

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



MALACHI

Part-1

(Chapter 1:1-5)

KJV

10.25.23

1:1-5

God's Burden | God's Love

Introduction: What must we do with the revealed Word of God? Where does Malachi fit in Jewish history? What is the role of prophets? What is the unique writing style of this book? What are some questions covered in Malachi?

God's Burden: What is the burden of the Lord? How is it communicated? (1)

God's Love: Why do Israelites question God's love? How does God prove His love? Did God really 'hate' Esau? Was Esau's future in jeopardy even before he was born? How did Esau confirm the prophesy in his life? (2-5)

Your Reflection: Do you know the burden of the Lord for your Life | Church | Nation? Have you questioned God's love? What do we learn about God's character from this passage?



Introduction

What must we do with the Word of God?



Hear



Understand



Apply



Teach

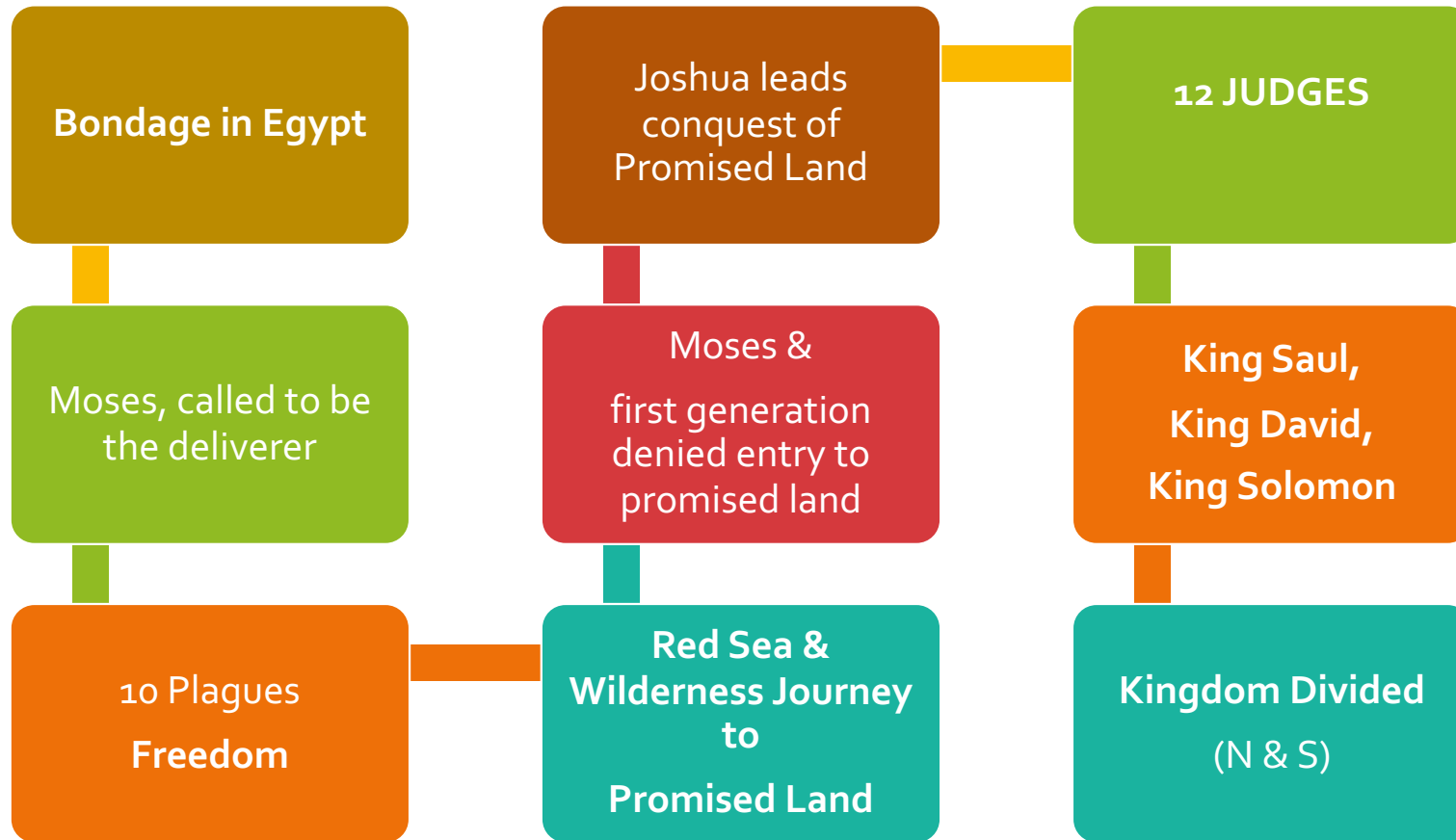


Testify

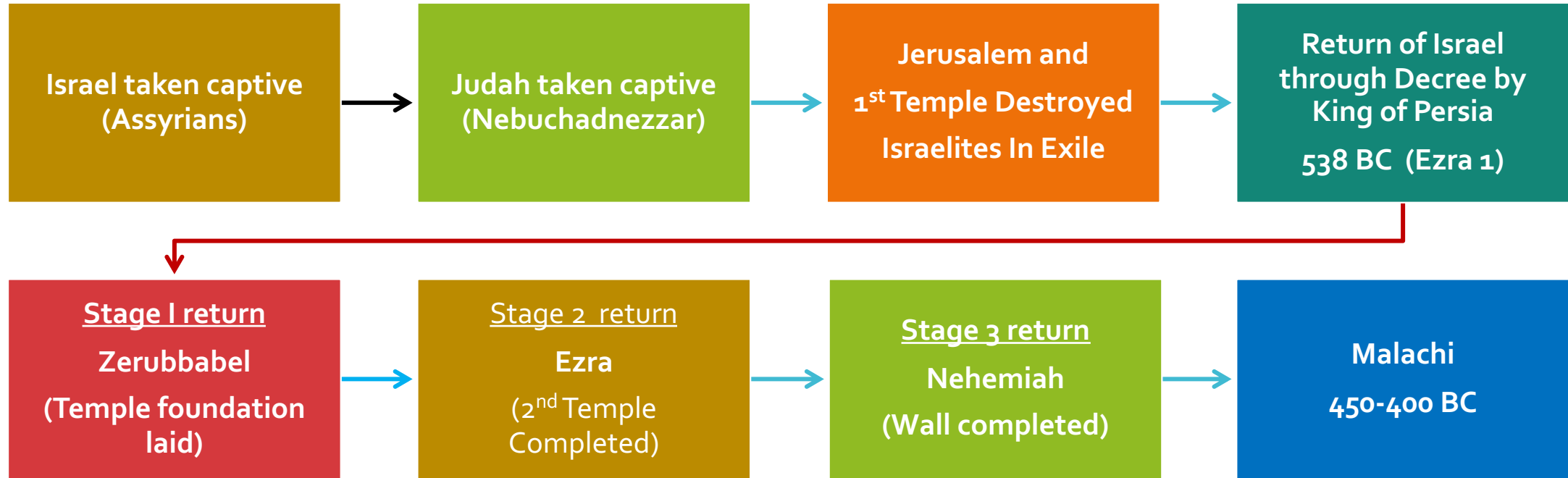


Where do Malachi's messages fit in Israelites history?

Text in Context



Quick history:
From Egyptian Bondage to Promised Land to Divided Kingdom



Events leading up to Malachi's message

(over the years, Israelites had enjoyed God's favor but also been punished for disobedience)

Malachi

Malachi means **My messenger**

Message given to Israelites (but also applies to us, as a church & individuals)

Time: around 450-400 BC

- After the return of Israelites from exile
- Similar messages as Ezra and Nehemiah

Silent Years: 400 years of silence after Malachi

- Silence broken by John the Baptist (prophesy, 3:1)
Followed by Lord Jesus Christ (prophesy, 3:1)

