

Monday
God's Final Words before Jesus Came

Malachi was the last prophet to speak before God's 400 years of silence. His silence was eventually broken with the coming of John the Baptist. Malachi used a question and answer format as he spoke to the people. His very pointed message has plenty to teach us today.

1. Read Malachi 1 – What is the first statement that God made in verse 2?
2. What is the question the people asked in response to God's statement?
3. Esau and his descendants, the Edomites, became Israel's enemy. How did God demonstrate his love for Israel in verses 3-4?
4. According to verse 5, what will the people of Israel see with their own eyes?
5. According to verse 6, what two people receive honor?
6. What two questions did God ask after His first statement in verse 6?
7. God was making a simple point: If Israel honored, feared, and respected earthly fathers and masters, Israel should honor, fear, and respect their Heavenly Father. In what ways do you honor and respect earthly people more than God?
8. What are some ways you can properly honor God?

God deserves all the honor, fear, and respect we can give Him.

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God concluded that the people of Israel, specifically the priests, should honor Him since they gave earthly authorities respect. Malachi continued to address the priests and really all of us in the process.

1. Read Malachi 1 – In verse 6 God addressed an issue with the priests. He said that they despised Him. He went on to tell them how they demonstrate their attitude. What was the first thing He mentioned in verse 7?
2. How did the people make the bread that they offered polluted?
3. The Israelites were to sacrifice animals that had no blemish. What kind of animals were they sacrificing?
4. God was obviously not pleased with inferior sacrifices. How do you think He feels about half-hearted sacrifices today?
5. What were the people instructed to do in verse 9?
6. Because Israel did not worship God the way they were supposed to worship Him, He extended His love to others. According to verse 11, who else would be praising God's name?
7. According to verse 12, what did Israel do to the Lord's name?
8. How did they do that?
9. According to verse 13, how did the people view God's requirements for sacrifices?

God says that His commands aren't grievous. It is never a burden to obey Him. Obey Him and watch Him bless!

Wednesday
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God's displeasure with the priests of Israel was unmistakable. They took their responsibilities lightly and despised every minute of their work. In the beginning of Chapter 2, God pronounced His judgments against those irresponsible priests.

1. Read Malachi 2 – God gave a commandment specifically for the priests. According to verses 2-3, what would God do if the priests didn't if they didn't obey and begin giving God glory?
2. According to verse 4, after the judgment is done, what will the priests know?
3. According to verse 5, how did God describe His covenant with the Levites?
4. According to verses 5-6, why did God make His covenant with Levi?
5. According to verse 7, what two things should the priests do?
6. Why should they do that?
7. According to verse 8, what have they done instead?
8. According to verse 9, what has God allowed to happen to the priests?
9. God didn't want there to be any confusion. Why did He allow those things to happen?

New Testament Believers are described as priests. Our job is also to be a messenger for God. Be a good representative today!

Thursday
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At the beginning of Chapter 2, God addressed the priests specifically. Now in the second half of the chapter, He addressed the whole nation in general. Though these statements were made to a certain group, there are still principles that can teach us about God and our responsibility to Him.

1. Read Malachi 2 – Malachi asked three questions in verse 10. What point was he making by asking those three questions?
2. According to verse 11, Israel had committed an abomination to God. What two things did they do?
3. According to verse 12, what will God do to those who do this?
4. Malachi said in verse 13 that this was a continual action. Even though they cried and wept before God, what did He not do because of their blatant, continual sin?
5. The people asked the reason for all of this in verse 14. The men of Israel were not treating their wives properly. Of what two things did Malachi remind them at the end of that verse?
6. Because we all have one Creator, we have all been made one. Since we are all one and have one Creator, according to verse 15, how should a man treat his wife?
7. According to verse 16, what does God hate?
8. Malachi and God both said the same thing: "take heed to your spirit." What affect does divorce have on a person?

God hates divorce. When you marry, you make a covenant with your wife before God. Keep your promises!

Friday
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The last time God spoke through someone in the Old Testament was through Malachi. After him God was silent for 400 years. Though Israel was very wicked, God would make reconciliation possible. God always wants to be in a right relationship with His people!

1. Read Malachi 3 – The Lord will send a messenger before Himself. What will the messenger do?
2. Read Matthew 11:2-10 – Who is the messenger prophesied in Malachi 3:1?
3. Someone else's arrival was prophesied in Malachi 3:1. Who was that?
4. To what two things did Malachi compare Jesus in verse 2?
5. According to verse 3, what will He do with the Levites?
6. What is His goal in purifying them?
7. According to verse 4, what will be the result of the Levites' purification?
8. God promised swift judgment against six groups of people in verse 5. What are they?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.

God is not interested in having His people full of sin. He will do what it takes to purify them. Make things easy and stay pure!

Saturday
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God addressed the issue of improper treatment of wives and divorce in Chapter 2. After He said that He would purify them. Then, He turned His attention back to other sins that needed to be addressed.

1. Read Malachi 3 – Verse 6 is an extremely important verse. God made several promises to Abraham, and He intended to keep them. God does not change; He will keep His word. Though they will face judgment, what can Israel be assured will not happen?
2. What did God ask the people to do in verse 7 though they didn't think they did anything wrong?
3. Of what did God accuse the people in verse 8?
4. How had the people robbed God?
5. God told the people to "prove" Him or test Him. He told the people to tithe properly. What did God say He would do when the people tithed properly?
6. What other blessings would come in verses 11-12?
7. In verse 13 God accused the people of speaking against Him. What were the people saying against God in verses 14-15?
8. Though so many people were unfaithful to God, some remained faithful. According to verses 16-17, what was God going to do for them?

When you are obedient and faithful to God, He will take notice. Even though it seems like everyone else around isn't, stay faithful and obedient to Him, and He will reward you at the right time.

Sunday
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Chapter 3 opened with the prophecy of the coming of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. Chapter 4 talks about the Second Coming of Jesus and what will happen at that time. Some people will be happy to see Him, and others won't!

1. Read Malachi 4 – What will the day be like when Jesus comes again?
2. Who will be burned up on that day?
3. Nothing and no one will be left for the unsaved. According to verse 2, who will not be burned up on that day?
4. What will Christ bring with Him that will result in their growth and prosperity?
5. According to verse 3, what will the righteous do to the unrighteous?
6. What did God tell the people to remember in verse 4?
7. There is an implied application to this statement. God wanted His people not just to remember the law, but also to do it. Why do you think He made that statement when He did?
8. According to verse 5, whom would God send before Christ came back?
9. What would he do?
10. What was God trying to prevent?

God is longsuffering, very longsuffering. He is giving people as much opportunity as possible to turn to Him and live a life that pleases Him. Don't waste your life living for yourself!