

## **QT Questions—for Malachi**

(Here's a short introduction to the book of Malachi from my Study Bibles.)

- The book of Malachi addresses the situation in Judah sometime after the temple was rebuilt in 516 BC, following the return of Jewish exiles from Babylon. The message of the book is about the covenant—Israel's contract with God. The book records six legal disputes in which God either defends His own faithfulness or accuses the people and their leaders of forsaking their covenant. The book ends with a promise of the coming of Elijah and the Day of God. Malachi addresses how God is faithful to His covenant love, even when we doubt His faithfulness.
- Malachi addresses the motive behind people's worship. Merely going through the religious motions does not guarantee that God will bless a person or community. When religion is practiced for personal gain, it can cause great harm. The people's accusations against God reveal their true motives: they were performing their religious duties and thought that God owed them for their obedience, even though their worship was halfhearted and hypocritical. Although the people had a temple in which to worship, the nature of their worship had not been changed by the exile: they were still living as if religion could save them. Instead, they must remember that they were God's cherished possession and that He loves them as a father loves a son, just as He loves us today.
- The prophet calls out the people for failing to worship properly and failing to honor their covenant with God. The prophet also proclaims that while sin demands God's judgment, a faithful remnant of people will survive—with the help of a new Elijah. These actions set the stage of the Messiah, the one who will bring justice and salvation to the world. Malachi shows us that what we really need is a transformative relationship with God Himself.

### **Mal 1 (6/23/25)**

(\*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What were the people doing that saddened God so much; are there some "good wills" you do that would sadden God and if so, will you spend some time today to repent of them; why did God want to shut the door of the temple; what do you learn?
- God shows us the ugliness of our ways by comparing the governor with Himself, "When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?' says the Lord Almighty" (v. 8). No Jew in his right mind would offer such obvious flawed offering to the governor or to the king. For their insult, it will most likely get them into huge trouble, if not, even death. The consequence will be real and immediate. And though we know and say that our God is much greater than earthly kings, yet, we do what these Jews were doing. We would not treat other people, especially the powerful people over us, we wouldn't take them for granted, or treat them carelessly, and make sure to never insult them. Yet, with our almighty God, we do. At times, we place people, others and even ourselves, above our God, for we see immediate results with people, but they are not always so visibly clear with God. And we keep forgetting, that our God truly sees all, even our hearts, our intentions, our attitudes. While people may not notice them, our God does. Let's pray that our God's place in our lives will be higher than anyone else's, and thus, may we truly learn to live more for His glory than anything else in our lives. May we truly seek first His kingdom and righteousness (Matt 6:33).

**Mal 2 (6/24/25)**

(\*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What is God warning His priests/leaders of and how is this applicable to you; how are the people breaking the covenant says God and how can you strengthen it in your life; what do you learn?
- In v. 17, God says that His people weary Him in two ways. First, they say, “All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and He is pleased with them.” God hates this lie, that God is ok with people doing evil. Of course, we know our God loves sinners and while we were still in our sins, He demonstrated His love through His death (Rom 5:8). But, dying in love does not in any way mean or suggest that He loves sin, the evil we do and say. Quite the contrary, God hates that lie, and the lies we tell to each other, to either foolishly comfort one another or to mislead. God’s love comes to us despite the ugly sinfulness He hates greatly. But His love will be greater than our sinfulness, for He loves us, despite the evil He hates in us. So much does our holy God hate sin that He had to die to remove the sin He hates in us with His death. So, let’s understand properly, firstly, God truly does not want us to sin, but when we do, He wants us to know and experience His forgiveness through His sacrifice (1Jn 2:1-2). The second thing that wearied our God from our verse is, “Where is the God of justice?” This is a way the people would express that God is not present to bring justice. Injustice was everywhere, and since justice did not prevail, their logical conclusion was, God is nowhere to be found, for if He was present, then there should be justice, for He is supposed to be a just God. What they did not see, what they did not perceive, they concluded accordingly. Life was judged by sight. God’s people must learn more of God’s word, to learn more of His ways, so that when life appears contrary to God’s truth, we must know, our lives should be lived by faith and not by sight. May we always believe that our God is true, and every person and culture that appears contrary to God’s truth, they are the real liars. Let’s be careful that we stand with God and not rely in our own experiences or education or wisdom or the cultural norms and teachings of our world.

**Mal 3 (6/25/25)**

(\*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What would the refiner’s fire and the launderer’s soap do among the people and yet why would they not be destroyed (vv. 1-6); how does God want His people to return to Him (vv. 7-18); what do you learn?
- From my Study Bible notes.
  - 3:8-see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven—The point of this passage is not that God would bless the people based on their giving, but instead that He would honor His covenant with them, as told in the law (Lev 26:1-14; Deut 28:12). The people were currently experiencing only the negative side of the covenant, because they were not in proper relationship with God (Mal 3:6-7; Deut 28:15-68). The act of giving was a step toward restoring the people’s relationship with God. The tithe represents the people’s obedience to their covenant with God. God is challenging Israel to keep their part of the covenant, so that He may show that He will keep His end of the covenant. Paul explains this concept further in 2Cor 9:5, emphasizing that giving must be done with a cheerful spirit. The gift does not earn God’s favor; instead, it is the natural response of a person in relationship with God.

**Mal 4 (6/2/w25)**

(\*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What happens when the day comes; who is the Elijah to come and what will happen and why would that be significant (Lk 1:17); what do you learn?
- The last book in the OT ends by telling us to remember (v. 4). Remember what? God wants us to remember the law that He gave to Moses at His mountain, in Horeb. Though this law was given to Moses, it was given for all Israel. Living in this world, we have to remember many things. We have to remember to stop at a red light, but if we kept on driving through the red light because we wanted to feel the freedom to do what I want, then my freedom will most likely get myself and others killed. We have to remember in the US we drive on the right side, while in the UK, we must drive on the left side, or otherwise, we will cause many accidents. Of all the good things we have to remember, God wants us to remember His law that He gave to Moses, but given for all Israel to hear, to study, to learn, and to obey. And when we have forgotten or skipped a few turns, then God wants us to remember why He gave His law, so that we would remember that His word is more vital to sustain us than real physical food is to our bodies. God knows we can be forgetful. God knows we can be rebellious and disobedient. Knowing our weaknesses and tendencies, God is teaching us to remember His law, so that we can learn to walk joyful and thankful and in love with Him, as Enoch did. Aren't there many foolish things we remember, while we forget the most important, God's word? Let's pray that the best things we will remember in our lives will be God's word. And let's also pray that when we remember God's word, that His grace on us will bless us to joyfully obey His word. The purpose to know and remember God's word is to joyfully obey Him in all things, at all times.
  - Father, we pray that You will bless our eyes and our ears and our minds and our hearts to be opened and welcome and love God's word into our lives more than anything. Whenever You would have us encounter Your word, may we hunger for them, and savor Your words more than all the good things we enjoy in our lives. Father, in Your truth, we know You will set us free from the ugly sinfulness we can easily fall into. Please, please, bless us more, so that whenever we hear, or read, or study or learn Your word, that our joy will be to lovingly obey Your word immediately and wholeheartedly. Father, You taught us the way to love You most is to obey You. May we be obedient children, as our greatest love and joy is to obey You. Thank You for giving us Your word to read, to study, to learn and to obey in our lives. In Jesus' precious and beautiful name we pray.