

The Bible - Week 30 (August 1st)

Eric Swanson / General

Malachi

Author: unknown

Date: Likely 440-420 BCE timeframe

Audience: To those who had lost the passion for God

Reason: Rebuking the priests for falling away from God and to warn of the Day of the Lord

Theme: Judgement will come unless they return to the Lord

Key Verse:

Malachi 3:6-7 CEB

I am the LORD, and I do not change;

and you, children of Jacob,

have not perished.

Ever since the time of your ancestors,

you have deviated from my laws

and have not kept them.

Return to me and I will return to you,

says the LORD of heavenly forces.

But you say,

“How should we return?”

Sections: Israel’s Blessings (Chapter 1:1-5), Rebuking (Chapter 1:6-2:16), Coming Day of the Lord (Chapter 2:17-4)

Key Words: Covenant, Priests, Sacrifices, Curse

Basic Intro: When Malachi wrote the people were a hot mess. Geo/politically they were okay enough but the focus was far from Jerusalem and God. The people felt like God left them. The leaders didn’t take things seriously and that trickled down to the people.

Questions for Discussion:

- **Offerings are talked about early on, what ways can we give offerings and how might they be acceptable to God?**
- **The people didn’t feel like God was present so they were not going to be present to God. How are you intentionally present to God? How might you improve?**
- **What promises from God do you feel God has not fulfilled? What roles do you play in that unfulfillment? Do you have to live to see the promise fulfilled for can you trust that Gods will goes further than our lives?**
- **Malachi 3:10 talks about your tithe... God challenges us to trust and see but most of the time we want to see then trust. What might you give your money to in a**

trust and see way that God can do something big with it?