

SCRIPTURE: Malachi 2:17 – 3:5

SERMON: The Messenger of the Covenant!

31 March 2019

REVIEW

A. HISTORY

1. contemporary of Nehemiah (c.435-415 BC)
2. resentful disappointment after return, rebuilds (temple, Jerusalem; e.g., Hag.2:9)
3. defection in worship & life by priests & people (i.e., sacrifices, tithes, teaching, marriage, justice)
4. promises: eternal love, restorative repentance and timely salvation (1:1f; 3:1f)

B. STRUCTURE

1. letter to the church (compare Rev.2,3; see Mal.3:7; Rev.2:5)
2. disputations: talking back to God! (1:2,6,7,14,17; 3:7,8,13; note: satire; Mt.15:5; Rom.9:20; Is.29:16)
3. chiasm: center focus ([A¹] oracle; [B¹] righteous/wicked; [C¹] vain worship; [D¹] broken covenant X [D²] broken covenant; [C²] vain worship; [B²] righteous/wicked; [A²] law & prophet)

C. NEW TESTAMENT

1. Jacob/Esau (1:2,3; Rom.9:13)
2. My messenger (3:1; Mt.11:10; Mk.1:2; Lk.7:27)
3. send Elijah (4:5; Mt.11:14; 17:10f; Mk.9:11f; Lk.1:17; Jn.1:21)

4th DISPUTATION: COVENANT UNFAITHFULNESS (D²) (2:17-3:5; 2:4,5,8,10,14; 3:1)

BACKGROUND: COVENANTED LOVE! (2:11; see 1:2,1-6 /Dt.7:7f; Rm.9:1f; Eph.1:4; 1Jn4:19; Mt22:37f)

I. HIS PEOPLE QUESTIONING THEIR GOD (2:17)

A. WICKED COMPLAINTS DISPUTED: GONE (2:17; see Ex.34:6f; Dt.30:1f; see 2Pt.3:3f)

B. WICKED COMPLAINTS ANSWERED: COMING (3:1-5; see 2Pt.3:10f)

II. THEIR GOD ANSWERING HIS PEOPLE (3:1-5)

A. THE MESSENGER OF THE LORD: ARRANGEMENTS (3:1a & 4:5,6 w/ Mt.11:10 & 14; see Is.40:3 w/Mt.3:3f (Mk.1:3; Lk.3:4f; Jn.1:23); Lk.1:76f)

B. THE LORD AS MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT: ARRIVAL (3:1b; Ps.110:1 /Mt.3:16f; Lk.1:67f,72)
1. temple (1b; see Hag.2:9; Lk.2:49; Jn.2:16(Lk.19:45); Mk.11:7f,11; Heb.9:11f,24)
2. covenant (1b; see Lk.22:20; Heb.8:8,13; 9:15; 12:24)

C. DESIRE & DELIGHT BUT DEVASTATING (2:17; 3:2; 2Pt.3:13,10f; see Amos 5:18f; 3:2; 1Cor.3:10-15)

D. REFINE WITH FIRE & SCOUR WITH LYE (3:2,3; see Jer.2:22; Mt.3:11,12; Hb.10:22; 2Pt3:11; 1C3:13f)

E. PURPOSE & RESULT: OFFERINGS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS (3:3,4; 1:10; see Ex.20:2f; Ps.24:3f; Lk.3:8; Acts 26:20; Eph.2:1f,10; see Rom.6:4,11)

F. FINALE: JUDGMENT AGAINST ALL WICKEDNESS (5; Ex.20:3f (see WLC; Vos); see Lk.3:16&17; 4:18,19 w/Is.61:1,2a then v.2b; Rev.2:16; see Ex.12:7; Rev.7:3; 1Cor.11:32)

POINT: GET READY BECAUSE HE IS COMING QUICKLY! (3:1,5; see 2:17-3:5; see Rev.2:5,16; 3:11; 16:15; 22:7,12,20; see 2Pt.3:3f)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)