

MALACHI - "MY MESSENGER"

Audience: The returned exiles in Jerusalem

Historical Setting:

Malachi prophesied about seventy-five years after the temple had been completed (515 B.C.). The Jews had been home from Babylon for about one hundred years. Although cured of idolatry, they had lost their enthusiasm over God and worship. They had succumbed to religious indifference and moral laxity. The priesthood was corrupt and the people were wearying God with their hypocrisy.

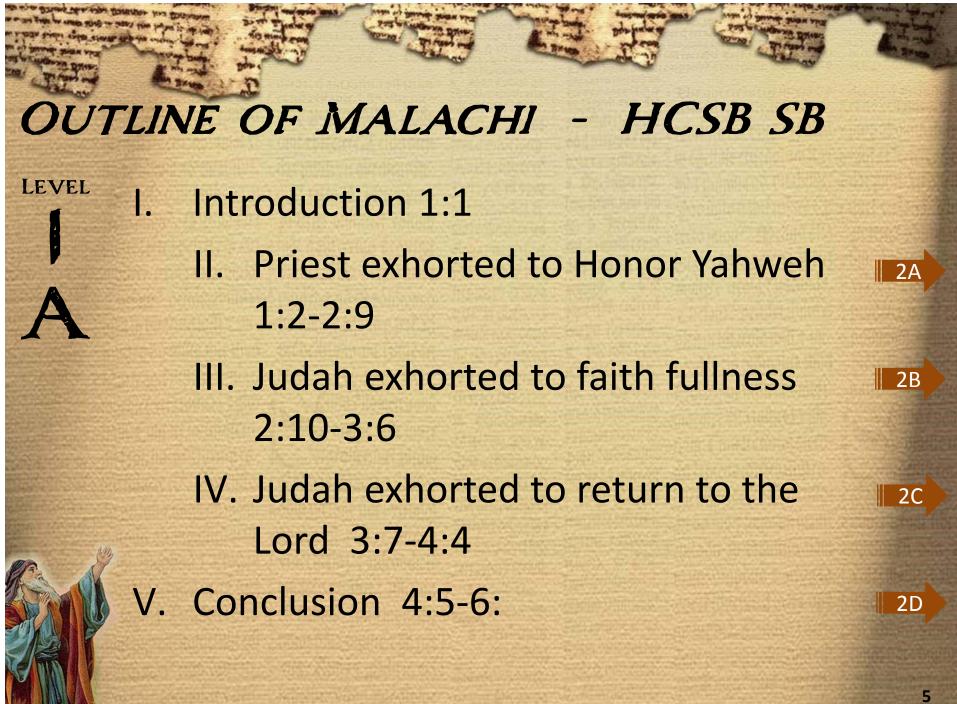
Purpose

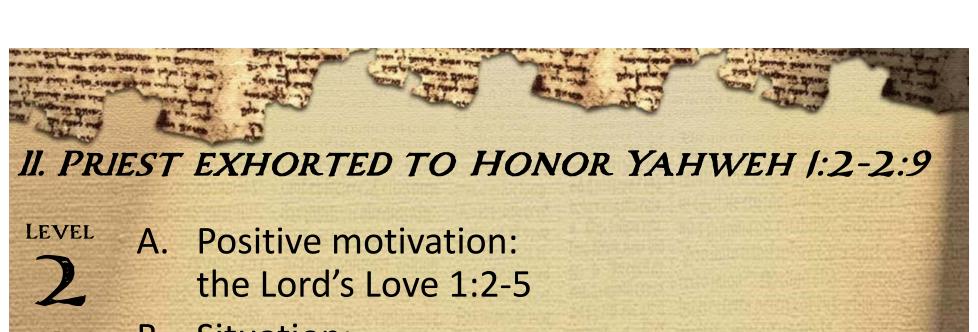
Malachi was intended to restore the Jewish people to a right relationship with God by exposing the causes of their spiritual declension and setting forth the steps for renewal.

Theology

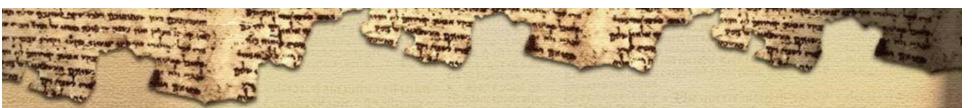
Malachi makes a unique contribution to OT theology by promising the coming of Elijah as Messiah's forerunner (4:5-6).







- B. Situation: c. Command: The Lord 1:6-9 the
- Stop the vain Offerings 1:10
- D. Situation: Priests profane the Lord's name 1:11-14
- E. Negative Motivation: results of disobedience 2:1-9



II. PRIEST EXHORTED TO HONOR YAHWEH 1:2-2:9

LEVEL

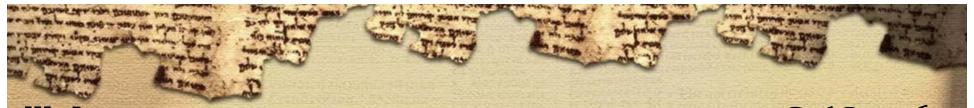
2

A

- A. Positive motivation:
 - the Lord's Love 1:2-5
 - B. Situation:

failure to honor the Lord 1:6-9

- C. Command:
 - Stop the vain Offerings 1:10
- D. Situation:
 - Priests profane the Lord's name 1:11-14
- E. Negative Motivation:
 - results of disobedience 2:1-9



III. JUDAH EXHORTED TO FAITH FULLNESS 2:10-3:6

LEVEL

2

B

A. Positive Motivation: spiritual kinship among Israel 2:10a

B. Situation: Faithlessness against a covenant member 2:10b-15a

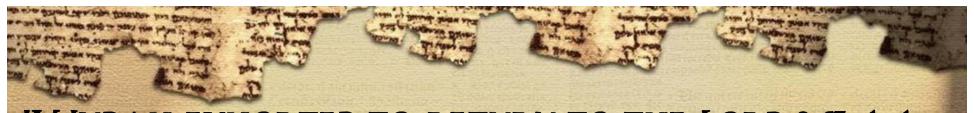
C. Command:

Stop acting faithlessly 2:15b-16

What arguments against divorce do you see in these verses?

