

**LIVING GOD'S**  
**LOVE**

THE BOOK OF MALACHI

**Weekend Away**

12-14 May 2023

with  
**Paul Clarke**

**Name:**



# Timetable

## Friday

17.00 - 18.00	Kids' tea
18.30 - 20.30	Supper
21.00 - 21.30	Welcome and introduction to the weekend

## Saturday

07.30 - 09.30	Breakfast
08.30 - 09.00	Prayer meeting
09.45- 10.45	Session 1
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 - 12.30	Session 2 & group time
12.30	Kids' lunch available
12.30 - 13.00	Free time
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 18.00	Free time
16.30	Afternoon tea & cakes
17.00 - 17.45	Kids' tea
18.00 - 19.00	Drinks reception: Thinking about the future...
19.00 - 20.15	Supper
20.15 - 21.00	Evening ents by Sam & Katherine!

## Sunday

**Please check out by 11 am**

07.30 - 09.30	Breakfast
08.30 - 09.00	Prayer meeting
09.45 - 10.45	Session 3
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee
11.45 - 12.30	Session 4 & question time
12.30	Kids' lunch available
12.30 - 13.00	Free time
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00	Arrange own transport back

# The Book of Malachi — Living God's Love

## I. The Big Picture of the book

The leaders and people of Israel are discouraged, disillusioned, and disobedient to the Lord. In response, he sends his messenger (Malachi) to remind them of his covenant love and call them to return to him, fearing and serving him, trusting that he will bless them.

Whole Book Theme — The Lord, the great King does not change; he will be feared among the nations and effect a clear distinction between the righteous and the wicked when he comes to condemn corrupt religion and bless all who fear him.

Whole Book Aim —

For them then: Remember the Lord's love and justice and return to him; fear and serve him, and obey his Law while you wait for the day.

For us now: Praise God for Jesus and serve the Lord with fear while you wait for his return in glory.

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## II. The Structure of the book

Passage	Content
1:1-5	Israel: I have loved you
1:6-14	Priests: You despise my name
2:1-9	Priests: You have corrupted the covenant
2:10-16	People: You have been faithless
2:17-3:5	People: You have wearied the LORD
3:6-12	People: You have robbed God
3:13-16	Two responses: Defiance & fear
3:17-4:3	Two outcomes: Burning & blessing
4:4-6	Conclusion: Remember the Law

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## III. The fulfilment of the book

There are three main areas of fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy in the New —

1. Christ himself — his person and work
2. The Christian / church
3. The New Creation

## **A. Twenty-six Perfections of the Christ (indicative not exhaustive)**

- 1:1-5 Jesus is the ultimate manifestation of the love of God, 1 John 4:9-10  
Jesus loved his people perfectly, John 13:1-17  
Jesus is the Lord whose greatness will be undisputed, Phil 2:9-11
- 1:6-14 Jesus is the perfect priest, Hebrews 7-10  
Jesus offered the perfect sacrifice of himself, Hebrews 10:11-14  
Jesus redeemed us from the curse by becoming a curse for us, Gal 3:13  
Jesus is the great King whose name will be feared by all, Phil 2:9-11
- 2:1-9 Jesus is the perfect priest and utters the very words of God, John 3:34  
Jesus is the teacher in whose lips there is no deceit, 1 Pet 2:22  
Jesus is the Spirit-filled servant and proclaims good news, Luke 4:18-19  
Jesus is the chosen one to whom God wants us to listen, Luke 9:35
- 2:10-16 Jesus is the Creator, John 1:1-4; Hebrews 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16  
Jesus alone was always faithful to the Lord, Matt 4:1-11  
Jesus is the perfect bridegroom, John 2:1-11; 3:29-30; Rev 19:7
- 2:17-3:5 Jesus is the Lord, the divine messenger of the covenant, Mk 1:1-3  
Jesus came first to save and purify people, Heb 9:13-14; Tit 2:14  
Jesus will come to judge, Matthew 25:31-46  
(John the Baptist is the messenger — Mark 1:2-7; Matt 11:10)
- 3:6-12 Jesus became a curse so that we might be blessed, Gal 3:13-14  
Jesus is the one in whom we have every spiritual blessing, Eph 1:3-14  
Jesus is the one in whom we inherit a perfect new land, 2 Pet 3:13
- 3:13-4:6 Jesus is the one who will judge the wicked, Matt 25:31-46  
Jesus will make a distinction, Matt 13:30; 25:46  
Jesus makes believers God's treasured possession, 1 Peter 2:9  
Jesus will spare his people from the coming wrath, 1 Thess 1:9-10  
Jesus is the one in whom we will have everlasting joy, Isaiah 35:10  
Jesus gives us a share in his judgement, 1 Cor 6:2

## **B. The Perfection of the Christ's Kingdom**

The recognition of the Lord 1:5, 11, 14

The vindication / salvation of the people 3:12, 17, 18; 4:2, 3

The punishment of the wicked 1:14; 2:3, 9; 3:5; 4:1, 5-6

Some resources:

