

# MALACHI

## AN OVERVIEW

### **Purpose**

To confront the people with their sins and to restore their relationship with Yahweh, their God.

### **Author**

Malachi.

### **Date**

Written c.430 BC.

### **Audience**

The Jews in Jerusalem and God's people everywhere.

### **Setting**

Malachi's ministry took place nearly a hundred years after the decree of Cyrus in 538 BC, to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the Temple. The Jews had become disillusioned and complacent.

### **Special Features**

The dominant genre is satire—an attack on vice in a discernible literary form. The object of attack is their halfhearted and negligent religious service. The primary vehicle is a rhetoric of question and answer, as the people of Judah are pictured as asking a series of questions that God answers in an accusatory and condemning way.



### **Key Verses**

"I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight ... is coming, says the LORD of hosts." (3:1 ESV)

Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. "They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him." (3:16-17 NIV84)

### **Key People**

Malachi, the priests.

### **Key Places**

Jerusalem, the Temple.