

The Book of Malachi

12

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

Today we study the book of **Malachi**, the twelfth book of "The Minor Prophets" and the last book of the Old Testament.

Because the name Malachi means "my messenger," some scholars have raised the possibility that Malachi was not the name of the author of this book, but rather was a generic title "messenger." Whether the name of the author really was Malachi or not, the book contains a very clear message to the author's generation, and the generations to come.

There are strong points of comparison between **Nehemiah 10:35-39** and **Malachi 3** which indicate that **Malachi** was penned during the governorship of Nehemiah. If this is the case, **Malachi** was written approximately 90 years after the writing of **Haggai** and **Zechariah**, which was a little over 400 years before the birth of Christ. This makes it not just the last book of the Hebrew Canon, but also the last canonical prophecy before the coming of Christ, with several clear prophecies of the coming of the Messiah (**3:1; 4:1-6**).

After first establishing that God is in covenant relationship with Israel (**1:1-5**), Malachi proceeds to identify the covenantal shortcomings of Israel:

- ☞ **1:6-14** – The priests offer blemished sacrifices
- ☞ **2:1-9** – The priests do not teach the covenant to the people
- ☞ **2:10-16** – The people have broken faith with God
- ☞ **2:17-3:5** – The people have insulted God by denying his justice
- ☞ **3:6-12** – The people have insulted God by robbing him of tithes
- ☞ **3:13-18** – The people have insulted God by claiming it is futile to live according to his covenant

Malachi then provides a prophetic glimpse of the coming of the Messiah in **4:1-6**. With this in mind, let's now read this prophetic book in one sitting.

Memory Verse

All that the Father gives me will come
to me, and whoever comes to me
I will never drive away.

John 6:37

Your Fishing Kit

This is the twenty-fourth verse in your fishing kit. In the last verse, we see the security a believer has in Christ because there is no outside force that can “snatch” a person out of Christ’s hand. In this verse, we see the security a believer has in Christ because Christ himself will never “drive away” (NIV) or “cast out” (KJV) any person who comes to him.

Here are the other verses in your “fishing kit”:

John 3:16	Isaiah 55:6-7	John 1:12	2 Corinthians 5:17
John 3:18	Romans 5:8	John 3:3	2 Corinthians 5:21
John 3:36	1 John 4:10	John 5:24	Matthew 10:32-33
Ephesians 1:7-8	Acts 2:38	John 6:37	Romans 2:4-5
Romans 3:23	Acts 3:19	John 8:32	Acts 17:30
Romans 6:23	Acts 4:12	John 8:36	1 John 5:10
Isaiah 53:5	John 14:6	John 10:10	1 John 5:11-12
Isaiah 53:6	1 John 1:8	John 10:28	John 14:1-3
Isaiah 59:1-2	1 John 1:9	Romans 10:9	John 16:33
Isaiah 64:6	1 John 1:10	Romans 10:13	Revelation 3:20

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an “on the tip of your tongue” familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.