

Malachi 01 – Malachi’s World: Introduction

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Malachi 1:1-5

Who Was Malachi?

- Malachi – My messenger {My reconciler: Malachi}
 - Otherwise unknown
 - Some believe a moniker for Ezra
- Wrote after Haggai and Zechariah poss. about 440 B.C.
 - Some place him between Nehemiah chapters 12 & 13
 - Probably contemporary with Esther and Artaxerxes

Axial Age Religions

- Zoroastrianism – Practiced nearly 200 years: Persia
- Confucianism/Daoism – Practiced 150 years: Orient
- Buddhism/Jainism – Practiced 100 years: India
- Hellenism – Practiced 100 years: Greece
- Temple at Jerusalem – Practiced 40-80 years: Judah

World of Malachi's Time

- Persian War with defeat of Persia (Artaxerxes)
- Roman Republic growing
- Events in Persia threaten to destroy all Jews in Persia {including Judah} book of Esther



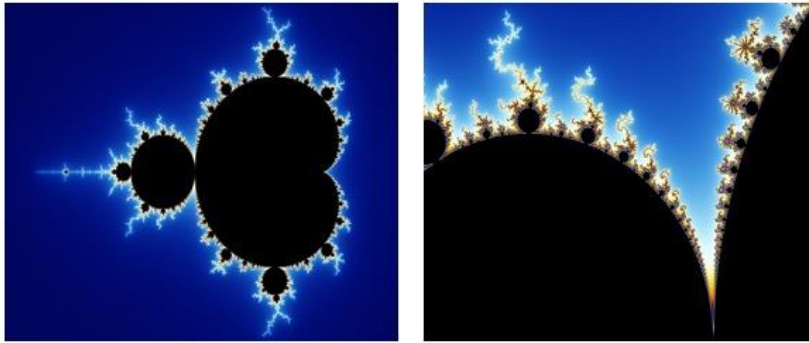
Esther-Ishtar {Hadassah-Myrtle}

- Book of Esther details forces moving against Jews in Persian Empire
 - Mordecai manipulates for Esther to compete for Queen
 - Conflict between Haman & Mordecai escalates into genocide {Zoroastrian Persians against Talmudic Jews}
 - Mordecai manipulates Esther who manipulates Artaxerxes allowing Jews to kill those who would kill them {No appeal to God - Poss. first view of secular or Talmudic Jews: Purim}

Temple in Operation

- This is after Haggai and Zechariah
 - Temple has been rebuilt for 40-80 years
 - People awaiting the coming of the *great* Messiah promised in Zechariah {Short-sighted: See Zechariah 16}
 - Jerusalem wall has just been rebuilt
- People corrupting Temple worship polluting God's message of salvation to the nations: Where is Messiah?

Mandelbrot-Metaphor of God's Will



Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Jews Weary of Waiting for God

- Nehemiah 13 details how the Jews already corrupting worship of God for worldly gain
 - Intermarrying would have drowned out God's message
 - Political alliances would have corrupted God's message
- Jews donated Temple space to secular uses for political gain - Compromising with the world corrupting God's message of salvation to the nations {Being like them}

Malachi Raised Up

- "My messenger", my reconciler, raised to confront the people concerning their *low* view of God
 - He will be God's final appeal to holiness in the OT
 - He will confront real reason for low opinion of God
- As messenger he speaks to *another* messenger who will come before the Messiah comes - Yet **more** waiting

Burden {Oracle} of Malachi

- Malachi speaks to the people of their lack of love for God
 - They do not “fear the Lord”
 - Worship is formality characterized by polluted sacrifices
 - They go “through the motions” – culture not faith
 - Because of inconsistent application of the Laws of God wickedness increases and many fall away unbelieving
(Mt 24:12)

God Loves Judah

- Malachi begins with a dialogue between God and His people, metaphor of fact rather than an actual dialogue
- God does not demand they *prove* love for Him, which would be impossible; He proves His love for them
 - God describes a relationship beginning in Genesis, the Old Testament details His love, mercy & long suffering for them despite their continual rejection of Him

Esau Hated – Jacob Loved

- Esau, as first born, despised his birth right, Abrahamic promise of being a great nation {Israel} (Ge 25:19-34)
 - He sold his *promise* for food {Never his to sell}
 - His attitude was not the reason God *hated* Esau; it was the *result* of God not enlightening him with salvation
- Jacob *tricked* Isaac into giving him the blessing rather than trusting in God that it was his; saved at river
(Ge 27:18-29; 32:22-32)

God Did Not *Elect* Esau

- God is the active agent in everyone's salvation
 - Without God's intervention no one could be saved (Ro 3:10-18)
 - God lets the lost live their lives as they desire (Ro 1:18-25)
 - God loves those whom He has chosen before creation (Eo 1:3-6)
- God chose Israel {Jacob} over other nations {Esau} based solely on His will to provide a *light* to them (Ro 9:10-16)

Edom was from Esau

- Edom also defeated by Nebuchadnezzar
- They had not recovered as Judah {God's blessing}
- This was to show His love to Judah over other nations IAW His overall plan for all nations



He Demonstrated His Love

- This obvious comparison was probably interpreted as worldly historical events apart from His intervention
 - God said this was intentional so they could see an obvious difference
 - He was building on the promises as well as the warnings given in Zechariah - They ignored the warnings
 - Judah was a part of His plan for the entire world and the coming of Messiah in the fullness of time (Ga 4:1-7; Ep 1:7-10)

Their Demands Over God's Plan

- Judah wanted their *greatness* NOW rather than in the fullness of time of God's plan
 - If they had gotten their military Messiah they would not have a part in the New Covenant nor eternity future
 - As children they wanted what they wanted when they wanted not understanding what they would actually receive - No salvation: for anyone

Unbelieving Attitude from the Lost

- This is the attitude of the lost who accuse God of
 - Unfaithfulness
 - Unlovingness
 - Evil
- Thus, they testify against themselves revealing their lost condition, demonstrating an unrepentant heart {Most of post-exilic Judah remained lost, Talmudic}

This Attitude Exists Today

- Christians nearly since the beginning have been plagued by those who doubt Christ's words about His second coming
 - These lost leaders, braggarts, demand proof He will return, repeating the taunt of Lucifer to Eve (Ge 3:1-5; 2Pe 3:3-4)
 - These doubts increased in intensity throughout the dispensation of First Fruits casting doubt on the Bible

Bible Teaches About False Teachers

- Bible clearly states they are lost people who do not seek repentance but seek to keep others from God's love
(2Pe 2:12-15)
 - They are compared to animals - Worldly attitude
 - They reject knowledge of God - Foolishness to them
 - They openly display their contempt of God escaping immediate judgment
 - Like Balaam they seek gain for keeping others from faith

God Still Moves by His Plan

- Christ has not delayed His return - He will return when He has planned from before foundation of world
 - Those who are not His, not elected for salvation will find fault to justify their rejection of God
 - Those who are His wait patiently for His coming knowing His faithfulness will give them faith to wait
 - This *waiting* is to save people who would otherwise be lost - Demonstration of His love like in Old Testament

Christians Receive Warnings

- Christians are not to listen to the world's doubts which change the focus of our love from Christ to dead works
 - Ephesus lost her *first love* (Re 2:3-5)
 - Laodicea blinded to serve both Christ and the world
(Re 3:15-17)
- Like the Mandelbrot design, God's will is the same for peoples and times: He wills to do good for His peoples