

INTRODUCTION

A. HISTORY

1. contemporary of Nehemiah (c.435-415 BC)
2. resentful disappointment after return, rebuilds (temple, Jerusalem; e.g., Hag.2:9)
3. defection in worship & life by priests & people (i.e., sacrifices, tithes, teaching, marriage, justice)
4. promises: eternal love, restorative repentance and timely salvation (1:1f; 3:1f)

B. STRUCTURE

1. letter to the church (compare Rev.2,3; see Mal.3:7; Rev.2:5)
2. disputations: talking back to God! (1:2,6,7,14,17; 3:7,8,13; note: satire; Mt.15:5; Rom.9:20; Is.29:16)
3. chiasm: center focus ([A] oracle; [B] righteous/wicked; [C] vain worship; [D] broken covenant X [D] broken covenant; [C] vain worship; [B] righteous/wicked; [A] law & prophet)

C. NEW TESTAMENT

1. Jacob/Esau (1:2,3; Rom.9:13)
2. My messenger (3:1; Mt.11:10; Mk.1:2; Lk.7:27)
3. send Elijah (4:5; Mt.11:14; 17:10f; Mk.9:11f; Lk.1:17; Jn.1:21)

HEADING (1:1)

- A. ORACLE: WEIGHTY WORD TO BE TAKEN TO HEART** (1; 2:2; Dt.4:39; 32:46; Mt.11:15)
- B. OF THE LORD** (1; see 2Tm.3:16f; 2Pt.2:20f)
- C. TO ISRAEL** (1; see Gal.1:2; Rev.2:7,etc.; see Jn.10:3f)
- D. BY THE HAND OF MALACHI** (1; see 2Chr.36:15; Zech.1:6; “my messenger”, 3:1; 4:5)

THEMATIC STATEMENT AND POINT OF THE BOOK (1:2-5)

- A. THE LORD’S DECLARATION OF LOVE** (1:2a; see Jer.31:3; Jn.13:34; 15:12; Rev.3:9)
- B. ISRAEL DISPUTES THE LORD’S CLAIM** (1:2b; see Mt.15:5; Rom.9:20; Is.29:16)
- C. PROOF: FOCUS ON JACOB** (1:2,3; chiasm; note: Israel || Esau, **Jacob X Jacob**, Esau || Edom)
- D. LOVE & CHOICE** (Dt.4:37; 7:7; 10:15; 23:5; Ps.47:4; 78:68; Is.41:8,9; Eph.1:4)
- E. THE LINE OF PROMISE** (1:2; Ex.2:24; Heb.11:9; Rom.9:4f,7,10f; Jn.4:22; Gal.3:14)
- F. DESTRUCTION OF THE NATION OF EDOM BECAUSE OF ITS WICKEDNESS** (1:3-5; see 3:18-4:3; Gen.25:25,30; Ezk.35:1f; Obadiah; i.e., justice, severity; note: Idumea, Nabateans)
- G. RESTORATION OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL UNTO ITS RIGHTEOUSNESS** (1:5; 3:18-4:3; i.e., grace, kindness; Eph.2:1-10; note: into all the nations; Mt.28:18,19)

LESSONS

- A. DON’T TALK BACK TO GOD BUT TAKE HIS WORD TO HEART!** (1:2,6,7,14,17; 3:7,8,13; note: satire; Mt.15:5; Rom.9:20; Is.29:16)
- B. DON’T BE BITTER AGAINST GOD BUT BE ASSURED OF HIS LOVE FOR YOU!** (1:2; Eph.1:3-6; 2:4f,10; 1n.4:9,10,16,19)
- C. BE HUMBLLED BY GOD’S LOVE AND CHOICE OF YOU IN HIS CHURCH!** (1:2-5; Dt.7:7f; Eph.1:3f; 2:4; 1Cor.4:7; Rom.11:18f,25f,36)
- D. RESPOND TO GOD’S PERFECT LOVE BY LOVING HIM WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF!** (1:2; Jn.13:34,etc.; 1Jn.4:7f; Mt.22:37f; Rom.8:13f; 1Cor.13:1f)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)