

SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

THEME: GOD DEMANDS JUSTICE

UNIT III – ADVOCATING GOD’S RIGHTS THE BIBLE WAY

“MALACHI, GOD’S LIGHT BEARER WHO CHALLENGES THE COMPLAINTS OF HIS PEOPLE”



Sunday School Lesson No. XIII, August 30, 2015

Rev. Frank A Davis, III - Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Malachi 2:10 – 3:10

Required Reading: Malachi 2 – 3

Motto Text: Malachi 3:6, “*For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*”

Reliable Resources: Preaching from the Prophets (Kyle Yates); Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament (1993); H. A. Ironside’s Commentary on Ezekiel; John MacArthur Study Bible; Precepts for Living (UMI); The Tim LaHaye Prophecy Bible; The Outline Bible by H. L. Willmington; Children’s Ministry Resource Bible; David Jeremiah Study Bible; Word-Search 10 Electronic Library System; Logos Bible Software; New Pilgrim Bible

Lesson Introduction:

My dearly beloved, we have come to the final lesson of the summer series. These thirteen lessons have focused on the testimonies of God’s prophets to the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel. The lessons began with Amos, bearing the light against Israel’s injustices. We then examined Micah, who bore the light that revealed God’s divine requirements. The prophet Isaiah was heard, who challenged the people to guard against lukewarm worship and offered an unbelievable invitation by Jehovah. We then heard from Jeremiah, who stirred the hearts of the captives-to-be, then gave comforting words while the people fell under their conquerors and exposed God’s compassion in their chastisement. The Lord spoke mightily through our last two prophets, Ezekiel, who bore the light of the Lord through His grace and government, and Zechariah, who encouraged the returning captives to be totally recommitted to Jehovah.

Now this week we visit the final post-exilic prophet to write unto the timeless tenants of Jehovah. His name is Malachi, and I see him as “**God’s Light Bearer who Challenges the Complaints of His People.**” Not a lot is known about Malachi, but his name means, “*My Messenger.*” His ministry to the restored Israelites took place about 400 years before the appearance of Jesus Christ’s first coming. Some believe that his ministry paralleled the times and writings of Nehemiah. (Read Nehemiah 13:10-30). As we’ll notice, Malachi directs his writings to Israel’s Levitical priesthood and then to the remnant of the returned nation of Israel.

There appears to be an argumentative spirit of indifference from the people towards God. Note the use of the word “wherein” which means, “*In what way?*” or “*How?*” (Read Malachi 1:2, 6, 7; 2:17; 3:7, 8, 13). Dr. John MacArthur remarks on Malachi 3:13: “These sinful priests and people had not just questioned God (2:17), violated God’s covenant (2:11), disobeyed His laws (2:9), defiled His altar (1:7, 12) and despised His Name (1:6), but had openly spoken against Him. In spite of what was promised (3:10-12), the people complained that obedience to God’s law brought no rewards (3:14). Only the proud and wicked prospered, they said (3:15).”

Yet, regardless of this form of attitude towards Jehovah, He is more than fair with His people! Let us visit this people who, in spite of Jehovah’s grace, mercy and care, practiced some very ungrateful and disobedient ways.

Finally, before we examine our text this week in Chapter 3, H. L. Willmington declares how Israel scorned the love of Jehovah by their: “Priests who cheated the Lord through their shabby offerings (1:7-8); cheated the people through their shabby example. People who scorned the love of Jehovah through their inequalities (2:10), intermarriages (2:11), immorality (2:14), insincerity (2:17), indebtedness (3:8-10), and incriminations (3:13-15).”

