

Malachi Outline

Introduction: Malachi is the final book in the Christian Old Testament. Written after the second temple was finished, Malachi offers criticism against a people who, having built the temple, are now taking it for granted. Malachi offers up criticism and a vision of a messenger who is coming to reform the people and reform the worship. Malachi actually names this coming presence at the end of his book as Elijah, leading to the contemporary Jewish practice of leaving a chair empty for Elijah.

Christians, however, hear this figure less as Elijah, and see Malachi less as an ending so much as a penultimate pointing to a new day. Christians hear about the one who is coming to prepare the way and being like refining fire pointing more to John the Baptist and the Jesus movement.

Chapter 1: Rejection of Edom, yet Malachi notes the people's lack of faithfulness in response
Through poor worship

Chapter 2: Reminder of how great Levi was; that God isn't happy with the current state

Chapter 3: God sending a messenger to prepare the way- he will be refiner's fire;

Future blessings

Chapter 4: Remember Moses; Elijah is coming

Stories to know: Lazy worship (Chapter 1); a messenger coming who is refiner's fire (Chapter 3); the coming of Elijah (Chapter 3)