



PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

Malachi

REVERING THE LORD,
STANDING IN AWE
OF HIS NAME

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

MALACHI

REVERING THE LORD, STANDING IN AWE OF HIS NAME

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

The New How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2010

The New Inductive Study Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Hebrew Word Study Tools

(The following is a list of helpful Hebrew Word Study Tools:)

HARRIS, R. LAIRD; ARCHER, GLEASON L. JR.; WALTKE, BRUCE K.

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1980

RICHARDS, LAWRENCE O.

Expository Dictionary of Bible Words

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1985

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELEIN, FRANK E.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 7, Daniel and the Minor Prophets

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1992

FEINBERG, CHARLES L.

The Minor Prophets

Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1952

WALVOORD, JOHN F., ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

CARSON, D. A.

The New Bible Commentary

Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994

KEIL, C. F., DELITZSCH, F.

Commentary on the Old Testament

Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2002

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.



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PRECEPT
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Malachi
Lesson 1, Chapter 1

LESSON ONE

Overview and Chapter One

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Malachi 1
“Malachi at a Glance”
“Israel’s Division and Captivity”
“The Rulers and Prophets of Malachi”
Cross-references

I HAVE LOVED YOU

Have you ever questioned God’s love for you? If so, what caused you to doubt the sincerity or genuineness of His love?

And what happened? What happens in or to a relationship when love is doubted?

DAY ONE

What a book you are about to study for the next three weeks! It is God’s final word in the Jewish Bible, the closing book of what the Church calls the Old Testament. There were 400 years between Malachi and the Gospels. Consequently, the nation of Israel experienced a famine for hearing the words of the Lord, just as the prophet Amos said (8:11).

Yet God is sovereign, omniscient. He knows what He is going to do. Silence will follow these final words. So what does He say through Malachi—and why? What does He want the people to think about? To remember? (By the way, Malachi means “My messenger.”)

This is what you are about to discover for yourself as you inductively study this short but incredibly timely book. Application to the people of God today couldn’t be more needed. Therefore, we suggest that you begin each day with prayer, asking God to use this book to show any area of weakness that’s causing you to stray from Him and His precepts of life.



Your assignment for today is twofold:

1. Prayerfully read through the book of Malachi in a setting where there is no distraction. As you read it, remember these are God's words, not man's. They were written by holy men of God under the divine inspiration of God, thus they are "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). Man did not invent them; rather these holy men moved by the Spirit of God spoke from God as 2 Peter 1:20-21 tells us.

If it is not too distracting, it would be good for you to read the book aloud, slowly, thoughtfully. Hearing the words has a powerful impact. As you read, you might want to color every occurrence of *says the Lord (of hosts)*. Some of us use yellow (our color for God). You can do this in your Bible or use the text of Malachi which is printed out as Observation Worksheets in the Appendix of this study.

2. Now read Malachi again, this time using your Observation Worksheets.
 - a. Notice Malachi 1:1. According to this verse, what is the book of Malachi and who is it delivered to?

 - b. Check your Bible and see if there is a marginal note in verse 1 that gives you an alternative word for what the book of Malachi is. Write it out.
3. As you come to every *but you say*, underline or mark it in a distinctive way or color so that it pops and you can see its every occurrence throughout Malachi. (Also mark *by saying, when you say, you have said.*)
4. Now look at every place you marked *but you say*. Using the chart at the end of the lesson, list what you learn.
5. Finally, think about what you've observed. How would you describe the spiritual condition of these people? Record your insights below in as few words as possible. Do you relate to any of this?



DAY
TWO
AND
DAY
THREE

1. Yesterday you did a brief overview of Malachi. What is the timing, the historical setting of the book of Malachi? Let's explore that so you can see *when*—in the history of Israel—this is being said.
 - a. If you are just growing in your knowledge of God's Word and are not familiar with Israel's history, you might want to look at the chart "Israel's Division and Captivity," found in the Appendix. This chart will take you from the division of the kingdom into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, through their captivities, and beyond the seventy years of exile or captivity of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
 - b. In the light of all you've just read in Malachi, take time now to look at another chart taken from *The Inductive Study Bible*: "The Rulers and Prophets of Malachi."
 - 1) Record where, according to this chart, Malachi fits in time.
 - 2) Nehemiah is a historical book; Malachi is a prophetic book from a messenger of God sent at a specific time to speak for Him. What's the relationship between Malachi and Nehemiah?
2. Looking at the events of Ezra and Nehemiah on "The Rulers and Prophets of Malachi," what do you know about the state of Jerusalem and the temple that had been destroyed when Babylon conquered Judah?
3. What part of temple worship is mentioned in Malachi?
4. Now that we have an overview of Malachi, let's observe chapter 1 more closely so that we can see exactly what is happening.

