



Summary of Malachi

Chapter One

Malachi introduces his prophecy as an oracle, the word of God. He starts by showing that God has loved Israel and has demonstrated it through protection from the nations surrounding them, nations that have been destroyed by God.

There is condemnation from God towards all the people of Israel, but particularly towards the priesthood who are required to show the example for others to follow, who have not performed their duties in making the appropriate offerings to God but have cheated him by offering up the damaged rather than the whole. They are accused of profaning the name of the Lord, yet he states that his name will be proclaimed throughout the nations.

Chapter Two

The prophecy continues with a reminder of the covenant God had made with Levi and his descendants that made up the Levitical priesthood; it was a covenant of good life and blessing. However, the current priests had failed in their duty to God and had corrupted the covenant, thus bring curse and condemnation upon themselves.

The condemnation then falls upon all of Judah because they too are covenant breakers. They had turned away from the God who is their Father and aligned themselves with the ways of foreign gods, choosing the world over God.

Chapter Three

The prophet now gives notice that God will send his messenger of the covenant, the one who will prepare the way for the long-awaited Messiah. However, for those, especially the priesthood, who have not sought God and who will not change, this coming will not be a blessing for they will not be able to stand before

the might of the messenger because of their failure. However, because God is unchanging, he will not forget his promise to his people and they will not perish forever.

The prophecy then shows God's displeasure at those who have not given to him what he is due. Because they have not given their full tithes and offerings, they have robbed God. He calls upon them to test him by giving what they should and reaping the bountiful rewards as God responds to their piety.

The chapter ends with a promise to finally judge between those who have sought righteousness and those who have not. Each will receive the eternal rewards their faith in God deserves.

Chapter Four

The prophecy concludes with the promise of eternal judgement with all the evildoers being burned in the lake of fire but those who have remained faithful to God receiving healing for what they have endured in life.

There is a final call for the people of God to remember the teaching they have received through the law and to expect the return of the prophet Elijah before the Messiah finally appears. He will prevent the wrath of God from falling upon all the people.