

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 SIXTH DISPUTATION: DISTINGUISHING LOVE (3:13-4:3; see 1:2f;
see also 1:6,7; 2:14; 2:17; 3:8; 3:13)

A. DIVINE ACCUSATION: STRONG WORDS AGAINST GOD (13a)

B. WICKED DEFENCE: NO CONSPIRACY AGAINST GOD (13b; see Ps.2:2; 106:25)

C. DIVINE WITNESS: UNBELIEF IN COVENANT FAITHFULNESS (14,15; see Dt.30:1-3;
Ps.1; Lk.6:20-26)

D. DIVINE AFFIRMATION: BELIEVING REMNANT (16 /Neh.13:14; Est.2:23,etc.; Rev.20:12)

E. CONCLUSION: COVENANT FAITHFULNESS VINDICATED (17,18; contra 14,15, C above)

F. MEANS: THE ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY OF THE DAY OF THE LORD (4:1-3)

1. the wicked **will** be cursed (4:1,3; contra 3:15)
2. the righteousness **will** be blessed (4:2; contra 3:14)

II. PREPARE FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD! (Mal.3:13-4:3; see Ps.73; 2Pt.3)

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