

“LO, I AM SENDING MY MESSENGER”

The Book of Malachi

Who wrote The Book of Malachi?

The author of the Book of Malachi is unknown. This was probably intentional as much of the book is very critical of Jewish priests and rulers of the day.

How did The Book of Malachi get its name and/or what does that name mean?

Malachi is the proper name for the Hebrew expression “My Messenger.” This book was probably given this name so that the writer(s) could remain anonymous.

When did these events take place?

The book of Malachi was written around 455 B.C. just before the prophet Nehemiah’s arrival in Jerusalem.

For more about The Book of Malachi:

See page 991 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

Would you really be sacrificing much by taking your old junk bicycle down to the Goodwill Store? What if you decided to give a homeless person the old torn blanket out of the trunk of your dad’s car? Would you think it noble if someone told you they donated canned food to the food bank because they were worried that it might be too old to eat themselves? You probably wouldn’t see these gestures as that big of a sacrifice. Yet, how many of us catch ourselves considering similar gestures all the while thinking, in some way, we are giving back to God. There is a lesson to be learned here! When our response to God is done out of comfort or convenience, it’s really no response at all.

The first chapter in The Book of Malachi teaches this lesson very clearly. God, through Malachi, is very critical of the sincerity of the Hebrew priests around him. By offering up only the blind, lame or sick animals in sacrifice, they have revealed an impurity in their hearts and how far they have fallen from a sincere love and worship of God. Just like we do sometimes, they forgot that the intent and what is in their heart was more important than the actions they took to prove it. Instead, Malachi makes it clear that God looks at our actions to judge where our heart and our intentions really are. Jesus, some 500 years later, would expose this same weakness in the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders around Him.

Continuing his criticism in Chapter 2, Malachi turns his attention to a sinful people. He reminds the Hebrews that marriage is intended to last a lifetime. With the words of verse 16: “For I hate divorce, says the Lord, the God of Israel.” Malachi establishes that marriage is a covenant between one man, one woman and God. This is just as it was in the book of Genesis and how Christ would later affirm that it should be forever.

The sense of urgency you feel in The Book of Malachi is summed up in the words of Chapter 3 in God’s promise to send a messenger to prepare the way and ultimately to send “The Lord whom you seek.” Malachi is a most fitting book to close the Old Testament and to prepare us for the Good News to come.

Interesting Fact: The prophecy in Malachi 1:11 of a “pure offering” or the perfect sacrifice is fulfilled in the eyes of the Church in the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Bonus Point: What is the “storehouse”?