



Malachi: An Eye-Opening Overview

The Answer to Apathy Bible Study

St. John Lutheran Church

We often hear people express disappointment with what God is doing in their lives. Why have we become so comfortable expressing such sentiments?

What happens when there is a gap between what we think and what God thinks?

Why do we so easily serve God in a half-hearted way, neither passionately loyal nor unashamedly disobedient?

What does apathy mean?

Where do we find Malachi in our Bibles?

What other books of the Bible closely reflect Malachi's time?

What was the condition of the temple in Malachi's time?

When do we hear from Malachi in our lectionary?

The Author: The Prophet Malachi

The Date: 430 BC

Theme: Proper Worship

Literary Style: Satire, Prophecy, Prose

Six Disputations:

1:1 Heading

A. 1:2-5: Worthless Offerings and Hypocritical Formalism

B. 1:6-2:9: A Rebuke of the Priests

C. 2:10-16: Marriage to the Idolatrous

C'. 2:17-3:5: Justice through The Lord's Messenger

B'. 3:6-12: A Call for Repentance

A'. 3:13-4:3: The Lord Delivers Those Who Fear Him

4:4-6 Conclusion

Malachi 1:1

What does Malachi's name mean?

Malachi 1:11

What unique title does Malachi use for God?

1 Samuel 1:3 Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the LORD.

Malachi 2:17

What is satire?

Satire is trenchant wit, irony, or sarcasm used to expose and discredit vice or folly.

What kind of satire is used in this context?

Malachi 4:17-18

With what promise does Malachi leave his readers in the end?

How does the Hebrew Old Testament end?

2 Chronicles 36:22-23 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him. Let him go up.'"

What is the pathway away from apathy?

Psalms 70:4 May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"