D. Situation: complaints of the Lord's injustice 2:17

E. Negative Motivation: coming messenger of judgment 3:1-6



IV. JUDAH EXHORTED TO RETURN TO THE LORD 3:7-4:4

LEVEL

A. Command:

return to the Lord with tithes 3:7-10a

C

B. Positive Motivation:

Future Blessing 3:10b-12

C. Situation:

complacency in serving the Lord 3:13-15

D. Motivation:

The coming Day of the Lord 3:16-4:3

E. Command:

remember the Law 4:4-4

COMPARING THE THREE CHIASMS

	1:2-2:9	2:10-3:9	3:7-4:4
Level 1	Positive Motivation	Positive Motivation	Command
Level 2	Situation	Situation	Positive Motivation
Level 3	Command	Command	Situation
Level 2'	Situation	Situation	Motivation
Level 3'	Negative Motivation	Negative Motivation	Command







• Different Views:

- Elijah(OT prophet) will personally come again
- Elijah may not come again
- Multiple Elijahs are coming
- Elijah will not come again





¹⁰And the disciples asked him, "Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?"

¹¹He answered, "Elijah does come, and he will restore all things.

¹²But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands."

¹³Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

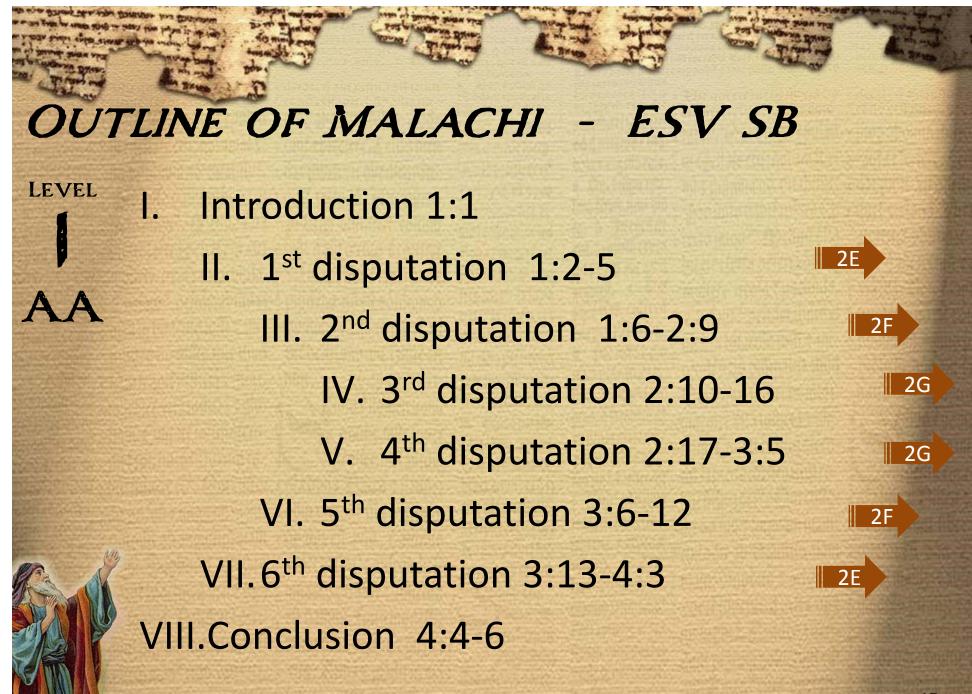
Jesus says Yes, you are right – Elijah must come!

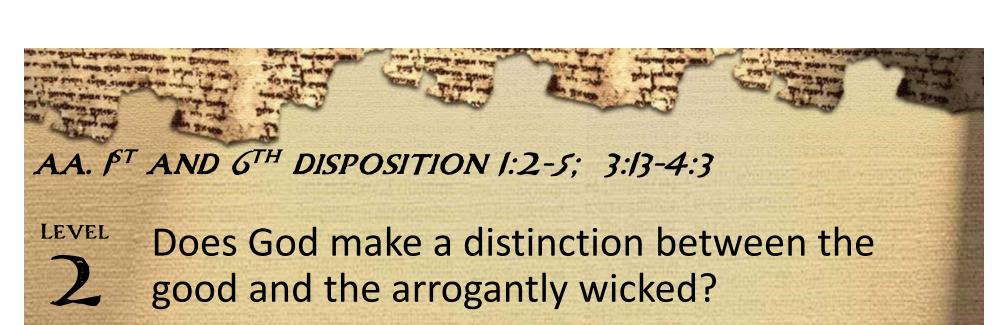
Jesus says Elijah has come, It is in the past!.

Jesus says Elijah is John,
They had the same kind of ministry

CONCERNING JOHN THE BAPTIST

- The Angel Gabriel quoted Mal 4:6 in announcing John's birth indicating that he would fulfill the prophecy (lk 1:17)
- Filled by the Holy Spirit Zecharias quotes Mal 3:1 with reference to John's ministry (Lk 1:76)
- John in filling the prophecy makes it evident that the term "Elijah" focused on the Ministry and Office and not on the person. John came in the spirit and power of Elijah and prepared the way for Jesus,





E

God's elective love vindicated in his judgement.





