

RUSSELL SANDERS
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THE MINOR PROPHETS
BOOK 13 – MALACHI

We conclude this brief overview of the 13 minor prophets with the book of Malachi, whose name means “messenger of Jehovah.”

Malachi prophesied and preached about 430 to 400 B.C. Tradition says he was of the Levitical Priesthood, and of the “Great Synagogue.”

Malachi 1:6-2:9 is a sermon speaking against the Levitical priesthood for their corruption of the Mosaic Law and sacrificial system. They were offering sacrificial animals that were defective instead of using the best of the flocks that God required. Accepting such inferior sacrificial offerings was causing the people to stumble. (Ch. 2:8.) God would judge the priesthood in 2:3 for this and would shift His blessings, saying in 1:6, “**My name shall be (made) great among the Gentiles.**” Which was a prophetic word for the New Covenant under Christ.

In chapter 2:11-17 the focus shifts to the people for their false pretensions of religious observances.

Chapter 3 shifts to future prophecy. Malachi 3:1(a) says, “**Behold, I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me,**” which foretells of John the Baptist. (Matthew 11:10; Mark 1:2; and Luke 7:27.)

In Malachi 3:1 it speaks of Jesus (God) who “**... shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the (new) covenant.**” Verse 2 says, “**for He is like a refiner’s fire.**”

Malachi 3:7-11 then is a rebuke to the people for violating God’s word by withholding the tithes and offerings as commanded in Deuteronomy 14:22 where it says, “**Thou shalt surely tithe (on) all the increase... that comes to you.**” Such failure to tithe is the sin of stealing from God. However, in verses 16-18 it says that those who fear (in reverence to) the LORD shall be counted among His jewels.

Those who are wicked will be burned like stubble. (4:1.) This is reemphasized in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15. However, those who fear (honor) the LORD upon them “**shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings.**” (4:2.)

In 4:5-6 it is prophesied **that “I will send you Elijah, the prophet before the coming of the (end times) great and dreadful Day of the Lord.”**

Malachi is truly one of the remarkable futuristic books of prophecy. We must take it to heart. At a later date, we shall take a more in-depth look at certain of these minor prophets. Their messages are every bit as important as the major prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel.