

**ALL
MY
HEART**

THE BOOK OF MALACHI

T4 BIBLE STUDY BOOK

Study #	Passage	Page #
	Introduction	3
	Bible Reading Plan	5
Study 1	Loved: Malachi 1:1-5	6
Study 2	Pleasing: Malachi 1:6-14	9
Study 3	Devoted: Malachi 2:1-9	12
Study 4	Faithful: Malachi 2:10-16	15
Study 5	Just: Malachi 2:17-3:7	18
Study 6	Generous: Malachi 3:8-15	21
Study 7	Righteous: Malachi 3:16-4:6	24

If you want to ask the staff any questions, after each study there will be a QR code.
Follow the Q&A link to write your questions!

All My Heart

The Book of Malachi

Who wrote Malachi?

The author of this book is aptly named in verse 1; Malachi. Malachi (my messenger) lives up to his name, he is the one through whom the word of the Lord comes to Israel. God has a message (a prophecy) for his people, and so speaks through his messenger to do so.

Some argue that 'Malachi' isn't the name of the prophet, but instead is his title. However, where other prophets are introduced in similar fashion, this isn't the case (Haggai 1:1; 2:1, 10; Jeremiah 50:1). Outside these situations, the other uses of this word that refer to 'my angel' or 'my messenger' contextually make sense of those translations (Exodus 23:23; 32:34; Isaiah 42:19; Malachi 3:1 – we will explore this use within Malachi in study 5).

For this series, let's refer to the writer and prophet of this book as 'Malachi'.

When was Malachi written?

In Malachi, we find ourselves after both exiles; first, the Exile of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) by Assyria around 722BC, and second, the Exile of the Southern Kingdom (Judah) by Babylon around 587 BC. By around 539 BC, the first group of Judah's exiles return to Judah and Jerusalem under the edict of the Persian King Cyrus, as we see in the books of Haggai and Zechariah. Yet, it's not until after the temple is built in 515 BC that Malachi is written (c.f. 1:10). By then, God's people have settled in the land, have rebuilt the temple, and are working out how to live as God's people under Persian kings (who ruled from around 539 BC–335 BC). Malachi speaks to this period of history, yet lacks any more specifics of when it was written.

Who is Malachi to?

The audience of Malachi is named in verse 1; to Israel. Yet, to what Israel is Malachi writing? Isn't it the people of Judah who return to the land, not Israel?

Within the arc of Salvation history, after the Northern Kingdom (Israel) forsakes God for generation after generation, which results in the fall of Israel in 722 BC, it is the line of Judah that inherits and continues on God's promises (i.e. Judah is the true 'Israel'). So, as the people of Judah return to the land and to Jerusalem, calling the people Israel reminds them that they truly are the 'Israel' that God has made his promises to. Also, in the context of chapter 1:2–5 about Jacob (later named *Israel*) and Esau, calling the people 'Israel' reminds and assures them that they are the recipients of God's promises and love.

Why was Malachi written?

The book of Malachi is a prophecy; an oracle; a message from God to his people through the prophet Malachi. In it, Malachi speaks to a people who hear God's word, yet question, doubt, and reject it. We see this across the book through seven declarations by God and seven contradicting questions by the people back to him (see the table below). In each interaction, we hear God's judgment on the people's hearts and actions. There is a clear distance between reality and what Israel perceives as reality.

God's Declaration:	The People's Contradicting Question:
1:2a - "I have loved you," says the Lord.	1:2b - But you ask, 'How have you loved us?'
1:6a - It is you priests who show contempt for my name."	1:6b - But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?'
1:7a - "By offering defiled food on my altar."	1:7b - But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?'
2:17a, c - You have wearied the Lord with your words... By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and he is pleased with them" or "Where is the God of justice?"	2:17b - "How have we wearied him?' you ask.
3:7a - "Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty.	3:7b - But you ask, 'How are we to return?'
3:8a - "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me."	3:8b - But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'
3:13a - "You have spoken arrogantly against me," says the Lord.	3:13b - Yet you ask, 'What have we said against you?'

However, it's not as if God's people are whole-heartedly rejecting God and turning to other gods in idolatry. For example, they still offer sacrifices to him, yet they are defiled offerings. The priests still teach, yet not God's word. They bring their tithes, yet not all of it. And they serve him, albeit half-heartedly. Instead, it seems as if the people's love for God has grown cold. They are going through the motions, half-heartedly living for God, and failing to truly please him and bring him glory.


It's in this place that Malachi declares to the people their need to come back to God, recognising God's great love for them and responding by truly living in a way that is pleasing, faithful, just, servant-hearted, righteous and devoted to His word. Israel needs God's reproof so that they might be shaken out of their half-hearted service, avoiding God's judgment, and serving him with all their heart.

I want to read more on Malachi. Where should I go?

'The Message of Malachi' by Peter Adam from 'The Bible Speaks Today' commentary series has been a great aid to me in writing this series. It's a very accessible commentary that gets into the practical application of Malachi. I'd highly recommend it if you want a reading companion throughout this series.

Term 4 Bible Reading Plan

Want to read something that complements our series in Malachi, and the lead up to Christmas? Here's a bible reading plan for you!

October 16th-22nd		October 23rd-29th		Oct 30th-Nov 5th	
	John 1:1-18		John 3:22-36		John 5:31-47
	John 1:19-34		John 4:1-26		John 6:1-24
	John 1:35-50		John 4:27-54		John 6:25-52
	John 2:1-25		John 5:1-15		John 6:53-71
	John 3:1-21		John 5:16-30		John 7:1-24
November 6th-12th		November 13th-19th		November 20th-26th	
	John 7:25-52		John 10:1-21		John 12:20-47
	John 7:53-8:30		John 10:22-40		John 13:1-17
	John 8:31-59		John 11:1-27		John 13:18-38
	John 9:1-25		John 11:28-57		John 14:1-14
	John 9:26-41		John 12:1-19		John 14:15-31
Nov 27th-Dec 3rd		December 4th-10th		December 11th-17th	
	John 15:1-27		John 18:19-40		Genesis 3:1-19
	John 16:1-15		John 19:1-22		Genesis 22:1-18
	John 16:16-33		John 19:23-41		Isaiah 9:2-7
	John 17:1-26		John 20:1-30		Isaiah 11:1-9
	John 18:1-18		John 21:1-25		Luke 1:26-45
December 18th-24th		December 25th-31st			
	Luke 1:46-56		Psalm 1		
	Luke 2:1-16		Psalm 2		
	Matthew 1:18-25		Psalm 3		
	Matthew 2:1-12		Psalm 4		
	John 1:1-14		Psalm 5		

Study One: Malachi 1:1–5

All My Heart: Loved

As we come to the book of Malachi, it's worth doing two things first. First, have a read of the introduction above to situate yourself in the book of Malachi. Second, have a read through the entire book beginning to end to get a feel of its overall tone and message.

As you read it, keep these two questions in the back of your mind:

- 1) How would you describe the people's relationship with God?
- 2) What themes/characters/big ideas stick out to you?

Talk

- 3) What is a moment you felt immensely loved by someone else? What did they do/say that made you feel loved?

Hear: Malachi 1:1–5

- 4) In verse 2 we see our first contradicting question by God's people. Why might God's people be feeling this way?
- 5) God responds by saying "I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated". What do you know of the story of Jacob and Esau? (c.f. Genesis 25–36)
- 6) Read Romans 9:10–13. What do we learn about God's election and love in the case of Jacob and Esau? How does it help us understand Malachi 1:1–3?

7) Despite what Israel might be thinking, how has God loved them?

8) God's condemnation against Edom (the line of Esau) in verses 4-5 seems harsh. Why might this judgement against them be just instead? What do we know of Edom throughout the rest of the Old Testament?

Live

9) What moments in your life are you tempted to doubt God's love for you?

10) What Scripture or truth might you hold fast to in moments when you doubt God's love?

Pray

- Give thanks that God has called us His own, choosing us in Jesus before the foundation of the world to be His people.
- That we might always hold fast to God, remembering His immense love for us, especially in the moments where we are tempted to doubt His love.

- Global Mission Partner: Give thanks for Rachel and Michael Burgess, with little Harry, as Rachel serves with AFES at the Australian Catholic University in North Sydney. This year Rachel is on maternity leave.
- Pray for Russell Denten as he seeks to help us worship faithfully during our weekend and midweek gatherings.
- Pray for our Church Wardens: Helen Webster, Phil Moss and Tim Clipsham. Pray for our Parish Councillors: Brendan Carpenter, Amanda Garlato, Wes Hill, Eli Lindeback, Alex Kiefer, Kathleen Price and Simon Veltmeyer (also our treasurer). Pray for our Parish Nominators: Timothy Clipsham, Michael Easton, Amanda Garlato, Elise Hankin and Vicky Sawatt. Pray for our Synod Reps: Michael Easton and Amanda Garlato, with Brett Middleton.
- Pray for those in particular need, that God would strengthen, sustain and provide exactly what they need. Pray for perseverance and peace amidst trial and suffering, that is only found in God.

Got Questions?

Ask them here and we'll follow them up during this series.



Study Two: Malachi 1:6–14

All My Heart: Pleasing

Talk

- 1) When was a moment you received a gift and were chuffed about it? Conversely, when was a moment you received a gift and were utterly disappointed?

Hear: Malachi 1:6–14

- 2) In verses 6–7 we see our second and third contradicting questions by God's people. What is at the heart of God's issue with the people?
- 3) What makes these sacrifices defiled? Where in the bible might you go to back up this claim?
- 4) What is the connection between the priests saying that the Lord's table 'is contemptible' ('may be despised') and offering defiled food on the altar? What was the purpose of making sacrifices to God?
- 5) How does Malachi illustrate this point in verses 8b–9? What historical context helps us to understand this better?

- 6) What does God say about their sacrifices in verse 10? Where else in the bible do we see 'useless fires' made on the altar? (c.f. Leviticus 10:1-3)

- 7) Re-read verses 13b-14. The scope of God's accusation widens here to include the people as well as the priests. What seems to be the cycle that God's people are in as they bring sacrifices?

- 8) What is the result of these blemished sacrifices? What is the result of right sacrifices? (Verse 14)

- 9) We don't make animal sacrifices anymore, because of the once for all sacrifice of Jesus (praise God!). Yet, how ought our lives to be lived as a sacrifice to God? (c.f. Romans 12:1-2)

Live

- 10) Are there parts of your life where you don't give God your best, where God might look and say 'I am not pleased with you'? How might you instead give God all your heart as you live for Him?

- 11) What opportunities do you have to bear witness to the outsider in the way that you live? Who might you bear witness to, both in action and in word, that they might give glory to God?

Pray

- Give thanks that by the once and only sacrifice of Jesus we are forgiven.
- Pray that we would live as a living sacrifice to God, in thanks for all He has done, and in living out who He has made us to be; a holy people.
- Pray that God might use us, giving us boldness in both word and action, that many people might come to trust in Jesus and glorify God.

- Global Mission Partner: Give thanks for Brendon and Amy Garlett, and their family, as they serve at the Shoalhaven Aboriginal Community Church (ShACC) in Nowra.
- Global Mission Partner: Give thanks for John Francis Wallace as he serves as the pastor of a local church in Indore, India.
- Pray for Sam and Jess Morton, with Percy, Lois, Finn and Cleo. Pray for Sam as he heads up Youth Ministry and high school Scripture.
- We pray for Ministry Trainee Matt Peck, working alongside Sam.
- Pray for God's sustaining hand over those who are sick and recovering. Pray for those who care for them, both in their homes and by medical professionals. Pray for patience and perseverance for them, and us, as we groan and grow weary, waiting eagerly for the redemption of our bodies. Give thanks that there is hope, even in the frustration and suffering of our lives, because of Jesus.

