

## OWNit365 Bible Reading Tips

To assist you in making the most of your Bible reading, we offer the following:

- Background and overview information about the book
- Thoughts and questions for your personal reflection and observation
- Questions that you can use in a small group setting
- Something to look for in each chapter

## Malachi

### Author

Malachi was the last prophet of the Old Testament. He was a contemporary with Nehemiah. Malachi means “my messenger.”

### Book Background

The time is approximately 450-400BC. Ezra had helped to reestablish the people, 457BC. Nehemiah led the rebuilding of the walls, 444BC. Following a period of revival ([Neh 10:28-39](#)), the people had become morally lax and indifferent to God. When Nehemiah left, the people fell apart spiritually.

- Israel was neglecting the temple and worship.
- Priests were lax and giving inferior sacrifices.
- People were neglecting tithes.
- Israel was sinful and lukewarm.

### Book Outline

<p><a href="#">Mal 1-2</a> present sin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jehovah appeals to the priests.</li> <li>• Malachi appeals to the people.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Mal 3-4</a> coming Day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Day will judge the guilty, therefore return to God.</li> <li>• The Day will bless the godly, therefore take heed.</li> </ul>

### Key Verse

*Malachi 1:2 “I have loved you,” says the Lord. “Yet you say, ‘In what way have You loved us?’ Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” Says the Lord. “Yet Jacob I have loved; (NKJV)*

## God's Charges Against Israel

<i>God's Charge</i>	<i>Israel's Response</i>
You doubt my love.	How?
You dishonor my name.	We deny it.
Your worship is deficient.	We think it's fine.
You give me lip service.	You should be pleased with us.
You keep turning away from me.	We don't know how to turn back.
You rob me.	How?
You speak against what I've done.	Worshipping you is a waste of time.

The **curse** came because Israel would not repent. When they refused to repent, God gave them the silent treatment for 400 years. After Malachi, there were no prophets until John the Baptist ([Mal 4:5-6](#)).

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## Personal Reflection and Application

Do you ever doubt God's love ([Mal 1:1-5](#))? Why do you think that happens? Do you focus on your immediate creature comforts more than what God has promised you for eternity ([Rom 8:38-39](#))?

Are you ready for the rising of the Sun of Righteousness ([Mal 4:1-2](#))? Will it be burning or blessing for you?

- Burning for those who have rejected Him
- Blessing for those who have trusted Him

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## Small Group Conversation Guide

In what ways might we be deficient in worshipping God ([Mal 2:10-16](#))?

God desires fellowship with us. He wants the best from us and for us. "I have loved you," says the Lord. For each of the following verses, discuss our responsibility to maintain our relationship with God.

[Luke 10:27](#)

[John 14:15](#)

[John 15:12](#)

How can robbing God be robbing ourselves ([Mal 3:9-11](#), [Lev 26:3-5](#))?

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## Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to look for in each chapter.

What to Look for:

01. How Israel's worship was dishonoring God	02. How priests were to keep and teach God's word
03. What God promised to do if the people gave financially	04. What Malachi said about the coming "day of the Lord"