

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; Messenger of the Covenant (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)

I. THE COVENANT FAITHFULNESS OF THEIR GOD (6; 1:2; see Num.23:19; Heb.13:8; see Ps.23:8; 136:1f)

A. UNCONDITIONAL RELATIONSHIP (1:2; Ex.6:7; Lev.26:12 /Dt.7:6-10; 1Jn.4:19 /2Pt.1:10,5f)

B. CONDITIONAL ENCOURAGEMENTS & DISCOURAGEMENTS (bless & curse; 3:9; 2:2; see Lev.26:1f&14f; Dt.27:12&13 w/27:15f & 28:1-14 & 28:15-68; see Lk.6:20-26; 22:20; 2Tm.3:16)

C. CONDITIONAL RESTORATION (3:7; see Dt.30:1-3; Neh.1:8f; see Jdgs.3:5-11; Ps.80:3,7,14,19; 107:1f; Jer.3:12,14,22; see Mk.1:15; Lk.15:11; Acts 2:38)

II. THE COVENANT UNFAITHFULNESS OF HIS PEOPLE (7-12; see the Bible!)

A. CHRONIC PROBLEM: FROM THE DAYS OF YOUR FATHERS (7; see Gen.3:1f; Ex.17:7; Ps.78:8)

B. PRESCRIPTIONS: TURNED AWAY; NOT KEPT (7; Hos.7:16; see Neh.1:6f; Ex.31:18f)

C. RETURNED, RETURN, WILL RETURN (7; 1:2; see Dt.30:1-3; Num.1:8f; see Jdgs.3:5-11; Ps.80:3,7,14,19; 107:1f; Jer.3:12,14,22; see Mk.1:15; Lk.15:11; Acts 2:38)

D. DISPUTE THE NEED FOR REPENTANCE! (7,8; see 2:13; Prov.30:20)

E. SIN: ROBBING GOD! (8,9; see 1:8; Neh.13:4f,10f; Acts 5:1f)

1. tithes (8; see Num.18:21f,28; see Gen.14:20; 28:22; Lk.11:42; 18:12; Heb.7:8f)
2. offerings (8; see 1:6f; see Lev.7:34; Num.18:8f)
3. disciplined for disobedience (9, see 10-12; see 2:2; I,B above)
4. whole nation (9; see 2:11; Neh.13:4f)

F. REPENTANCE: WHOLE TITHE INTO THE STOREHOUSE (7,8; 10a; see 1:8; Neh.13:4f; Acts 5:2,3)

1. whole tithe (10a; see 1:8; Acts 5:2,3)
2. into the storehouse (10a; see Neh.13:4f,12f)
3. point: food in His house (10a; see Num.18:1f; Neh.13:10f; Mal.2:6,7; 1Cor.9:6f; 1Tm.5:17,18)

G. RESTORATION: WHOLE BLESSING ON THE NATION (7b; Dt.30:1-3)

1. test: trust promise by obedience (10a, 7; Dt.30:1f; Neh.1:8f; see Is.7:11f; Heb.11:26 /versus Mal.3:15; Ps.78:18; Mt.4:5f)
2. blessing restored (10b,12; see Dt.30:1f; Ps.78:23f; Lk.6:38)
3. cursing removed (11; see Joel 2:25; Hag.1:6)
4. all nations recognize (12; see 9; see Is.61:9; 62:4; 1Kngs.10:4f,8f)

CONCLUSION: STOP ROBBING GOD! (3:6-12)

A. CONFESS THAT YOU ENDURE BY GRACE! (6; see 1:2; Jms.1:17; Gal.3:3; Eph.2:5f)

B. RETURN TO GOD IN CHRIST! (6,7; 1:2 /1Pt.3:18; Heb.10:19f (Gn3:24); 2C5:21; Ps.80:3,7,14,19)

C. KEEP HIS STATUTES IN CHRIST! (7; see Ex.20:2f; Eph.2:1f,5f,10; Mt.22:37f; Rom.13:9)

D. TEST GOD'S PROMISES BY KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS! (10,7; see Dt.7:9,10; 30:1f; Lk.6:20-26; 15:11f; 2Cor.9:6f; see Ex.20:11; Is.56:2; 1Cor.16:2)

E. PROVIDE ABUNDANTLY FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD! (10; 1:8f; 2:6,7; see Num.18:1f; Neh.13:4f,10f; Lk.8:3; Acts 18:3-5 (2Cor.8:1f); 1Cor.9:6f; 2Cor.9:6f; 1Tm.5:17,18)

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