Got Questions?

Ask them here and we'll follow them up during this series.



Study Three: Malachi 2:1–9

All My Heart: Devoted

Talk

- 1) How good a listener are you? When was the last time you got in trouble by not listening to someone?

Hear: Malachi 2:1–9

- 2) In last week's passage, it is honour and respect that the priests (and the people) fail to give to God in relation to their sacrifices. What is it the priests have done in this part of Malachi?
- 3) If the priests fail to listen, God will bring (and has already begun bringing) judgement upon them; curses instead of blessings. Where else in the Old Testament do we see this dichotomy between blessing and curse?
- 4) Just like Leviticus and Deuteronomy, what is the purpose of God stating these blessings and curses? How is this the same in Malachi? (c.f. Malachi 2:4)
- 5) In verses 4–7, Malachi points the priests to God's covenant with Levi. In contrast to the priests of Malachi's day, what did Levi do?

- 6) What is the result of Levi being devoted to God? (vs 5-6) What is the result of the priest's lack of devotion? (vs8-9)
- 7) 'you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law.' What do you think showing 'partiality in matters of the law' is referring to?

Live

- 8) 'If you do not listen, and if you do not resolve to honour my name...'. How might this warning also be for us? Where might you be showing partiality to God's word; listening to some parts but not others?
- 9) How is your personal devotion life going? What have you found helpful in listening to God's word and coming before Him in prayer?

Pray

- Pray for the leaders of our church, that they may teach faithfully from all of God's word.
- Pray for our own devotional lives, that we would be those who not only read, but listen to God's word. Pray also that we would be those who pray heartfelt and genuine words, rather than empty ones.

- Global Mission Partner: Give thanks for Rob and Jo Copland and their work with AFES at Wollongong Uni Bible Group.
- Global Mission Partner: Give thanks for Brenton and Melissa Kilby, with Evie and Micah, as they train at St Andrew's Hall in Melbourne in preparation for overseas mission work with CMS next year.
- We pray for Nicole & Luke Murray. Give Nicole creativity and enthusiasm as she pastors our Youth and Young Adults. We pray for Luke, as he seeks to grow the community at church and into Miranda.
- Give thanks for the opportunity to care for children and teach them from God's word. Pray that God would continue to equip and provide for Kid's Hope Mentors and SRE teachers. Pray that God would stir up our hearts to pray for and serve in Kid's Hope and SRE as we seek to see many people find new life in Jesus and grow as His whole-hearted disciples.

Got Questions?

Ask them here and we'll follow them up during this series.



Study Four: Malachi 2:10–16

All My Heart: Faithful

Talk and Pray

- 1) This study looks at marriage and divorce. Take a moment at the beginning of this study, if you feel comfortable, and share if and how marriage and divorce has been a part of your life. Spend a few moments praying for one another before getting into the study.

Hear Malachi 2:10–16

- 2) Re-read verse 10. What is the connection between being unfaithful and having one God and Father?

- 3) What is the first example that Malachi brings of their unfaithfulness? Why is this considered unfaithful? (c.f. 1 Kings 11:1–4)

- 4) Does this apply to God's people now? Are followers of Jesus to marry those who do not? What about those who are already married to someone who doesn't follow Jesus?

- 5) What is the second example Malachi brings of their unfaithfulness? What is the result for God's people?

- 6) Verse 15 - 'Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring.' What is the connection between faithful marriage and Godly offspring?

- 7) Verse 16 - "'The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "does violence to the one he should protect," says the LORD Almighty.' Why do you think 'violence' is the word that Malachi uses to describe divorce?

Live

- 8) Twice Malachi exhorts God's people by saying 'So be on your guard and do not be unfaithful (to the wife of your youth)' (vs15-16). How can we be on guard so that we continue faithfully in our marriages?

