

A Warning to the Priests

Malachi 2:1-9

A Look At History

(yrs.)

- Beginning, **Gen. 1-11**, 4166BC-- 2000
- Hebrew Family, **Gen. 12-50**, 2166BC-- 361
- Egyptian Bondage, **Ex. 1-14**, 1805BC-- 359
- Sinai & Wandering, **Ex. 15-Num. 20**, 1446BC-- 41
- Conquer Canaan, **Num. 21-1Sam.7**, 1405BC-- 355
- United Kingdom, **1Sam.8-2Chron.9**, 1050BC-- 119
- Divided Kingdom, **2Chron.10-36**, 931BC-- 345
 - Kingdom of Israel, 931BC-721BC 3580
 - Kingdom of Judea, 931BC-(606BC)586BC
- Captivity, 721BC(606BC)-444BC--
- Release & Restoration, 539-400BC-- 3766

Brings us to Malachi-The Last OT Prophet

Levitical Priesthood Confirmed

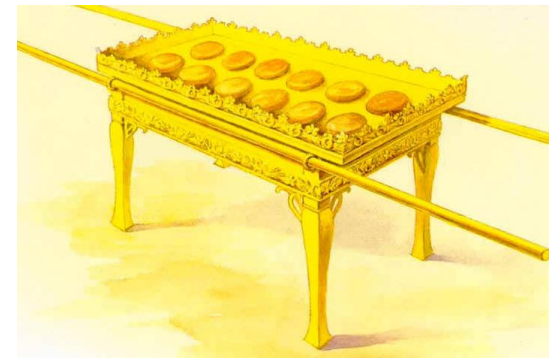
- **Key responsibilities-Exodus 40:13-15**
 - Officiate all spiritual rituals for the people
 - Instruct Israel in the Law of Moses
 - Pronounce judgment over specific disputes of the law
- **Priests were to prepare Israel to follow the law & worshipped properly**
 - Major influence on Israel's' spiritual success
 - Exemplary character and behavior essential



Priests During Malachi's Time

- **The Priests were:**

- **Hypocritical**
- **Corrupt**
- **Menace to God and His people**



- **Malachi's message to the priests was...**

- **A forceful rebuke of their behavior.**
- **A solemn plea for the priests to repent and renew their reverence to the Lord.**
- **A picture of the priest's future.**

Shocking Sins of the Priests

- Refused to revere the Lord and despised His name, **Malachi, 1:6**
- Offered blind, lame, and sick, sacrifices, **Malachi 1:7-8**
- Treated the alter with contempt, **Malachi 1:7, 12**
- Treated the Lord's service as drudgery, a weariness, **Malachi 1:13**



Shocking Sins of the Priests

- Refused to take the Lord's warnings to heart, **Malachi 2:1-2**
- Corrupted the priestly covenant of Levi with God, **Malachi, 2:4,5,8**
- Departed from the ways of the Lord, **Malachi 2:8-9**
- Caused the people to stumble at the law, **Malachi 2:8**
- Showed partiality in the priestly functions, **Malachi 2:9**



God's Warning by Malachi

- Repent or face the consequences
 - Malachi, 2:3, *“Behold, I will rebuke your descendants And spread refuse on your faces, The refuse of your solemn feasts; And one will take you away with it.”*
 - Malachi 2:9, *“I have made you contemptible and base Before all the people, Because you have not kept My ways But have shown partiality in the law.”*
 - Contemptible: Despised, Disdained, Scorned
 - Base: made low, humbled, publicly mocked

Application

- Warnings to priests of “covenant of Levi” in the context of a Messianic Prophecy
- **Malachi 3:1**, “Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the Lord of hosts.”
- **Malachi 3:3**, “He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness”



Application

- **Reference to Spiritual Priesthood Today**
 - **1 Peter 2:5**, “*chosen by God...living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*”
 - **1 Peter 2:9**, “*you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*”

**The Honor of Our Priesthood Far
Surpasses the Sons of Aaron !!!**

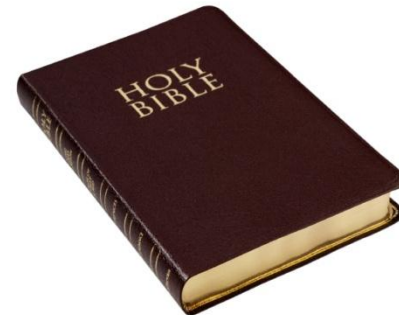
Application

- **With Greater Honor; Greater Responsibility**
- **Hebrews 2:1-3**, *“we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him...”*

**Are We Doing Any Better
Than The Levite Priests?**

God's Expectations??

- **Function of a New Testament priests, no less than that of a Levite priests**
 - **Malachi 2:7**, *“the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.”*
- **Priests are to:**
 - Be *“reverent”*, **vs. 5**
 - Have the *“law of truth”* in his mouth, **vs. 6**
 - Never to have *“injustice”* on his lips, **vs. 6**
 - Walk with God *“in peace and equity”*, **vs. 6**
 - Turn *“many away from iniquity”*, **vs. 6 & 8**



Conclusion

The Difference

Hell

Heaven

