


GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME FOUR
AN INVITATION TO RETURN—A SURVEY OF HOSEA–MALACHI
MALACHI: LAST CALL BEFORE SILENCE
A SURVEY OF MALACHI




The Heart of the Matter

God's people didn't know it, but they stood on the brink of silence . . . God's silence . . . for the four hundred-year period between the Old Testament and the New. And Malachi was the last call of the Old Testament. Prophesying after the days of Nehemiah, Malachi witnessed the settled, stagnant, corrupt indifference of God's people, which the prophet deplored. The people's intermarrying with foreigners (non-Jews), neglecting to pay tithes, and offering blemished sacrifices at the altar caused Malachi to confront them and warn them of the consequences of such atrocities. Silence came soon after, but as long as Malachi was on the scene, the nation heard plenty!



Discovering the Way

1. Getting Acquainted with Malachi Personally

Malachi followed on the heels of Nehemiah and came to a nation in decline . . . spiritual and moral decline.

2. Becoming Familiar with Malachi Biblically

Malachi's book divides nicely into three sections. He delivered a message of love in 1:1–5, a message of rebuke in 1:6–3:18 (to the priests and to the people), and a message of hope in 4:1–5.



Starting Your Journey

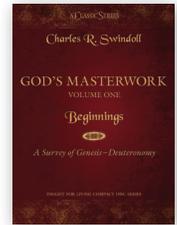
Four practical and lingering lessons are found in Malachi. First, we tend to “cool off” or forget our promises when we begin to rationalize our sin. Second, those who are involved in vocational Christian service must be alert to the temptations of carelessness, cynicism, and corruption. Third, when the minister lowers his godly, biblical standards, many people suffer. And fourth, God never deals lightly with selfishness.



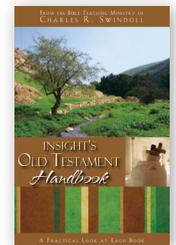
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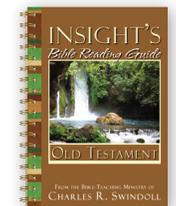
Tools for Digging Deeper



**God's Masterwork
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MALACHI

| | Love | Rebuke | | Hope |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | <u>Unconditional</u> <u>Almighty</u> <u>Sovereign</u> | Against the Priests <u>Irreverence</u> <u>Disobedience</u> <u>Cynicism</u> <u>Hypocrisy</u> <u>Offense</u> | Against the People <u>Intermarriage with pagans</u> <u>Indifference</u> <u>Robbing God / no tithes</u> <u>Blasphemy</u> | <u>Fire</u> <u>Healing</u> <u>"Elijah"</u> <u>Family</u> |
| | <i>CHAPTER</i> 1:1–5 | <i>CHAPTERS</i> 1:6–2:9 | <i>CHAPTERS</i> 2:10–3:15 | <i>CHAPTERS</i> 3:16–4:6 |
| Content | Theological | Historical | | Prophetical |
| Direction | Looking up | Looking in | | Looking ahead |
| Theme | God cites the priest and the people with failure to keep His covenant but offers the hope of the Messiah, the messenger of the covenant who will bring justice and salvation. | | | |
| Key Verse | 3:1 | | | |
| Christ in Malachi | Malachi anticipates the first and second advents of Christ, who will fulfill God's covenant with the Jews (3:1), judge sinners (3:2–5), and bring healing to those who fear the Lord (4:2). | | | |

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