

BOOK OF MALACHI BIBLE STUDY NOTES

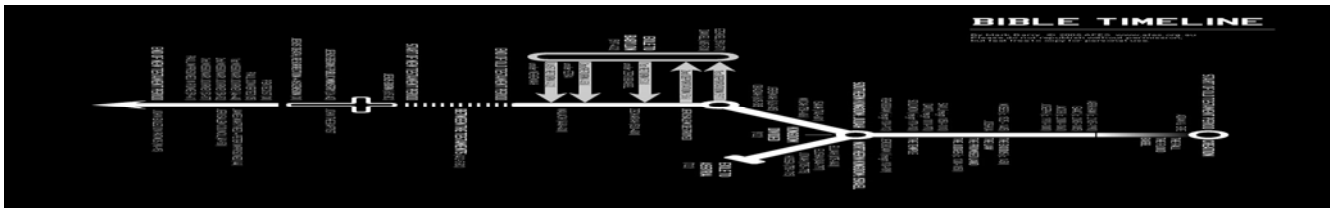
INTRODUCTION

A. Overview of OT

And . . . we have come to the end of the OT!

4,000 from creation
2,000 years of Jewish History since call of Abraham
1,000 years of prophetic revelation – Moses thru Malachi

400 years until birth of Jesus



Outline of entire history of Israel

Lev. 26

- | | |
|----------|---|
| v. 1-2 | God's Covenant with His people |
| v. 3-13 | Blessings in keeping of God's Covenant |
| v. 14-39 | Consequences of disobedience to God's Covenant / Curses |
| v. 40-45 | Promised fulfillment of God's Covenant |

Blessings can be summarized as follows:

Peace
Prosperity
Presence



Curses / consequences of disobedience can be summarized as follows:

Reversal of above

Prosperity to poverty
Peace to war
God's presence to His absence or separation from Him
God's face set against them



1 st cycle	14-17
2 nd cycle	18-20
3 rd cycle	21-22
4 th cycle	23-26
5 th cycle	27-33

Progressive Consequences as to intensity
Each one 7x's more severe

LEVITICUS 26

BLESSINGS OF VERSES 1-13	CURSES OF VERSES 14-39
God's Presence	God's "Absence"
God turns toward His people (9)	God set's His face against them (17)
God will dwell among them (11)	God sends them into captivity (38-39)
God walks among them (12)	God becomes their adversary (33)
Peace	Peril
Security (5)	Soul pines away/sudden terror (16)
Peace of mind (6)	Terror, fear, panic (36-37)
Beasts won't harm them (6)	Beasts destroy and decimate (22)
Prevail over their enemies (7-8)	Attacked by enemies—raids (16) Struck down by enemies (17) Ruled by enemies (17) Flee, but none pursue (17) Delivered into enemy hands (25) Scattered among nations (33) Destroy themselves—cannibalism (29)
Prosperity	Poverty
God gives rains in season (4)	God withholds the rains (19)
Crops will grow abundantly (4-5) Old grain cleared out for new (10)	Crops don't grow (20) Enemies raid and steal crops (16) Famine—lack of bread (26) Land is desolate (32)
Israelites fruitful and increase (9)	Consumption, fever, waste away (16) Wild animals decimate (22) Pestilence in cities kills (25) Israelites kill and eat their own (29)

Israel's Judgments

BLESSINGS Lev. 26:1-13	WARNING OF JUDGMENT Lev. 26:14-39	JUDGMENT EXPERIENCED	FUTURE DELIVERANCE
	<p>GENERAL WARNINGS vv. 14-17</p> <p>Physical, emotional anguish Crops stolen by enemies Defeat by enemies</p>	Judg. 6:3-4, 11	Isa. 11:10
	<p>DROUGHT & POOR HARVESTS vv. 18-20</p> <p>Break pride No rain / Crop failure</p>	Isa. 2:11-17; 5:15-16; 1 Ki. 17:1-2; cf. 18:2	
	<p>WILD ANIMALS ATTACK vv. 21-22</p> <p>People and cattle Stricken by beasts</p>	Ezek. 5:17; 14:15, 21; 1 Ki. 13:24; 20:36; Jer. 5:6*; cf. 2 Ki. 2:24; 2 Ki. 17:25-26* (*Samaritans)	Isa. 11:6-9
	<p>RAVAGES OF WAR vv. 23-26</p> <p>A sword Pestilence in cities Delivered to enemies Famine—no bread</p>	Judg. 2:11-15; 2 Ki. 17:7ff.; 1 Sam 10:5ff.; Isa 3:1; Jer. 24:8-10; Ezek 4:16; 5:16; 14:13	Isa. 11:14; 13:1-22; 14:1-2; 24-27
	<p>WAR AND EXILE vv. 27-33</p> <p>Cannibalism Destroy high places Cities & Sanctuaries destroyed Land made desolate People scattered/dispersion</p>	2 Ki. 6:26-30; Lam. 2:20; 2 Ki. 23 (esp. v. 20); Isa. 63:18; Jer. 44:2, 6, 22; Jer. 12:1; 33:10; Ezek. 12:15	Isa. 19:5-10 Isa. 11:11-12
	<p>RESULTS OF EXILE vv. 34-39</p> <p>Land has sabbaths Those left behind victims</p>	Jer. 50:34; Ezek. 33:10	Isa. 19:1-4

