

# MALACHI

## A Divine Q&A

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God Responds  
to our Common Questions  
*about Him*

# The Historical Context of Malachi

CYRUS ISSUES THE DECREE PERMITTING THE JEWS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND



538

THE FIRST GROUP OF JEWS RETURNS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ZERUBBABEL



536

THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM IS COMPLETED



516

A SECOND GROUP RETURNS UNDER EZRA



458

A THIRD GROUP RETURNS UNDER NEHEMIAH



445

THE REBUILDING OF THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM IS FINISHED



444

NEHEMIAH TEMPORARILY RETURNS TO BABYLON



433

MALACHI PROPHECIES DURING NEHEMIAH'S ABSENCE

432  
425



INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD BEFORE THE BIRTH OF JESUS

# The Primary Focus of Malachi

Malachi calls the people to repent and to rekindle zealous worship and obedience, fueled by right thinking about God, as they await the coming Messiah.

# The Rhetorical Structure of Malachi

## A Divine Q&A – Six Dialogues:

- God Makes an Assertion
- The People's Response is Summarized with a Question
- God's Answers Their Objection

# The Rhetorical Structure of Malachi

## A Divine Q&A – God Responds to Six Questions:

- 1:2 “How have you loved us?”
- 1:6-7 “How have we despised your name?”
- 2:14 “For what reason [do You not regard our offerings]?”
- 2:17 “How have we wearied Him?”
- 3:7-8 “How shall we return?”
- 3:13 “What have we spoken against you?”

# When We Question God's Love

Malachi 1:1-5

- I. God's Love Declared (2a)
- II. God's Love Doubted (2b)
- III. God's Love Demonstrated (2c-4)
  - A. In His Sovereign Election

## Westminster Confession of Faith

Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to his eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will, hath chosen in Christ unto everlasting glory, out of his mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving him thereunto; and all to the praise of his glorious grace.

# When We Question God's Love

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- I. God's Love Declared (2a)
- II. God's Love Doubted (2b)
- III. God's Love Demonstrated (2c-5)
  - A. In His Sovereign Election
  - B. By His Irrevocable Judgment