

Malachi

Date: ca. 430 BC

The Closing Message to the Old Testament!

INTR.	REBUKE OF THE PRIESTS			REBUKE OF THE PEOPLE			THE DECISION TO BE FAITHFUL			CONCLUSION										
	<i>God's Love for Israel</i>	<i>The Disrespect of the Priests</i>	<i>God's Discipline of the Priests</i>	<i>Sins of Marriage</i>	<i>Complaint of God's Justice</i> (in punishing sin)	<i>Sin With Money</i>	<i>Spiritual Lethargy</i>	<i>Response by the Faithful</i>	<i>God's Future Judgment: Faithful will Prevail Over the Wicked</i>	<i>Exhortation: Keep the Law!</i>										
<i>Suppl. 34.8</i>	<i>A love to which there is a response of skepticism</i>	<i>Offering of blemished sacrifices</i>	<i>God's disapproval</i>	<i>Future</i>	<i>Past</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Illicit marriages condemned</i>	<i>Illicit divorces condemned</i>	<i>Attitude of the People</i>	<i>God's Response</i>	<i>Failing to give to God</i>	<i>"It's not worth it to be faithful"</i>	<i>God's book of remembrance</i>	<i>Expect Elijah's coming before the Day of the Lord</i>						
				Priests are threatened with God's curse	Covenant with Levi (former faithfulness)	Corrupting the Priesthood	2:10-12	2:13-16	Wicked prosper No justice	Lord is coming to judge	His judgment	3:1	Priests People	3:2-5	3:6	3:1-6	3:1-6	3:7-12	3:13-15	3:16-18
		1:6-8	1:9-14	2:1-4	2:5-7	2:8-9	2:10-12	2:13-16	2:17	3:1	3:2-5	3:6	3:1-6	3:7-12	3:13-15	3:16-18	4:1-3	4:4-6		
		1:6-14		2:1-9		2:10-16		2:17--3:6		3:7-12		3:13-15		3:16-18		4:1-3				
		1:1-5		1:6--2:9		2:10--3:12		3:13--4:3		4:4-6										

THEESIS OF THE BOOK

In spite of Yahweh's great love for Israel, the postexilic community was dishonoring God's name through their disobedience to the Law (as well as the neglect of the sacrificial system by the Levitical priests).

PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

To awaken the people from spiritual lethargy and unfaithfulness so as: (1) to avoid God's curses (discipline) and (2) to be prepared for the coming of the Lord and His messenger (He will reward the faithful and punish the wicked).