Perspective:

Outline of entire history of Israel

Yellow Light	Caution
Red Light	Stop
Green Light	Blessing

We have traced the periods of blessing

We have traced the periods of decline

We have observed the periods of:

Rebuke
Judgment
Curse
Captivity

And it brings us to the ending of the OT period
Time of Malachi

Chronologically

Over 400 years followed

Silent Years

No word from God

Politically

Control of land passes from / to:

Medo-Persian Empire

Greek Empire (bringing new language allowing for precision in writings)

Roman Empire (bring system of roads / law / order allowing message to spread)

Spiritually

While . . . Voice of God silent

Yet . . . Hand of God active

NOW, THAT TIME WAS ABOUT TO COME!

END OF O.T.

4:6 We begin with the end

Last word is that of “curse”

Jewish custom is to read v. 6 and then v. 5

We know better

COMPARE:

Gen. 1:1 “**In the beginning God . . .**”

Mal. 4:6 “. . . **with a curse.**”

What God does

What is the result of man half-hearted futile efforts

The failure of man

Man’s absolute need for the Saviour

The need for the Messiah greater than ever
It was so in Egypt
It was so in wilderness
It was so in land of promise
It was so when kingdom was established
It was so in captivity
Now it is so following restoration

In Christ Jesus . . .

The covenant promise was fulfilled

In Him is the blessing

Not in man's efforts to keep law

But in believers dependence in Him

REMEMBER:

Malachi or story of man ends with "*curse*"

Jesus came and declared "*blessed*"

4:16 Ends with "curse"

4:15 Shows the promise

"Elijah"

John the Baptist

Same message of repentance

Announcing coming of Jesus

Preparing way of the Lord

FOCUS:

For believer who knows futility of the flesh to keep law

OT does not end with "curse"

OT ends with "blessing"

Coming of Jesus Christ!

The Day of the Lord

That Seed promised 4,000 years before in Genesis

That Seed coming

Christ's birth just 400 years away

DATE

About 430 BC

THEME

-- Prelude to Silence

-- Promise of the Messiah

A forceful message against the evils of the day

1. Condition of the people

Coming judgment is proclaimed

2. God's love pervades the book

As He reminds them of His covenant

As he reminds them of His promised blessing

SETTING

Jerusalem / The Restored Remnant

Temple has been rebuilt and its service re-established
Remnant had been back in the land for over 100 years

They were enjoying religious & political freedom
Yet, had sunk into a sin as great as that which had led them into captivity

From . . . time of blessing / restoration during days of Ezra
To Period of 400 years of silence

We see:

Unfaithfulness to the commandments
Disregard for keeping of the Sabbath
Tithe & offerings that belonged to God withheld
Rampant divorce of their Jewish wives
Mixed marriages to heathen women

Empty rituals
Formalized worship
Insincerity
Taking light their worship of God

Neglect of temple services
Offerings consisted of:
Offered diseased animals to God & keeping best for themselves
Blind / lame / sick / offerings of little value that cost little

Hypocritical in doing so –
Promised a prized male animal of the flock
to be recognized and acknowledged
and then secretly brought a sickly one

Spirit of what would later become
Sects of Pharisees & Sadducees

Indifference & Complacency
Priests were actually “wearied” / bored with offerings/rituals
Apathy

Arrogance
The people daring to question God / contradict God
The people questioning the rewards of being righteous

False sense of security
They considered their sacrifices sufficed
-- To still see God’s blessing
-- To see promise of Messiah fulfilled
-- To see covenant promise fulfilled
-- To see love relationship maintained

Consider:

Our Times!

FLAVOR

Similar to 7 messages to 7 churches recorded in Revelations

God's Word	State of the Nation & the Promise	Rev. 2 & 3
God's Word	State of the Church & Promise	Malachi
	Malachi	Man's need for His coming as Saviour
	Revelation	Man's need for His second coming as King above all

WRITER

Malachi "My Messenger"

(God's voice would not be heard again
until coming of John the Baptist)

Nothing is known about this man

STYLE

Question & Answer

God makes an indictment / accusation
The people dispute it / contradict
The Lord points out the truth of the indictment

v.1:2 "In what way have You loved us"?

