

# INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF MALACHI

## IT IS NOT ABOUT THE MONEY

THEME OF MALACHI: FORGETTING THE LOVE OF GOD

Goal: Inspiration -vs- Information

1. A dispute over the love of God (1:1-5)
1. A dispute over God's honor with the priests (1:6-2:9)

THE OUTWARD OBSERVANCE OF RITUAL ACTS WITH NO INWARD REPENTANCE IS NOT WORSHIP AT ALL!

SKEPTICISM WILL SAP ALL MORALITY FROM A PEOPLE AND CAUSE THEM TO FORGET AND TURN FROM THE TRUE GOD!

Malachi—means “My Messenger” or “Messenger of Jehovah”

A. God sent the prophet to arouse the people from their spiritual slumber and to exhort them to return to Him!

When persons forget the LOVE of God, it adversely affects their ATTITUDES, HOME, and WORSHIP.

When persons are unsure of God's LOVE, that which was sacred no longer remains sacred—sacraments, interaction with others, interactions with God.

Haggai and Malachi focus on worship centered on the rebuilt temple.

A. Haggai exhorted the people to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem.

B. Malachi's concern was how the people and the priests should act in the Temple. His emphasis was on the attitude of those who worshipped in the Temple.

C. In Leviticus, we read about how to worship God; In Malachi, the focus is on the hearts of those who worship God.

#### CLOSING OBSERVATIONS:

1. Indifference of Priests to the rules of Worship (vs 1:6-14)

1. People's apathy about their offerings to God (vs 3:6-12)

1. People's suspicion of God's motives (vs 1:2)

A. Rebellious children challenge God's love for them (not sure - doubt)

Some things you must know—GOD IS LOVE AND GOD IS FAITHFUL!!!