On the back cover of this workbook there is a **Key Word Bookmark** that serves two purposes.



- a. *First*, it lists key words which appear throughout the Bible and gives you suggested ways of marking them so that you can be consistent throughout the Word of God. A **key word** helps unlock the meaning of the text and is frequently repeated. Please note, the markings on the bookmark are merely suggestions—there is no right or wrong way to mark.
 - b. *Second*, on the other side of the bookmark you will find space to list key words used in Malachi as you study. Mark or color them as you will do on your Observation Worksheet. Then you can use this as a reminder of the words you want to mark.
5. Now let's observe Malachi chapter 1. Mark the following key words and their synonyms or pronouns in distinctive ways.
- a. *love* (See the bookmark for a suggested marking.)
 - b. *hated, does not love* (Some mark these the same way they mark *love* but with a slash through it, or with a black heart.)
 - c. *Esau/Edom* (You do not need to put this one on your Key Word Bookmark.)
 - d. *priests*
 - e. *sacrifice, offering*
 - f. *despise(d)*
 - g. *defiled*
 - h. *profane*
 - i. *evil* (Some mark this the way they mark *sin* throughout their Bibles. See the bookmark for a suggested marking.)
 - j. *nations* (except for the nation of Israel. Don't mark Israel the same way you mark the nations. See the bookmark for a suggested marking.)
 - k. *fear(ed)*
 - l. *My name (Your name)*
 - m. *curse (cursed)* (See the bookmark for a suggested marking.)
 - n. anything that tells you *when* or *where*. Some of us mark references to time with a green circle and double underline geographical locations with green lines.
6. Now what do you think the main theme of Malachi chapter 1 is? How would you summarize its content? Record this on the "Malachi at a Glance" chart.

Whenever there was a problem, God sent His messenger to warn His people. O Beloved, do you realize that this is one of the roles of the Word of God today? The things which were written beforehand were written for our warning, for God does not change. Sin is always sin, no matter the culture.



DAY
FOUR

1. Let's look at the first five verses of Malachi 1. As you look and think about these verses, what point is God making and why? How is He making it?

2. Let's get a little biblical history on Esau and learn why he is also referred to as Edom.
 - a. Genesis 25:19-34—Just do a read-through and list below who Esau is and why he is called Edom.

 - b. Genesis 28:6-9 (Ishmael was the son of Abraham by Sarah's maid Hagar.)

3. Now let's go back to Malachi 1:3-4. The questions are simple but answering them will help you make sure you've observed the text accurately.
 - a. What has God done to Edom? For how long?

 - b. What might Edom say?

 - c. Who will prevail, and how do you know this?



a. How would you answer such an objection from the text? God has it covered. Read Romans 9:6-21. What does the Word of God tell you?

b. Where do you see God's sovereignty in Romans 9:6-21?

c. So what does faith do? What will you do with all this, beloved of God?

As we bring today to a close, Beloved, think about all you have seen just these past four days. God loved Jacob (Israel) but was Israel at this stage in their history that loveable? What would it mean to know that even if you are a mess or have messed up that God loves you? And what should it make you want to do with the messes in your life? Think about it . . . talk to God about it.

By the way, if you are doubting God's love for you, read Romans 8:28-39.

**DAY
FIVE**

1. It's been quite an enlightening week, hasn't it? Has the content of Malachi surprised you in any way?



5. What do you think God means when He calls the priests to shut the doors—the doors? Is there any possible application to today?

6. Read Malachi 1:11, 14. What do you learn from marking *name* and *nations*?

7. Read Malachi 1:5. How does this relate to Malachi 1:11, 14?

8. Now, Beloved, for a little application as we bring today to a close. Read Romans 12:1. Then take a few minutes for prayer, and reflect on this verse. Ask the Lord to reveal to you any way in which you might be profaning the name of the Lord and what you should do about it.

Do you see the connection between what you offer to God, your sacrifices, and how it reflects your view of God and His name? How does this show His worth to others?

9. Use any remaining time to see what commentaries say about Malachi 1.

Well done. Just two weeks to go and you will have a great grasp of the book of Malachi and God's reason for including it in His Book. Remember, the things written in the Old Testament are "for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come" (1 Corinthians 10:11).