Peter Adam, *The Message of Malachi* (IVP, 2013) - popular

Richard Taylor, *Haggai & Malachi* (NAC, 2004) - technical

<https://www.miningthebible.co.uk/> - small groups / 1-2-1

# Session 1: Malachi 1:1–5

Intro: 3 powerful words

## **1. The Reality of the Lord's Love**

## **2. The Rejection of the Lord's Love**

i) Disillusioned

ii) Disobedient

iii) Denying

## **3. The Restatement of the Lord's Love**

i) The wicked do not prosper

## In the past - Edom

Numbers 20; 1 Samuel 14:47; Jeremiah 49:7-22; Ezekiel 25:4-21  
Amos 1:9-12, Lamentations 4:21; Obadiah 10-14; Isaiah 34:5-17

## In the future - Matthew 25:46

ii) The Lord will be honoured

**Conclusion:** Return – 3:7

Remember and recommit – 4:4

1. Make a list of and discuss specific ways in which God has demonstrated his love to you. Spend some time thanking God for them.
2. What are the early warning signs that we might be drifting towards being disillusioned, disengaged and even disobedient in our own faith? How do you respond if you see that happening in you / someone at Church?
3. Why is it so helpful to be reminded that following Jesus really is worth it?

# Session 2: Malachi 1:6-14

Intro: What does your life say about what matters to you?

## 1. Our Worthy Lord

i) Father – Exodus 4:22-23; Deut 32:6; Galatians 4:6; Psalm 66:2

ii) Master – Deut 4:10; 6:2; Prov 1:7; Isaiah 33:6; Isaiah 8:13  
(Fear / honour – Malachi 1:6, 14; 2:2, 5; 3:5, 16; 4:2)

iii) Lord of hosts

iv) Love of the nations – Psalm 22:27; Rev 7:9-10



## 2. Our Unworthy Worship

i) Actions – Lev 22:22

ii) Attitude – Neh 9:32

iii) Answer

**Application 1:** Praise God for a better priest and sacrifice

See Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 7:23-27; 9:28; 10:11-14; Romans 8:1

**Application 2:** Let us offer to God acceptable worship

See Hebrews 12:28-29; 13:15-16; Rom 12:1-2; Phil 4:18; 1 Peter 2:9

1. Which of the 'motivations' to worship in point 1 struck you most? Why? How does it help you want to worship the Lord in Spirit and truth?

2. What does our life and worship say about what we think of God?

3. How do these verses deepen your appreciation for Jesus? In what ways do you want to change after studying them? Be as specific as you can.

# Session 3: Malachi 2:1-9

Intro: The word of God

## **1. The godly pattern of true instruction, vv.'s 5-7**

- the man; his message; the blessings of his ministry (turning many, peace)

## **2. The cursed reality of corrupt teaching, vv.'s 1-3, 7-9**

('stumbling' = Isaiah's summary of what Judah were doing before exile)

**Application 1:** Warning — to teachers of God's word

**Application 2:** Worship — of the perfect priest

- true instruction was in Jesus' mouth

- seek instruction from his mouth, 'This is my Son, listen to Him!'

1. Why does it matter whether God's word is taught faithfully in our churches or not? Think of as many reasons as you can.

2. How does Malachi 2:1-9 speak to the wider situation in the Church of England?

3. How does Malachi 2:1-9 challenge and encourage churches who are trying to teach God's word faithfully?

## Malachi 2:10-16

*Summary:* The focus shifts from the priests to the people as a whole. They have forgotten their Creator & Father, & become faithless. They are divorcing their (Jewish) wives & marrying foreign (idolatrous) wives in contravention of God's law — thereby being faithless not only to one another but to God. Their behaviour threatens the future of God's people, but they are blind to their faults & wonder why God is not blessing them.

*Theme:* The people are rebuked for breaking faith with God and each other, and thinking that they can cover over such faithlessness with a show of religion.

*Aim:* Remembering God's faithfulness to us in Christ, guard yourselves in your spirit & be faithful (v16).

## Malachi 2:17-3:5

*Summary:* The people see the wicked prospering and wonder why their supposedly just God is doing nothing. In response the Lord announces that He will first send His messenger to prepare the way and then come personally to purify some and to judge others.

*Theme:* The accused Lord is not unjust — He will come to purify some & to judge others.

*Aim:* Praise God for the purifying work of Jesus & be ready for His return.

## Malachi 3:6–12

*Summary:* The Lord commands the people to return to Him in repentance and promises that if they do, He will remove the covenant curse they are beginning to experience, and pour down abundant blessing upon them. Their attitude to money will be the key litmus test of their response.

*Theme:* The Lord will bless even His rebellious people if they return to Him wholeheartedly.

*Aim:* Return to the Lord, particularly in the area of money, and experience his blessing.

# Session 4: Malachi 3:13—4:6

Intro: Decisions and consequences

## 1. Two *present* attitudes to God, 3:13–16

i) 'Worship is worthless!' (see Psalm 73:12, 28; Mark 8:36)

ii) 'Fearing God is fantastic!' (see Hebrews 3:12-13)

## 2. Two *future* experiences of God, 3:17–4:3

i) Negative - burning

ii) Positive - treasured, spared, difference, healing, leaping, vindication

### 3. One *all-encompassing* command from God, 4:4

**Conclusion:** The future is already written

1. What is a godly response if a Christian ever feels as though 'it is vain to serve God'?
2. How does knowing about heaven & hell motivate our present response to God?
3. What is your biggest take away from the book of Malach 3:13—4:6?

## **Question Time**

Text your questions to 07399587430