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Written Assignment #5

Prophet Malachi's Message

God always uses His prophets to warn His people when they take the wrong direction. Malachi is a prophet who God sent to His people to call them to repentance. The Book of Malachi was written after the temple of Jerusalem was built. The Prophet Malachi had a mission to deliver God's message to the nation, to warn the priests who serve in the Temple to come back to God because the judgment of God is imminent. Questions are asked: How is the book organized? Who is the intended audience? What transgressions were committed against God? What is the book's historical context? What does it teach you about God? How can you apply the message of the book to your Christian life?

The Book of Malachi is organized in three chapters in the Hebrew Bible and the Greek and four chapters in the Latin Vulgate. The intended audience of Malachi's message were the people of Judah and the people of Israel. They were committed a lot of transgressions toward God. First, they offered polluted offerings to God and make-believe that they did nothing wrong which made God mad at them. For example, "A son honors his father, and a servant honors his master. If then I am your Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts. You offer defiled food on My altar, but say in what way have we defiled You?" (Mal 1: 6-7). Then, the priests were corrupt, they offered impure sacrifices to God. In the message that

God sent, stated “O priests, this commandment is for you. If you will not hear, and if you will not take it to heart, to give the glory to My name Says the Lord of hosts, I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings, yes I have cursed them already because you do not take it to heart.” (Mal 2:1-2). Also, they robbed God by cheating with their offering and their tithes. “will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, in what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me.” (Mal 3:8-9).

“The Book of Malachi was written after the temple of Jerusalem was built in 515-458 BC, between the completion of the second temple to the ministry of Ezra in Jerusalem. Jerusalem was a province under the rule of the Persian governor.” (Holy Bible text, pp 1629). The historical context of the Book of Malachi is that many decades had passed after the reconstruction of the temple, the people of Judah and Israel had expected that when they returned to their homeland after the exile, the Messiah would come right away and their nation would rule the world. Unfortunately, that did not happen, and many of them became discouraged and failed to trust God as they used to. Also, their zeal for God has faded and they became disrespectful to God.

As a Christian, I learned many principles from the Book of Malachi. I learned about the love of God, His covenant, His righteousness, and His judgment. God loves me so much that He sent His son to die on the cross for us. By accepting Jesus’ sacrifices at the cross, it is like signing a contract with God. God is a jealous God; He expects us to be faithful to Him. God always keeps His words; His promise is yes and Amen. I will apply this message to my life by continue serving God and living by His words. I have to learn to be patient when God promises me something. Even though the promise does not happen in my time table, I have to remind myself to stay faithful.

In sum, sin is a failure to obey God; in that sense, the people of Judah and Israel had sinned against God. Malachi was a prophet that God sent to confront His people for their unworthy sacrifices and encourage them to restore their relationship with God. The priests in their part who were supposed to guide the nation toward God failed to do so. Instead, they committed abomination in the Temple by profaning the covenant that they have with God. Because of that, God was not happy and talking about coming judgment if they do not repent. God loves His people, but He cannot stand unfaithful people.

Works Cited: Book: John H. Walton, NKJ Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2016).