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Malachi
Lesson 1, Chapter 1



BUT I SAY/ YET YOU SAY	Theme (main subject)	
	God's reply/action to the response	
	Their response	
	Group addressed	
	God's charge	
	Scripture	



MALACHI 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

- 2 “I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob
- 3 but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert.”
- 4 If Edom says, “We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins,” the LORD of hosts says, “They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called ‘the wicked country,’ and ‘the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.’ ”
- 5 Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, “Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!”
- 6 “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, ‘How have we despised your name?’
- 7 “By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ By saying that the LORD’S table may be despised.
- 8 “When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts.
- 9 “And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts.



- 10 “Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand.
- 11 “For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.
- 12 “But you profane it when you say that the Lord’s table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised.
- 13 “But you say, ‘What a weariness this is,’ and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD.
- 14 “Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.



MALACHI AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Chapter Themes

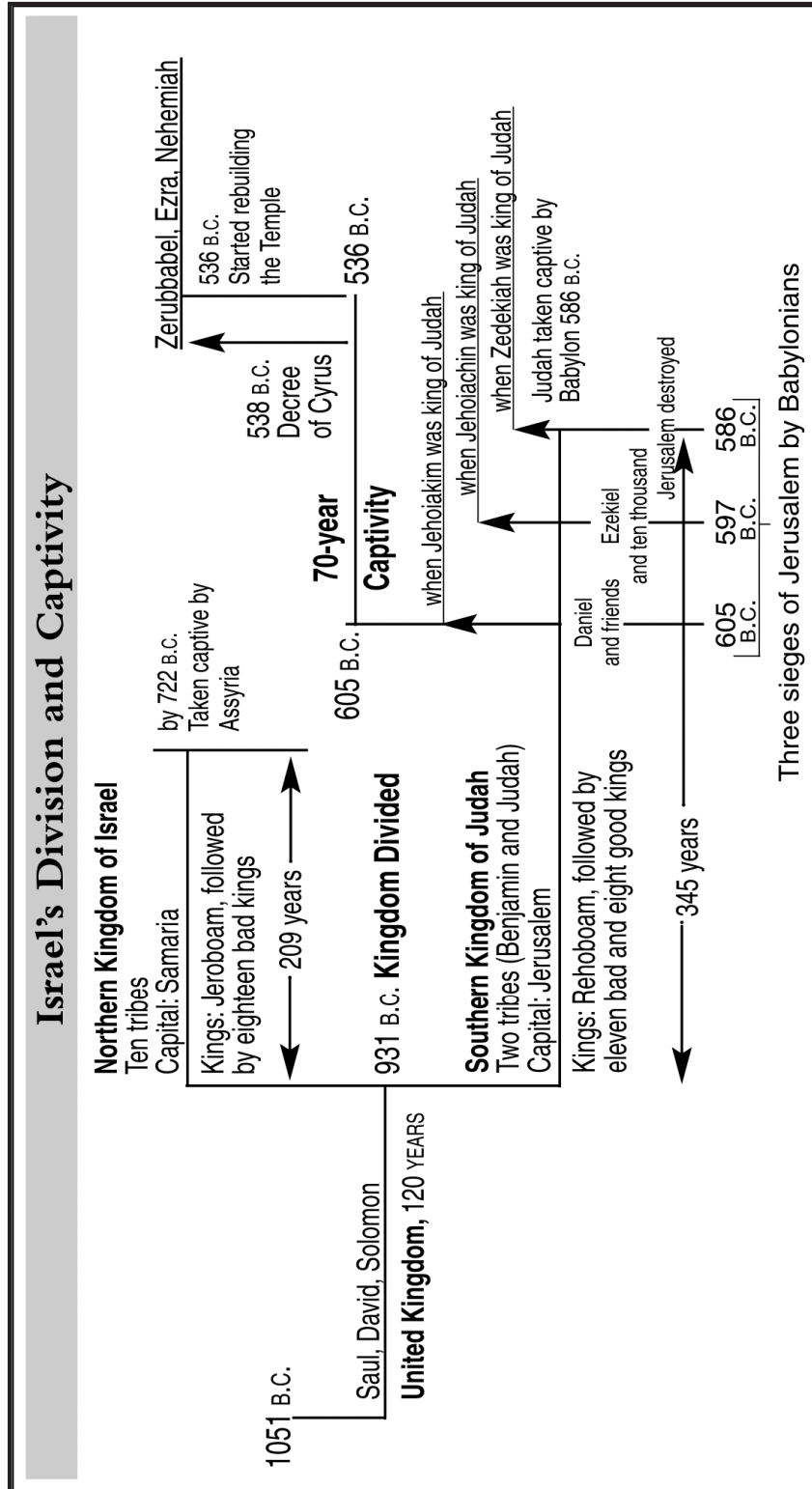
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Author:

Date:

Purpose:

Key Words:



THE RULERS AND PROPHETS OF MALACHI

