do you learn from marking “name” and “nations”?

7. Read Malachi 1:5. How does this relate to Malachi 1:11, 14?

8. Now, Beloved, for a little application as we bring today to a close. Read Romans 12:1. Then take a few minutes for prayer, and reflect on this verse. Ask the Lord to reveal to you any way in which you might be profaning the name of the Lord and what you should do about it.

Do you see the connection between what you offer to God, your sacrifices, and how it reflects your view of God and His name? How does this show His worth to others?

9. Use any remaining time to see what commentaries say about Malachi 1.

Well done. Just two weeks to go and you will have a great grasp of the book of Malachi and God’s reason for including it in His Book. Remember, the things written in the Old Testament are “for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come” (1 Corinthians 10:11).



BUT I SAY/ BUT YOU SAY

Scripture	God's charge	Group addressed	Their response	God's reply/action to the response	Theme (main subject)



MALACHI 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

- 2 “I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob
- 3 but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert.”
- 4 If Edom says, “We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins,” the LORD of hosts says, “They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called ‘the wicked country,’ and ‘the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.’ ”
- 5 Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, “Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!”
- 6 “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, ‘How have we despised your name?’
- 7 “By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ By saying that the LORD’S table may be despised.
- 8 “When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts.
- 9 “And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts.



- 10 “Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand.
- 11 “For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.
- 12 “But you profane it when you say that the Lord’s table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised.
- 13 “But you say, ‘What a weariness this is,’ and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD.
- 14 “Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.



MALACHI 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

“AND now, O priests, this command is for you.

- 2 “If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart.
- 3 “Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it.
- 4 “So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts.
- 5 “My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name.
- 6 “True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity.
- 7 “For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.
- 8 “But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts,
- 9 and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”
- 10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?



- 11 Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god.
- 12 May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!
- 13 And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand.
- 14 But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.
- 15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.
- 16 "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."
- 17 You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"



MALACHI 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- “BEHOLD, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.
- 2 “But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap.
- 3 “He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.
- 4 “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.
- 5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.
- 6 “For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.
- 7 “From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’
- 8 “Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions.
- 9 “You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.



- 10 “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.
- 11 “I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts.
- 12 “Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.
- 13 “Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’
- 14 “You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts?’
- 15 ‘And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’ ”
- 16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.
- 17 “They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.
- 18 “Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.



MALACHI 4

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- “FOR behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.
- 2 “But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.
- 3 “And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.
- 4 “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.
- 5 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.
- 6 “And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”



MALACHI AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Author:

Date:

Purpose:

Key Words:

Chapter Themes

1

2

3

4



