

# **MALACHI - A STUDY GUIDE**

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## **THE CENTRAL QUESTION:**

### **What does this book/story say to us about God?**

This question may be broken down further as follows:

- a. Why did God do it/allow it?
  - b. Why did He record it for our study?
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1. Are you encouraged or discouraged after reading the book of Malachi? How much difference do you see in these people of Malachi's time and the people four hundred years later in the time of Christ? Does Malachi add anything to your understanding of God?
2. Do you see the people in Malachi's time (about 425 B.C.) acting like God's friends or do you find them complaining about everything that God says or wants to do? (Malachi 1:6) When God suggests that they get back together how do they respond? (Malachi 3:7)
3. Why does God say, "cursed be the cheat?" (Malachi 1:14) Can even a physician here on this earth heal a "cheating patient" who refuses to do anything the doctor tells him to do? Does God have to actively curse the "cheat" or is his curse the natural effect of his behavior?
4. How does God feel about divorce? (Malachi 2:16) If this is how God really feels about divorce why did He give the divorce laws? (Deuteronomy 24:1-4; compare Matthew 5:31,32; 19:1-12; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18)
5. Whom do you think is being referred to in Malachi 3:16? What scroll is this? Is this referring to a part of God's records in heaven or is this scroll here on this earth?
6. What does it mean to be one of God's "jewels" or His "peculiar people?" (Malachi 3:17) Does this mean that we are to be "strange?"
7. How will it be possible to "see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not?" (Malachi 3:18) The verse suggests that this has been possible some time in the past. If you were asked to set up the criteria to distinguish between the two groups in our day, what would you suggest?
8. What does Malachi 4:1,3 suggest is the final end of sin and sinners? Do these verses suggest an ever-burning hell? Does the expression "they will be ashes under the soles of your feet" suggest a conscious suffering? (Compare Exodus 15:7; Isaiah 5:24; 40:24; 41:2; 47:14; Joel 2:5; Obadiah 1:18; Nahum 1:10; 2 Peter 2:6)
9. Is there to be an "Elijah message" (Malachi 4:5,6) for our day? If so, what is the message and who is to bear it?
10. Knowing what you know of the Old Testament (which the people of Malachi's day had available) do you think you would be able to get the picture of God that Jesus had?
11. What does the people's repeated question imply about their relationship with God? (See Malachi 1:2,6,7; 2:17; 3:7,8,13)

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