

STUDY GUIDE FOR BOOK OF MALACHI

I. INTRODUCTION.

- a. Author—Malachi= “my messenger”. (1:1)
- b. Date—445-432 B.C.—between the first and second visit of Nehemiah to Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity.
- c. Malachi was a prophet during post-exilic period along with Haggai and Zechariah.

II. OUTLINE OF BOOK.

- a. God loves His people. (1:1-5)
- b. God condemns the faithlessness of the priests. (1:6-2:9)
- c. God condemn illegal marriages. (2:10-16)
- d. God condemns indifference. (2:17-4:3)
- e. God makes one last appeal to the law. (4:4)
- f. God points to the coming of “Elijah”. (4:5-6)

III. MESSAGE OF THE BOOK OF MALACHI.

- a. Malachi challenged apathy and disloyalty toward God.

IV. SOME TEACHINGS OF THE BOOK OF MALACHI.

a. TRUE PRIEST AND FALSE PRIEST CONTRASTED.

i. False priest.

1. Despise God’s name. (1:6)
2. Offer polluted sacrifices. (1:7-8)
3. Cause others to stumble. (2:8)

ii. True priest.

1. Fears God. (2:5)
2. Speaks truth and righteousness. (2:6a)
3. Walks in peace and uprightness. (2:6b)

b. THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE.

- i. In regards to (a) worship, (b) companions, (c) questioning God, and (d) robbing God.

V. UNIQUE STYLE OF BOOK OF MALACHI.

- a. Makes use of “dialectic” method of teaching where (1) an assertion or statement is made, (2) a question is asked (objection is raised) and then (3) there is “discussion” where the question is answered (the objection is refuted).
- b. See examples in 1:2-5 and 2:17.

VI. PRACTICAL LESSONS OF PERMANENT VALUE.

- a. Insincerity in worship insults God.
- b. Our giving to God is a barometer that measures our spiritual temperature.
- c. Man returns to God only when there is true repentance.
- d. The people suffer when their spiritual leaders fail to study and teach all the truth of God’s word.
- e. One who sins willfully and recklessly cannot please God by elaborate worship.

VII. CONCLUSION.