

**Malachi**  
(means “my messenger”)

### Summary

Malachi forms a bridge between the Old and New Testament. Malachi, Haggai, and Zechariah were post exilic prophets to Judah (the southern kingdom). Haggai and Zechariah rebuked the people for their failure to rebuild the temple. Malachi confronted them with their neglect of the temple and their false and profane worship. Since God is the one speaking in the majority of the verses, it's clear the book's emphasis is on the message rather than the messenger.

Malachi is a call to all of us that while God is a loving Father, he is not to be taken lightly.

#### Author and Date:

Malachi. 450 BC or 420 BC.

#### Audience/ Setting:

The audience was the Israelites and people of Jerusalem. This took place in Judah after the exile in Babylon. The people were divorcing without cause because they didn't take God's covenant of marriage seriously and they were robbing him of the tithes due to him. As a result, things were falling apart. Yet through it all, the people acted as though they did nothing wrong.

#### Purpose:

Call people to worship God purely. He also promised that a future messenger would bring pure worship to God and His kingdom. To confront the people with their sins and to help restore their relationship with God. Malachi is the in-your-face prophet who has one simple message: take God seriously. The priests of his day were playing religious games, going through religious motions, and leading God's people to worship casually. Malachi was called to confront God's people with who he really is. When you understand who God is and how much he loves his people, you don't treat him carelessly. God was insulted by the sloppy worship of Malachi's time: people were bringing him animals for sacrifice that they wouldn't serve to their human leaders. They did not esteem God as the great king he is.

#### Key People:

Malachi, the priests

#### Key Places:

Jerusalem, the temple

### References

NLT Life Application Study Bible  
Tony Evans Study Bible