

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE ORIGIN STORY OF JESUS

RLJ-1886

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PART 87: THE LAST PROPHET

INTRODUCTION

The prophet Malachi was active as a prophet around 455-425 B.C. He was preceded by the prophets Haggai – active for a month in 520 – and Zechariah – active between 520-510 B.C. They were primarily used to ensure Zerubbabel and the Jews did not halt the work on the new temple.

Malachi also spoke to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem, but the message he received was timeless. The Godhead used him to establish the financial foundation of the future church, the importance of marriage, and how divorce was not an option.

JACOB AND ESAU

The first message from Malachi is that God loves the descendants of Jacob, but hates the descendants of Esau. No matter how hard the Edomites try, their work is cursed and God will destroy it. **Malachi 1:1-5**

SINS OF THE PRIESTS

Jesus rips into the priests at Jerusalem who are in charge of the temple sacrifices. He accuses them of despising his name and ignoring the laws when they sacrifice.

Leviticus 1:1-3

Jesus had told Moses that any sacrificial animal was to be without blemish in addition to being healthy and strong. In contrast, the priests were sacrificing animals that were blind, sick, and lame. God did not want the useless animals. He gives the very best and expects the same in return. **Malachi 1:6-8**

REBUKE FROM GOD

The priests prayed for grace from the Lord. This did not set well with God and He issued a strong rebuke to them. **verses 9-10**

The heathens will give God the praise He deserves. **verse 11**

Jesus criticized the priests for the way they had profaned His altar and brought in substandard animals that failed to meet the specifications. **verses 12-13**

Any deceiver who brings an inferior animal would be cursed by the Lord because He is the King of kings and Lord and lords and won't accept any insults. **verse 14**

LEVITICAL PRIESTS

There was even a curse for the priests if they failed to obey the Lord. **Malachi 2:1-4**

The Levitical priesthood was established by Jesus when He called two men from the tribe of Levi – Moses and Aaron. **Exodus 4:11-16**

Aaron had a deep respect for Jesus. **Malachi 2:5-6**



The priests were to be the spokesmen for Jesus. **verse 7**

But they had departed from the Lord. **verse 8**

Because of their sins, the priests were not revered by the people of Judah. **verse 9**

MEN OF JUDAH

The men of Judah were not honoring the Lord. They were not honest with one another, choosing to engage in lying and theft and cheating their brethren. **verse 10**

They sinned by marrying pagan women. **verses 11-12**

Other men in Judah had divorced the wives of their youth and caused these women to weep for the injustice they had experienced. **verses 13-16**

The evil actions of the men had made Jesus weary with their Kabbalistic twisted way of thinking. **verse 17**

FUTURE MESSIAH

Jesus revealed to Malachi that the Messiah was going to come to the temple in Jerusalem in the future and there would be a cleansing and renewal. **Malachi 3:1-6**

TITHING

Tithing was important to the Levitical system and still is significant to the New Testament church. Tithing was instituted prior to Abraham and even he tithed to Melchizedek, the king of Salem and priest of God. **Genesis 14:13-20**

Jesus rebuked the men of Judah for evading their tithes to the priests and called them robbers. **Malachi 3:7-8**

There is a curse upon any believer in Christ who does not tithe. **verse 9**

Jesus will be in charge of your finances and bless you if you are a tither. Conversely, the Son of God will rebuke anyone opposing a tithing person. **verses 10-12**

VAINLY SERVING GOD

The people of Judah had spoken strongly against the Lord. We can see that the Kabbalistic doctrine had infiltrated their values. They felt that nothing good had come from serving the Lord and they profited nothing for keeping His commandments. They failed to recognize that it was the grace of God that those who did evil lived a good life. **verses 13-15**

THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Jesus responded and told the people about the Book of Remembrance. **verses 16-18**

Some 500 years later Jesus released the Book of Revelation when the apostle John was given a detailed description of events during the end times. **Revelation 20:11-15**

REVEALING THE END TIMES

Jesus provided Malachi with a shortened version of the end times. Before the terrible end comes with judgment, the Lord would send the prophet Elijah, who would turn the hearts of people around. **Malachi 4:1-6; Luke 1:17**

Jesus explained the coming of Elijah when He told the apostles that John the Baptist was the fulfillment of prophecy; he was the one sent by God to come in the spirit and authority of Elijah to turn the hearts of the people back toward God. **Matthew 17:10-13**

SUMMARY

Malachi was the last of the Old Testament prophets. When he was active in Judah, the return of Jews from Babylon had already taken place. Zerubbabel had started to rebuild the temple. Ezra had also come from Babylon to reestablish the priesthood in the temple and rooted out pagan mixed marriages.

Malachi's purpose was to provide a final warning and instruction to the Jewish people which would be in effect until the second return of Jesus. The sacrificial laws were fulfilled by Jesus on the cross, with the moral and practical laws of the Mosaic law still in effect according to the Son of God. **Matthew 5:17-19**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?