

BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

1

Malachi

2

Introduction to the Minor Prophets

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| ✓ Obadiah | ✓ Zephaniah |
| ✓ Joel | ✓ Habakkuk |
| ✓ Jonah | ✓ (Jeremiah) |
| ✓ Amos | ✓ (Ezekiel) |
| ✓ Hosea | ✓ Haggai |
| ✓ Micah | ✓ Zechariah |
| ✓ (Isaiah) | ✓ Malachi |
| ✓ Nahum | |

3

Introduction to Malachi

Title

- ✓ Hebrew = *Malachi* (מַלְאָכִי; “My messenger”; 3:1)
- ✓ Greek = *Malachias* (ΜΑΛΑΧΙΑΣ; “Malachi”)

4

Introduction to Malachi

WHO—Authorship

- ✓ Malachi (1x occurrence in the OT, but see 3:1)

WHO—Audience

- ✓ To Israel (1:1), after the return from exile under Ezra and Nehemiah

5

Introduction to Malachi

WHEN

- ✓ Recommended date of ~430 BC
- ✓ Most scholars maintain 500 BC to 435 BC, but Malachi may fit best as the final book of the Old Testament.

6

Introduction to Malachi

WHERE

- ✓ Probably in Jerusalem during the days of Nehemiah
- ✓ Israel's sins—Priestly Nepotism, Levitical Neglect, Breaking the Sabbath, Intermarrying with Foreigners
- ✓ Israel needs spiritual preparation

7

Introduction to Malachi

WHY

To convict the hearts of Israel to repent of their infidelity against Yahweh, despite Yahweh's undying faithfulness to them, and to prepare their hearts for the coming of a messenger who will introduce the Messiah to them.

8

Introduction to Malachi

HOW—Terminology

- ✓ Messenger (or angel; meaning of Malachi's name in 1:1; see also 2:7; 3:1 (2x))
- ✓ Send (a messenger, a curse, commandment, or someone in divorce; 2:2, 4, 16; 3:1; 4:5)
- ✓ Glory (or Honor; 1:6 (2x); 2:2)
- ✓ Name (1:6 (2x), 11 (3x), 14; 2:2, 5; 3:16; 4:2)
- ✓ "Yahweh of Hosts" (1:4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14; 2:2, 4, 7, 8, 12, 16; 3:1, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17; 4:1, 3)

9

Introduction to Malachi

HOW—Themes

- ✓ Q&A Questions (1:2, 6, 7; 2:14, 17; 3:7, 8, 13)
- ✓ Malachi's Charge to Israel
- ✓ Does God Hate Divorce? (2:16)

10

Introduction to Malachi

HOW—Literary Structure

- ✓ Malachi the Messenger (1:1)
 - ✓ How Does God Love Israel? (1:2–5)
 - ✓ How Has Israel Despised God? (1:6 – 2:9)
 - ✓ Why Is Worship Not Effective? (2:10–16)
 - ✓ Why Is God Weary of the Worship? (2:17 – 3:6)
 - ✓ How Can Israel Repent to God? (3:7–12)
 - ✓ How Has Israel Turned against God? (3:13 – 4:4)
- ✓ The Messenger of the Messiah (4:5–6)

The structure of the book is shaped around the questions that Israel has against God (1:2, 6–7; 2:14, 17; 3:7–8, 13).

11



12