- 9) For those of us who are unmarried/divorced/widowed/etc., how might we continue being faithful and set apart for God?

Pray

- Give thanks to God for the blessing of both marriage and singleness.
- Pray that God might strengthen us, both married and unmarried, to be faithful to him.
- Pray for those who feel the pain and heartache of separation and divorce, for the peace and comfort that comes only from God

- Global Mission Partner: Give thanks for Shane and Ruth, with Kye, Joel and Finn, as they serve in Europe.
- Global Mission Partner: Give thanks for Sarah and Tim Prabhakar Rufus, with Lizzy and Hannah, as Sarah serves with the Biblical Counseling Trust of India in Dehli. Sarah is on maternity leave and they are with us in Australia this year.
- Pray for Jess and Luke Moran with Cooper, Ace and Penny. Pray for Jess as she heads up Children's Ministry at St Luke's, including KOS (Kids on Sunday), Primary Scripture, Children's Thursday arvo programs.
- Pray for those in our local area who don't know Jesus. Pray for opportunities to reach out and invite them to consider Jesus.
- Pray for our Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his government, and our State and Local governments.

Got Questions?

Ask them here and we'll follow them up during this series.



Study Five: Malachi 2:17–3:7

All My Heart: Just

Talk

- 1) What's a moment that you've been shown mercy and patience rather than judgement? On the other hand, what's a moment that you've done the same for someone else?

Hear: Malachi 2:17–3:7

- 2) In verse 17 we see our fourth contradicting question by God's people. What is at the heart of the people's words?

- 3) Malachi's response begins his response in verse 1. However, there are four different characters mentioned in this verse; 'my messenger', 'the Lord', 'the messenger of the covenant', and 'the LORD Almighty'. How do we make sense of who these might be referring to?

- 4) What will the day of His (God's) coming look like? What two images does Malachi use to describe His coming? (c.f. vs2-5)

- 5) Where in the New Testament do we see the sending of a messenger and God's judgment against the priests/the temple?

- 6) Re-read verse 5-7a. What is the connection between verse 5 and verses 6-7a? How does this answer their earlier question? (i.e. 2:17 - 'Where is the God of justice?')

- 7) Read 2 Peter 3:3-14. How ought we to view and live in light of the coming judgement and return of Jesus?

Live

- 8) What ways might you have become complacent with evil, rather than doing good, as you await Jesus' return? Where might you need to return to him, living for him with all your heart, knowing he holds out mercy to you?

- 9) Verse 7b - "But you ask, 'How are we to return?'" How might you answer this question to someone who doesn't follow Jesus?

Pray

- Give thanks for God's mercy, that he doesn't treat us as our sins deserve, and holds out this mercy patiently so that many might repent.
- Pray that we might live for God with all our hearts, returning to him in repentance and faith where we have failed to do so.

- Global Mission Partner: Give thanks for David & Kathryn Luis, with Reuben and Felix, as Dave heads up the AFES work at Geelong Christian Union at Deakin University.
- Pray for Colin as Office and Site Manager. We pray for energy and enthusiasm as he looks after staff and the Church site. Pray for Theny our Finance Officer that she would bring glory to God in her work as she assists our Wardens and treasurer. Pray for Lisa as she manages the administration of the Church.
- Pray for our ESL team who teach English and share the love of Jesus with those in our community who are seeking to improve their language and connect with others. We pray those who attend will come to know true grace and freedom in Christ.
- Pray for our craft group that meets on Wednesday. Praise God for the amazing opportunity they have to share the gospel while crafting.

Got Questions?

Ask them here and we'll follow them up during this series.



Study Six: Malachi 3:8–15

All My Heart: Generous

Talk

- 1) Do you think people should give financially to church? Why/why not? Discuss.

