

## Would Malachi Be Heard Today?

(Part 1)

## Background of Haggai, Ezra, Nehemiah, Zechariah, and Malachi

### Captivity

- 606 BC – First captives taken by Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel 1:1-2
- 597 BC – Second Group (10,000) taken to Babylon. 2 Kings 24:10-16; Ezekiel 1:1-3
- 586 BC – Jerusalem falls, temple destroyed. 2 Kings 25:1-21
- 539 BC – Babylon falls to Medes and Persians. Daniel 5: 25ff; Isaiah 44:27-45:1-4

Ecclesiastes 7:14 says, "In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider."

## Background of Haggai, Ezra, Nehemiah, Zechariah, and Malachi

### Restoration

- 536 BC – Cyrus issues a decree (538) for the Jews to go back to Jerusalem; after 70 years. (cf. Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10-14)
  - Almost 50,000 return under the leadership of Zerubbabel (2 Chronicles 36:21-23; Ezra 1)
- 520-516 BC – The temple is completed. Ezra 6:15
- 458 BC – Ezra led a second remnant of 2,058 Jews to Jerusalem. Ezra 8:1-34; Zechariah 9-14
- 444 BC – Nehemiah lead a third remnant back. Nehemiah 2

## Background of Haggai, Ezra, Nehemiah, Zechariah, and Malachi

### Restoration

- 445-432 BC – Malachi writes about faithfulness to the Lord.
  - About 100 years after the restoration.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation descendants had begun to lose sight of serving the Lord and wholehearted zeal.
  - Worship was in decay, priests were careless regarding sacrifices. (1:6-8, 13; 2:9)
  - Tithing had been neglected. (3:9-10)
  - Indifference and skepticism characterized the nation as a whole. (3:14; 2:17)
  - Divorce and intermarriage with the Gentile women was common. (2:11-16)

Ye say ... "Wherein hast thou loved us?"  
Malachi 1:2

### The Lord's Answer:

- I chose Jacob (descendants) over Esau. 1:2-4; cf. Genesis 25:23
- NOTE: God restored Israel, but refused to restore Edom. Jeremiah 49:7-22  
cf. John 3:16; Ephesians 1:3ff; Romans 9:8-13

Ye say ... "Wherein have we despised thy name?"  
Malachi 1:6

Ye say ... "Wherein have we polluted thee?" Malachi 1:7

### The Lord's Answer:

- Ye offer polluted bread; in weariness. 1:7, 13 (cf. Revelation 3:15-17)
  - Faithless priests rebuked. cf. Deuteronomy 15:21
  - Gentiles would give honor and great sacrifices. 1:11; cf. Romans 9:24-26; 10:1-3, 20-21
  - Curse pronounced. 2:1-9
    - Responsibilities: Keep the covenant. Teach the law. Observe sacrifices.
- cf. Elders, preachers, etc. (cf. Ezekiel 34; Acts 20:29-30)

Ye say, "Wherefore?" (Why is God displeased with us?) Malachi 2:10-14

The Lord's Answer:

- Ye divorced your wives and "married the daughter of a foreign god." Malachi 2:11, 13, 16; Genesis 2:18; Matthew 19:1-9; Matthew 14:1; Mark 6:16-18

7