Role of Prophets

Malachi –a minor Prophet (11 other minor prophets)

5 Major prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Daniel, Ezekiel)

True Prophets

Appointed by God

Hear from God

Communicate to people without edits

Unique style of Malachi

Statement



Objection



Response

Statement (by God):

I have loved you (1:2)



Objection (by people):

Wherein hast thou loved us? (1:2)



Response (by God):

I loved Jacob and I hated Esau (1:2-5)

Example

7 questions

Wherein hast thou loved us? (1:2)

Wherein have we despised thy name? (1:6)

Wherein have we wearied him? (2:17)

Wherein shall we return? (3:7)

Wherein have we robbed thee? (3:8)

What have we have spoken much against thee? (3:13)

Many questions: 10 in Ch.1 | 7 in Ch.2 | 6 in Ch. 3

Burden of the Lord (1)

Malachi's prophetic message of correction

1 The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi.

Why messenger needed? To communicate God's burden:

Temple was rebuilt but former glory missing

Practices without passion (lukewarmness)

Low moral standards

Unable to listen and obey God's voice

Failure to learn from exile and previous punishment

God's Love (2-5)

1:2-5

² I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the Lord: **yet I loved Jacob,** ³ **And I hated Esau,** and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

⁴ Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the Lord of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the Lord hath indignation for ever.

⁵ And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The Lord will be magnified from the border of Israel.

God's Statement

^{2a} I have loved you,
saith the Lord.

