

The book of Malachi is God's last word before a 400 year period of silence and the coming of Jesus in Matthew. Malachi likely prophesied not long after the rebuilding of the temple under Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the wall under Ezra, sometime between 460 and 420 A.D.

**Questioning the Lord's Love**

1:1-5

**Dishonoring the Lord's Sacrifices & Priests**

1:6-2:9

**Desecrating God's Design & Desire for Marriage**

2:10-3:5

**Robbing the Lord's Tithes & Offerings**

3:6-12

**Questioning the Lord's Justice**

3:13-4:3

## A ROAD TRIP ACROSS THE BIBLE

*Malachi* | June 7, 2015



*Malachi stands out as the last book of the Old Testament. The next event after Malachi in God's Great Story is the coming of Jesus. Malachi's message mirrors the message of the whole Old Testament . . .*

**The \_\_\_\_\_ Problems of \_\_\_\_\_**

1. Sin is \_\_\_\_\_: a desecration of God's \_\_\_\_\_ design. (2:10-12, 2:13-17)
2. Sin is \_\_\_\_\_: a dishonoring, half-hearted personal \_\_\_\_\_. (1:6-2:9, 3:7-12)
3. Sin is \_\_\_\_\_: a disrespectful \_\_\_\_\_ of God & His Word. (1:1-5, 3:13-15)

**The \_\_\_\_\_ Promises of a \_\_\_\_\_**

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is coming. (3:1, 4:5, Mt. 11:7-14)
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ is coming. (3:1-5)
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is coming. (4:1-6)

# A ROAD TRIP ACROSS THE BIBLE

Questions for Growth Groups



## CONNECTING with one another

In this last week of Spring Growth Groups, take time to connect and share life together. To get the conversation going you might ask this question . . .

***Besides the Bible, what is one book that has had a lasting influence in your life?***

## GRAPPLING with God's Word

1. What jumped out at you in the message/text this week? What challenged you? What did you learn? What was a personal takeaway?
2. Take some time to read the entire book of Malachi together as group. In light of the fact that Malachi is God's last Word before the coming of Jesus, discuss your impressions, insights and questions afterward.
3. The marriage stuff in Malachi 2:10-17 is challenging and relevant in view of the battle for marriage in our day. What is God confronting then? And what would God confront today? How does this challenge us and speak to our marriages?
4. The stuff about half-hearted sacrifices in Malachi 1:6-14 and half-hearted giving in Malachi 3:8-12 is challenging and relevant for us today, too. We don't bring animal sacrifices to God anymore, but what sacrifices do we bring to God today (see Rom. 12:1-2, Heb. 12:28, 13:15-17)? What does half-hearted sacrifice and giving look like today?

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Questions for Growth Groups



5. Why do we say that the promises of a Savior are paradoxical and confusing in Malachi and the rest of the Old Testament? According to Malachi 4:1-3, for whom will the Day of the Lord be terrible? For whom will the day of the Lord be wonderful?
6. What did it mean to "fear the Lord" in Malachi's day? What does it mean to "fear the Lord" in our day?

## PRAYING together

Pray out of your impressions and insights from our study of the book of Malachi. Confess your sins with one another and give thanks for the coming of our Savior who lives the life God requires and dies the death that we deserve.

## This Week's Household/Family Worship Challenge

Beyond your Growth Group this week, grab one opportunity as a household/family (roommates, spouse, kids, grandkids) to talk about what you've learned through our Route 66 Road Trip Across the Old Testament. Are you more convinced that all the Bible is about Jesus?