

The Burden of Malachi

God's Messenger to a Disillusioned Generation, Part 1

Malachi 1:1

- God's people had returned out of captivity with great hope but now 100 years has passed and disillusionment and disappointment had set in.
- What do you say to people that are all at the same time, angry at God, yet cynical; of those who are apathetic in their service, but also doubting and disputing of His goodness?
- The "burden" was:
 - 1.) A Weighty Responsibility: Numbers 4:15,19,24,27,31, etc.
 - 2.) By Divine Authority: The Word of the Lord. Nahum 1:1; Hab.1:1; Zech.9:1; 12:1.
 - 3.) For a Disillusioned People: "to Israel"
 - 4.) Given an Unknown Prophet: He is not mentioned in any other Scripture.
- Malachi arranges this final book of the OT in a series of disputes to lift them out of their disillusionment:

1. They DENY God's Love: 1:2

2. They DESPISE God's Name & DEFILED the Temple, 1:6,7

3. They ENGAGE in IDOLATRY & DIVORCE, 2:14

4. They ACCUSE God of Injustice, 2:17

5. They DEFEND their Obedience to God, 3:7

6. They COMPLAIN that it is worthless to Serve God, 3:13-18

- Is God's Word a burden upon your heart to share with anyone?