Foundational truth, GOD IS LOVE (I John 4:8)

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: ⁸ But because the Lord loved you

Jeremiah 31:3 Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love:

Israel's Objection

Yet ye say,
Wherein hast
thou loved
us? (2b)

Israel failed to recognize and appreciate God's love

- Forgetful
- Ungrateful
- Living in the past
- Sin clouded their perception/working of God

It is natural for man to question God's love when going through crisis or when our prayers go unanswered for a long time

God's response: Jacob have I loved

Esau and Jacob (twin sons of Isaac and Rebecca; Esau older)

God chose Jacob before his birth (God's election)

- **Genesis 25:23** And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

Confirmed after birth by

- Esau trading his birthright to Jacob (Genesis 25:33)
- Jacob stealing final blessing of Isaac from Esau (Genesis 27:35)
- God's blessing at Bethel to Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15)
- Descendants of Jacob (Israelites) blessed more than descendants of Esau (Edomites)
- Unlike Edomites, Israelites continue to find favor with God

Jacob have I
loved

God made His decision even before birth ... was this a fair decision?

Fact: God has the right to decide

Fact: God is Just

We may not fully understand, but we must not question God

ISAIAH 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God's Right to Choose (Paul, Romans 9)

ROMANS 9:11-20 ¹¹ (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

¹² It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. ¹³ As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. ¹⁴ What shall we say then? **Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.**

¹⁵ For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ¹⁶ So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

¹⁷ For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. ¹⁸ Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

¹⁹ Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?

²⁰ Nay but, O man, **who art thou that repliest against God?** Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?

I loved Jacob and I hated Esau

God's love shown through selection of Jacob (Israel) and rejection of Esau (Edomites)

Hate seems like a strong negative word;

Opposite of 'chosen' seems more reasonable.

Loved = chosen

- (Jacob fell but restored)

Hated = rejected

- (Esau fell, but not restored)

Does Jesus
expect His
disciples to
“hate” their
family?

Luke 14:26

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Edomites (descendants of Esau): History of conflicts but a remnant will be restored

And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red *pottage*; for I *am* faint: therefore was his name called **Edom** (Genesis 25:30)

Acquisition of Land

Deuteronomy 2:12 Edomites displaced Horims and acquired their land

Respect for Edomites

Deuteronomy 23:7 “Thou shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is thy brother”

Defeat of Edomites

II Samuel 8:14 And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went.

II Kings 14:7(Amaziah) He slew of Edom in the valley of salt ten thousand)

Recovery of Edomites

I Kings 16:6 At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave the Jews from Elath: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day. **II Chronicles 28:17** For again the Edomites had come and smitten Judah, and carried away captives.

Restoration of Remnant **Amos 9:12** a remnant will be restored

Punishment of Edomites

Ezekiel 25: 12 Thus saith the Lord God; Because that Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and hath greatly offended, and revenged himself upon them; ¹³ Therefore thus saith the Lord God; I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; and they of Dedan shall fall by the sword.

**Does God
choose us or
do we choose
God?**

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you (John 15:16)

For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13)

We love Him because he first loved us (I John 4:19)

A serene landscape featuring a calm body of water in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding environment. In the middle ground, there is a dense line of evergreen trees. The background consists of large, misty mountains under a soft, hazy sky. The overall color palette is dominated by cool blues and purples, suggesting a dawn or dusk setting. On the left side of the image, there is a dark, semi-transparent overlay containing white text.

Your reflection

Burden of the Lord

Love of God

Character of God

Burden of the Lord, Today

Has it changed from the days of Malachi?

Do we observe ...

Former glory missing?

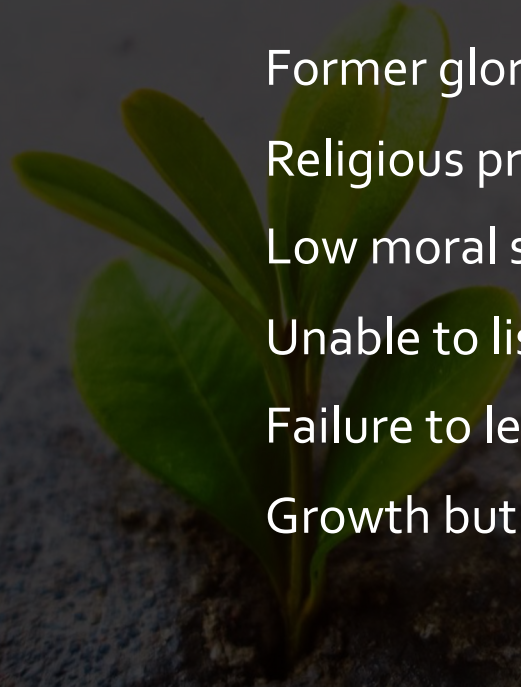
Religious practices but no passion (lukewarmness)?

Low moral standards & compromised spiritual lives?

Unable to listen and obey God's voice?

Failure to learn from past experiences?

Growth but no health?





Love of God

God says: I love you

Do you object: I am not sure and question the love of God?

God responds: Read John 3:16, Ephesians 5:25-27, Romans 5:8

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Ephesians 5:25 ... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Character of God

- God is Love
- God never changeth

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