

Malachi 3

Malachi 3.1-6

V1 – What did Malachi prophecy about? A messenger would come

-When would he come? Before the Messiah would arrive

-Why would Malachi be talking about the coming of the Messiah? Because this is the last book of the Old Testament

-The Old Testament was drawing to a close

-The Holy Spirit would not speak again for 450 years

Read Mark 1.1-4 – the fulfillment of *Malachi 3.1*

V2 – A reference to the first coming of Jesus, but also a reference to his second coming

-What would his coming be like? Would “refine” the fuller’s soap (bleach)

-What does bleach do to clothing? Takes color out/makes it white

V3 – What else would the Messiah do? Purify the sons of Levi

-What is the implication here for Malachi’s day? The Levites were corrupt

V4 – What would happen then? The offerings of God’s people would be pleasing to him

V5 – What sins are condemned in v 5? Sorcery, adultery, swearing falsely, oppressing the wage earner, the widow, the orphan, and the alien, and not fearing the Lord

-Malachi was as concerned about practical, everyday sins, as he was about the incorrect worship of God

V6 – In what sense does God not change? He honors His promises and covenants

-Remember: He said that He would not destroy the Israelites again after the Babylonian captivity

Malachi 3.7

V7 – What did the people need to do? Return (repent)

-Their question? **#5: How shall we return?**

Malachi 3.8-12

V8 – Malachi can hardly believe what is going on – they were robbing God and didn't even realize it

-Their question? **#6: How have we robbed God?**

-How **had** they robbed God? By not giving 10%

-What is our giving supposed to be today? Read 1Corinthians 16.1-2 – Read Matthew 5.20 – Read 2 Corinthians 8.1-5

V9 – What was the reason they were doing so poorly in Israel? They had not contributed what they should have given

-Malachi: “You say that you are poor and so you can’t give, but the truth is that you haven’t given

properly, and that is the reason that you are poor!”

V 10-11 –What did Malachi tell the people to do? Give the whole 10%

-What would happen? God would open the windows of heaven – **Read Luke 6.38**

Notice: God can control these pests of the crops

V 12– What would the result be? Other nations would see that Israel was being blessed by God

Malachi 3.13-15

V 13 –What was Malachi’s next charge against the people? Arrogance

-Their question? **#7: What have we spoken against you?**

V 14– What was their attitude about serving God? “It won’t help us; it won’t do any good?”

-What a modern attitude!

V 15– What were the arrogant people called? Blessed

Malachi 3.16-18

V 16 –What did the faithful people do? Talked to each other about the situation

-The bad people had talked about it; now the good people also responded to the words of Malachi

-What did God think about these good people? He recorded their names in the Book of Life
Read Revelation 20.12

V 17– In the Day of Judgment, what would God’s attitude be toward these people? To spare them as a man spares his son

V 18– Result? They would see a distinction: the good and the bad

Revised 2012-09-15