Anticipated Power Points:

- **Malachi Challenges the Willfully Blind Priests. Malachi 2:10 – 3:2a**
- **Malachi Speaks of Cleansing of the Priests and People. Malachi 3:2b-4**
- **Malachi’s Claim of God’s Immutability. Malachi 3:5-10**

OUTLINE

I. Malachi Challenges the Willfully Blind Priests. Malachi 2:10 – 3:2a

Note God's thoughts on marital purity in 2:10-16)

A. Pointless interrogation. vs. 17

Jehovah was wearied with the pointless interrogation by the Israelites. Their questions toward Him had no merit because of God's constant fairness in spite of their incriminating activities. God is faithful! (Read the "Wherein?" questions and note God's faithfulness: Malachi 1:2, 6, 7; 2:17; 3:7, 8, 13). In all of these pointless objects of interrogation, Malachi 3:6 gives an overwhelming answer to them all!

B. Perfect informer. vs. 3:1

Malachi declares that Jehovah will answer all questions through His messengers. First would be the preparer of the way (John the Baptist). (Read Matthew 11:10; Mark 1:2). And the messenger of the covenant is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ! (Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 ((the covenant)); Haggai 2:6-7; John 1:29-30). This speaks of His first and second coming!

C. Personal inventory. vs. 2

The prophet's question speaks volumes. "**Who can stand or abide when the Lord sends His messenger?**" Those who hear this message must take personal inventory as they consider the presence of the Messiah.

II. Malachi Speaks of Cleansing of the Priests and People. Malachi 3:2b-4

A. The presenters must be cleansed. vs. 2b-3

This represents the priests or sons of Levi. As you read in 1:7-8 and 2:7-9, they were not living up to God's standards. Messiah will purge and restore them to useable service. Isaiah 1:25-26

B. The pleasantness of the sacrifices. vs. 4

When God's messenger Jesus Christ shall purify the priesthood (Zech. 3), then will the sacrifice be acceptable and pleasing unto God, as it was in the early years when the hearts of God's people were pure and reverent towards Him! (Read II Chronicles 7:8-10)

III. Malachi's Claim of God's Immutability. Malachi 3:5-10

The purging of all the irreverent. Simply, anything that is irreverent shall be judged and dealt with swiftly by God's messenger. But God remains faithful and unchangeable. Note vs. 6, "**For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.**" Keeping His covenant, yet He will judge those who failed to reverence Him and take light His Word.

In verse 7, Malachi challenges the people to return to the God that had kept them from their earliest existence. But they arrogantly asked one of those silly questions: "**In what way shall we return?**" It is here in verses 8-10 that Jehovah exposes another crime of the returnees. They were labeled guilty of robbing God of His tithes and offerings. Beloved, God was totally correct as He had exposed them earlier! (Read Malachi 1:6-8).

Closing:

Beloved, Jehovah is more than fair toward His people. The prophet Malachi takes great pain to declare the equity and grace exemplified by Jehovah. Thank God for His Messenger Messiah Jesus Christ, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

As we close the message of Malachi, note the final promise in 4:5-6, "**Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.**" Thank God for His fairness in spite of the failures of His people.

Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite, LA

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179-0768

Phone: (504) 486-7876

Email: bible32@bellsouth.net



Website: www.thestudyhour.com

Radio Broadcast: WABL AM (Amite City) and wablradio.com, Saturday, 3:00 p.m.

TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.

Looking Ahead:

September 6, 2015

Acts 4:23-31

The Sunday School Lesson is taught each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway. All are welcome!

Additional Scriptures to Read for Today's Lesson
Malachi 2 – 3

Shabby Example and Offerings

Malachi 1:7-8, “[7] *Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.*

[8] *And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.*”

Inequalities

Malachi 2:10, “*Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?*”

Inter-Marriages

Malachi 2:11, “*Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.*”

Immorality

Malachi 2:14, “*Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.*”

Insincerity

Malachi 2:17, “*Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?*”

Indebtedness

Malachi 3:8-10, “[8] *Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.*

[9] *Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.*

[10] *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*”

Incriminations

Malachi 3:13-15, “[13] *Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?*

[14] *Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?*

[15] *And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.’*

“Isaiah 1:25-26, “[25] *And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:*

[26] *And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.*”