Implying God did not love them since He disciplined them!

v.1:6-7 "In what way have we despised your name . . . defiled you?"

Implying they had done all demanded of them and that was enough
What are we offering to God?

In worship

In service

v. 3:7 "In what way shall we return"

Implying they had not sinned and did not need to repent
Do we acknowledge our sin before Him?

KEY WORDS

The Fear of the Lord
The Day of the Lord

OUTLINE

Privilege of the Nation (Reminder of God's love for His own)	1:1-5	Care of God
Pollution of the Nation	1:6 – 3:15	Charge of God
Sin of the Priests 1:6 – 2:9		
i. Contempt for God's altar	1:6-14	
ii. Contempt for God's glory	2:1-3	
iii. Contempt for God's law	2:4-9	
Sin of the People 2:10 – 3:15		
Idolatry 2:10-13		
Divorce 2:14-16		
Robbing 3:6-12		
Doubting character of God 3:13-15		
Promise to the Nation	3:16 – 4:6	Coming of Messiah

OBSERVING THE REMAINDER OF THE PASSAGE

Chapter 1

v.1 Whose burden?
(Based on love v.2)

v.2 Rejection of & Insensitivity to His love

First of the people's contradictions / arguments with God
"Wherein have You loved us?"

They dared to question God's love!

God's response defines recipient of His love -- "Jacob"

God's response defines recipient of His hate -- "Esau"

STAGE IS SET

. . . God's people like Esau

v.6-14 Refusal to give God His due honor

A Son honors father
Even a Servant honors master

Yet, God's people failed to honor
"Where is my honor?"

God's people again dare to question God . . .
"Wherein have we despised your name?" v.7

God's response shows how He was dishonored:

v.7-14

He defines the kinds of offerings offered to Him
Sick / lame / blind / torn /
That of little value / corrupt

An insult to God!
Given based on greed!

What was offered to Him was flawed!

2:11-16

He defines obedience withheld

Put away the Hebrew wives of their youth
Married heathen wives
(Mingled seed) v.15

Ignored the clear law of the Lord

2:8-12

He defines tithes & offerings withheld

“Bring”
“Prove”

“I will pour out a blessing”
“I will rebuke the devourer”

Only 6% of American believers tithe!

CONSIDER:
In robbing God,
They robbed themselves!

We have seen what it means not to honor God!
Not giving God the best
Taking lightly God & service to Him

1:6

Very essence of their evil:

Lacked the fear of the Lord
In not showing reverence to Him
In not showing reverence to His service
In not showing reference to His law

They simply had not returned to the Lord
with their whole hearts

So lacking in spiritual vision?
Did not see harm in what they were doing
Defended their position
Dared to question as to what could be wrong

God's command
2:1-3

400 Years of Silence!

FOCUS:



Book like a:
Mirror

God's Word
God's Spirit

God's holiness
Showed them . . .
Their sinfulness

Priorities were wrong
While not given to idolatry as before captivity
They now put themselves and their interests first

Rejected His love
Refused to give Him honor due Him

YET, EXPECTED HIS BLESSINGS!

AND YET . . .

Yet . . . even then there was a remnant

LOOKING AHEAD – COMING OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

A. For whom does He come?

3:1 For those who desire Him

4:2 For those who fear Him

Those who fear (reverence) the Lord

1:6 **“Where is my fear? . . . priests”**

2:5 **Covenant given to those who fear**

3:16-18 **Evidence of fear for the Lord**
God's action towards those who fear Him
Writes a book of remembrance
Claims them . . . “They shall be mine”
Gives them discernment

4:2 **He comes for those**

B. What is that day like?

4:1
4:5

Oven to the wicked
Consumes



4:2

Sun to the righteous
Heals / Blessed warmth



Beams as wings because of their speed

Morning Star:
Ushers in the day

Sun of righteousness:
Brings the brightness of the day

C. What does he do in our lives when He comes?

3:1-3

Comes suddenly to His temple
Sits
Refines / purges
Turns (4:5)

Should you ever have the opportunity to visit a silversmith and see him at work as he purifies silver, you would watch as he takes the silver and places it in the very center of the flame – the hottest part of the flame.

This, however, he does not do until he sits taking his time to complete the process. And you would see how he never takes his eyes off the silver even for a moment while it is in that intense heat since the heat must be precise – too little, and it does not do its work . . . but too much, and the silver is destroyed.

With a purpose:
“That they may offer unto the Lord
An offering in righteousness”

Fear Him

SPECIAL PROMISE TO US

**At all times . . . His name will be great
Among the Gentiles
Among the heathen**

**If His chosen people failed to fear & honor Him,
He will find another people to do so!**

**Our opportunity . . .
BUT**

If we also fail . . . He will find a people who WILL HONOR HIM!