

## **Life-Study of Malachi – Messages 1-4**

### **Introduction**

- **Subject:** Jehovah's dealing with the **sons of Levi** (the priests among Israel) and with the **sons of Jacob** (the people of Israel).
- **Central Thought:** The correcting of the priests among Israel for the coming of Christ as the **Messenger of God** and the advising of the people of Israel for the appearing of Christ as the **Sun of righteousness**.

### **Jehovah's Dealing with the Sons of Levi (the Priests)**

- The **degradation** of the priests was seen first in their **despising Jehovah's name and His table**.
  - The priests presented to Jehovah **blemished offerings**, offerings that were blind, lame, or sick.
  - The priests **broke Jehovah's commandment** and they **corrupted Jehovah's covenant**.
  - The priests who lived in Judah and served in Jerusalem was **treacherous among the brothers** and were **profane toward Jehovah**.
  - Jehovah's dealing with the sons of Levi is to **refine and purify the priests** by His coming as the **Messenger of Jehovah**.
    - In His first coming, Christ came as a Messenger and even as the message sent by God to adjust, refine, and purify the priests.
  - Christ will come suddenly as the **Angel of the covenant**, whom the people of Israel seek and whom the people of Israel desire.
    - Christ's coming suddenly as the Angel of the covenant will be to execute upon Israel the **covenant** that He enacted through His death.
    - Christ will come also to **refine and purify** the sons of Levi, mainly the priests, like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap that they may offer to God the proper sacrifice.

### **Christ in His Two Comings as Revealed in Malachi**

- The book of Malachi reveals Christ in His first coming and in His second coming.
- In His first coming He is the **Messenger of God**.

- As the Messenger of God, Christ not only brings a word or a message from God to God's people; **He Himself is the living message.**
- In His second coming, Christ will be the **Angel of the covenant**, the **Desire of nations**, and the **Sun of righteousness**.
  - Based upon this **new covenant** enacted by Christ in His first coming, we are forgiven by God, who even forgets our failures.
  - God is able to **dispense Himself** into our intrinsic being to be our **life**, to be the **law of life**, and to be **everything** to us as our inward content that we may **live Him**.
  - In our daily living, we need to remember our status as sons of God possessing the life and nature of God.
- Christ is the One whom we desire. **Day by day** we desire Him to be our love, our humility, our meekness, and our joy.
- As the **Sun of righteousness**, Christ will come with **healing** in His wings. His healing causes us to have **joy** so that we forget our anger and anxiety.
- The **center** of the book of Malachi is the **healing Christ**. The whole earth is filled with death and injustice, but with the healing Christ we have life and justice.

### **Jehovah's Dealing with the Sons of Jacob**

#### **Jehovah's Judgment by His drawing Near**

- Every time the Lord appears to us, He rebukes us. **His rebuking is His judgment.**
- Jehovah instructed the sons of Jacob to **return to Him** so that He would **return to them** that they might be blessed by Him.
- Jehovah charged the sons of Jacob **not to rob God in tithes and offerings** that the curse would not be brought in to them. To rob God is to not give Him what He is due.
- **God is hungry and needs food.** God's food, the divine food, is the offerings, especially the burnt offering, the meal offering, and the peace offering.
- Those who feared Jehovah spoke to one another, each to his neighbor, and Jehovah **gave heed and listened**.
  - We today consider, love, regard, respect, and sanctify God's name, and He keeps a record of this.
- In His word of encouragement to those who fear and serve Him, Jehovah said that they will return and discern between him who is righteous and him who is wicked, between him who serves God and him who does not serve Him.

## **The Revival Revealed in the Minor Prophets**

### **The Aspiration of God's Elect**

- **Hab. 3:2** – O Jehovah, I have heard the report concerning You [and] am afraid./O **Jehovah, revive Your work**/In the midst of the years;/In the midst of the years make [it] known;/In wrath remember compassion.
- Among God's elect there has always been an aspiration to be **revived**.
- In the eyes of God, one person among His elect represents the whole. Thus, when Habakkuk prayed for revival, we also prayed.
- We are living for the **spreading of the Lord Jesus**, not merely to our neighborhood but to the entire world.
  - This is why the Lord has led us to practice the **morning revival**.
- On the one hand, Habakkuk prayed for revival; on the other hand, Hosea spoke of the desolation of the “two days” and the resurrection on the “third day.”
  - In our Christian life at a certain time we became **desolate**.
  - Praise the Lord today we may **receive the pneumatic Christ** in resurrection and thus enjoy the **reality of His resurrection**.
- **Every day** we need the **outpouring** of the all-inclusive, consummated, compound, life-giving Spirit as the processed and consummated Triune God.
- In the Minor Prophets there are both the divine Spirit, the **consummated Spirit of God**, and the human spirit, the **stirred-up spirit of God's elect**.
  - The divine Spirit has been poured out, and our human spirit responds to such a Spirit by being stirred up.
- The Minor Prophets also reveal that God's **Christ is our enjoyment**.
  - We may enjoy Christ as the **Desire of God's elect**.
  - We may enjoy Christ also as the **Angel of the covenant**. In the new covenant, God is imparted into us as life and as our life supply, and we have the forgiveness of sins.
  - Finally we may enjoy Christ as the **Sun of righteousness** with healing in His wings. Christ is our enjoyment for growing in life, in the dispelling of the darkness and for healing in life.
- When we have such a Christ, we not only have revival—we have restoration.

(Life-Study of Malachi messages 1-4)