

## SERMON NOTES

### Key Dates in Israel's Death and Resurrection

- **722 BC** – Northern Kingdom (Israel/Ephraim) conquered by Assyrians
  - Southern Kingdom (Judah) forced to pay tribute to Assyrians after they conquered Israel
- Babylonians defeated Assyrians and Egyptians to become new world power.
- Babylonian subjugation of Judah and deportation of exiles
  - 605 BC – 1<sup>st</sup> Babylonian exiles (Daniel & co.)
  - 597 BC – Jerusalem overtaken and 2<sup>nd</sup> group of exiles deported (Ezekiel)
  - **586 BC** – Jerusalem destroyed by Babylonians; 3<sup>rd</sup> group of exiles
- 539 BC – Persians conquer Babylonians
- Cyrus and return from Exile (3 groups)
  - **538 BC** – Edict of Cyrus and rebuilding of Temple begins
  - 458 BC – Ezra returns with exiles
  - 444 BC – Nehemiah returns with exiles
  - 430-420 BC – probable dates of Malachi's ministry

### Outline and Structure of Malachi<sup>1</sup>

- A. Protological separation: covenant election (1:2-5)
    - B. Contempt of covenant privileges: blemished sacrifices (1:6-14)
    - C. Protological messengers: Levites (2:1-9)
      - D. Marital covenant bond in the Spirit (2:10-16)
    - C'. Eschatological messenger: Christ (2:17-3:6)
    - B'. Contempt of privileges: failure to tithe (3:7-15)
  - A'. Eschatological separation: judgment (3:16-4:6)
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- A. God loved Israel by setting them apart as His covenant people and by restoring them after exile,
    - B. But Israel showed contempt for God's covenantal love by offering defiled sacrifices with a flippant attitude.
    - C. The Levites were charged with maintaining the covenant and leading the people in proper worship,
      - D. But as often as not, they actually led the people into spiritual adultery with women who worshipped idols.
    - C'. As a result, God promised to send the messenger of the covenant to judge the people and cleanse them so that their worship would be acceptable.
    - B'. In view of coming judgment, God called on Israel to submit to Him, obey His commandments (especially tithing), and receive the promised blessings.
  - A'. God's judgment separates those who repent and obey God's commands, who will be blessed, from the rebellious, who will be cursed and consumed.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from James Jordan's outline in *The Geneva Review*, no. 25.