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### The Book of Malachi

This book was written to correct the religion and social behavior of the Israelites. The Jews were becoming lazy and lost interest in the things of God, about all the glorious things that he had promised them. They had filled themselves with doubt and ignorance about the spiritual duties. The priest did nothing for their actions, for not tithed God and didn't bother to encourage the people to do the good. They kept sinning among other foreigners and became mixed with them. That's when Malachi, Servant of God came and started to persuade the people to repent for all the sins they had committed. Malachi was one of the prophets that God used to tell the people, what benefits to bring, to bring pure offerings to the house of God. His promise was to prosper them greatly who remembered and followed his commandments and if they repent, God will bless them. Malachi also announced the coming day of Jesus Christ but Elijah would come first to preach his word then the Messiah will come.

The book of Malachi is the last of 12 of the Old Testament books, which consists of 6 distinct sections. All the answers we seek or curious to know could be found in this book. He is placed in the last book because of the promised messenger of Elijah. "Hear, you mountains, the Lord's accusation; listen, you everlasting foundation of the earth. For the Lord has a case against his people;

he is lodging a charge against Israel” (Micah 6:2). It’s a series of dispute between God and Israel.

Malachi reminds everyone (the audience) that they have been and continue to be favored by God as the chosen people. God chose them because he made a promise to Abraham for his obedience and faith, which he would save his descendants from the great tribulation. Malachi defends the justice of God to a community that has forgotten about the all powerful and almighty God. God has given us 5 senses to do the right from the wrong but Israel chose to sin and decided to turn their back on God and for that, God has given them terrible consequences.

The sin of God’s people was the transgressions they committed against him. Mangled marriages was seen in these times of sins they were living in. God told them he wanted to see them happy with the partner they married but divorce was something big and they saw it as nothing. This is something to be resisted and to do everything possible to avoid. “For I hate divorce, says the Lord the God of Israel, and covering one’s garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So take heed to yourselves and do not be faithless” (Malachi 2:16). Jesus commanded his people to tithe but they were rebellious and greedy and did not do what God asked. If we tithe God will bless us but since Israel did not do such things, they weren’t blessed. They were also faithless with God’s things and its demands affected them. They refused to obey his word and started to do the wrong things that God didn’t approve off.

The book was written early 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. Malachi is defined as God's Messenger. The temple was destroyed at the time of Judah's fall and they took the people to Babylon. Afterwards when Babylon falls to Persia and Cyrus, they allowed the Jews to return to their land but didn't want to follow God's path and became to sin because they lost interest and hope. Malachi was sent by God to prophesize them to do the good and to announce that his coming day is close.

It taught me that God wants his people to seek him, to give him honor and glory because of his greatness and great abundance love he gives to his people. Their lives are miserable and weak without God in their lives because without his protection and his love, his people can fall into the temptations of the devil and only God can save them from there. He protects them from all evil and blesses them greatly if they do what he asks for. God's heart is big that whatever his people do, he is always there for them but he has to punish them so that they recognize that they don't have to do something like that again.

I can apply the message of this book to my Christian life by doing what is right in front of God and not lacking in the blessings that God gives me. I have to give my heart, my soul and spirit as thanks to him and obey his commandments so that my life is long and a great blessing. God sees everything we do, and I don't want to fail him for something I did that he doesn't like or warned me about. That's why reading the bible tells us how to humbly walk, what to do and what not to do.