Hear: Malachi 3:8–15

- 2) In verse 8, we see our sixth contradicting question. What seems to be the issue?
- 3) Why were God's people to bring tithes to him? (Deuteronomy 14:22–29) Why were the people to bring offerings to him? (Leviticus 1–7)
- 4) Why is not bringing tithes and offerings robbing God?
- 5) What is the result of the people robbing God? What is the result of them returning to God? (c.f. Malachi 3:7)
- 6) "Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty...' - verse 10. Is this part of Malachi saying the prosperity gospel is true? If we give our money to church, does that mean God will bless us with prosperity? Discuss.

- 7) In verse 13 we see our final contradictory question. What is the heart of the issue? How is this connected to the previous contradictory questions? (2:17; 3:7-8)
- 8) Why might the people be feeling this way?

Live

- 9) What moments do you feel like 'It is futile to serve God'? (vs14). What might it look like to live for God with all your heart in this area of your life?
- 10) What do you think tithing looks like for Christians? What does Jesus have to say about money and giving generously from what God has given us?

Pray

- Give thanks for God's generosity towards us, sparing not even his only Son so that we might have life. Give thanks also for the many other blessings God has given to us.
- Pray that we might be faithful with what God has generously given us, responding in generosity with both our money and service of Him.

- Global Mission Partner: Give thanks for Kylie Zietsch as she serves with CMS at Johannesburg Bible College in South Africa.
- Global Mission Partner: Give thanks for Nonhlanhla (Non-Klan-Kla) Tshabalala as she studies at George Whitefield College in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Global Mission Partner: Give thanks for Natasha Norman, as she studies at Johannesburg Bible College, South Africa, and is mentored by Kylie Zietsch.
- Pray for Jennie and Don Everist. Pray for Jennie as she ministers and cares for the people who attend the Thursday Service. Pray for her as she continues to pray and care for those who are unable to attend due to health.
- Praise God for our Bible Study leaders and for their faithful work in teaching and ministering to us throughout the term.

Got Questions?

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Study Seven: Malachi 3:16–4:6

All My Heart: Righteous

Talk

- 1) How do you usually respond when someone rebukes or reprovves you?

Hear: Malachi 3:16–4:6

- 2) Throughout Malachi, we've seen God's people respond to him with contradictory questions. Yet, here we see something different. Who responds and how do they respond?
- 3) Why did they write a scroll of remembrance? What do you think this scroll might have been?
- 4) In verse 17–18, what does this coming day look like?
- 5) The prophecy of this coming day continues in 4:1–3. What are the images used to describe what this day will be like?
- 6) What's going on with verse 4? Why do you think God is reminding the people to keep the law of Moses?

- 7) Verses 5–6 speaks of the coming of the prophet Elijah (John the Baptist, as we talked about in Study 5). What will be the outcome of his coming? What does this image mean?

Live

- 8) How do you respond to the rebuke and reproof of God's word? How might you respond like those who fear the Lord in Malachi?

- 9) What has encouraged you to love and serve God with all your heart this series?

Pray

- Pray that God might work in us the same Spirit he did in Elijah, helping us to be faithful to God and serve him with all our hearts, being an example and leading the next generation in faithfulness and service of God.
- Pray that God might help us to serve and love Him with all our hearts.

- Global Mission Partner: Give thanks for Peter and Katharine Yock, with Noah and Atticus, as they serve with AFES at Griffith University in Brisbane.
- Global Mission Partner: Give thanks for Matt and Lauren, with Ezra, Joanna & Samuel, as they serve amongst an unreached people group in South East Asia.
- Pray for Brett and Mardi Middleton, with Evie, Harriet, Olivia, and Willow. Please pray for Brett as he seeks to encourage, serve and build up the wider staff team. Pray for wisdom that he and the team develop ministry plans that will help St Luke's stay faithful and grow into the future.
- Thank God for the outreach that occurs in Anglican Christian schools and retirement villages in our community who share the good news of Jesus with families who don't know Jesus. Pray for the chaplains in those places that they would be bold for the Gospel.

Got Questions?

Ask them here and we'll follow them up.

