

# THE VOICE OF THE PROPHETS FROM ISAIAH TO MALACHI

Marcus L. Loane

“There was no more familiar form of reference to the Old Testament than the phrase: ‘the law and the prophets.’ Of the thirty nine books in the Old Testament, no less than seventeen were ascribed to the prophets. The four major prophets were Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel & Daniel, and the book of Lamentations was also the work of Jeremiah. The twelve minor prophets range from Hosea to Malachi, they spoke from God to man, and their message, whether of mercy or judgement, must be read in the light of the times in which they lived. Their work covered the two kingdoms of Judah and Israel, and the Babylonian captivity. They were unsparing in their exposure of the moral and social, political and spiritual sins of the day. But their scathing rebukes often throw up gems which shine, will all the more lustre when seen in their historical context. This book is an attempt to select and expound the key verses in each of the prophets. So as to illumine their relevance for God’s people today.”

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# Outline of the Book of Malachi

Malachi means: Messenger of Jehovah  
Minor Prophet to Judah + Israel : 455 BC

Introductory appeal : God's LOVE for Israel 1:1-5

Warning against Priest's sins 1:6-2:9

A: Their carelessness + ritual functions 1:6-2:4

B: Their slovenly teaching 2:5-9

Forewarning against the people 2:10-3:18

A – First warning: against disloyalty 2:10-16

B – Second warning: of judgement 2:17- 3:6

C – Third warning: to repent 3:7-12

D – Fourth warning: God's condemnation 3:13-18

Concluding solemn warning 4:1-6

A – God's day of vengeance 4:1-3

B – To observe the Mosaic Law 4:4

C – Reminder of second coming of Christ 4:5-6

# Get Ready for the return of King Jesus

Malachi 3:1-18

**3** “Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear 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 smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.**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; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me,” says the LORD of hosts. **6** “For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons 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?’

3<sup>8</sup> “Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation *of you!* <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. <sup>11</sup> Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast *its grapes,*” says the LORD of hosts. <sup>12</sup> “All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,” says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>13</sup> “Your words have been arrogant against Me,” says the LORD. “Yet you say, ‘What have we spoken against You?’ <sup>14</sup> You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts? <sup>15</sup> So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up but they also test God and escape.’”

**3** <sup>16</sup> Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.<sup>17</sup> “They will be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “on the day that I prepare *My* own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.” <sup>18</sup> So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

# He's returning for a Holy Church (v1-6)

- Messiah will suddenly come to His Temple
- Who can endure? Who can stand when He appears?
- The Lord is Refiner and Purifier
- Judgement coming to those who fear Him not!!!

# He's returning for a church of integrity (v8-12)

- God's people defrauding, cheating, deceiving God
- Bring the whole tithe into God's storehouse
- Blessings of God will be poured out from Heaven
- All nations will call you "BLESSED"

# He's returning for a serving church (v16-18)

- Christians fearing the Lord make His Book of Remembrance
- Christians joy fellowshiping together
- Christians recognised by the Lord as His possession
- Christians protected by the Lord

## Psalm 139:23-24

<sup>3</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; <sup>24</sup> And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.