



The Heart God Seeks to Restore The book of Malachi

Malachi wrote what we now know as 'the book of Malachi' around 440 BC. This is God's last book in the Old Testament and final revelation to His people for about 400 years until He announces the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The Heart God Seeks to Restore: An Overview of Malachi *"He will restore the hearts..." Malachi 4:6*

- I question God's love for me. (v. 1:2-5)
- I have lost a true heart of worship. (v. 1:6-2:9)
- I am not keeping my covenant of faithfulness to God as reflected in my marriage. (v. 2:10-17)
- I am not spiritually ready if Christ returned in judgment. (v. 3:1-7)
- I lack full obedience to God as reflected in my lack of generosity to His work. (v. 3:8-12)
- I serve the Lord more out of a legalistic duty than a love for God. (v. 3:13-15)
- Therefore, I need a restored heart to God so I serve Him in righteous faithfulness before His final day of judgment. (v. 3:16-4:6)

Restoration begins as we affirm the depth of God's love for us Malachi 1:2-5

"'I have loved you,' " says the LORD. But you say, 'How have You loved us...?' " Malachi 1:2

John 3:16; Romans 5:6-10; Titus 3:4-7; I John 4:10; Hosea 14

Why some question God's love:

- Their lives have been shattered by hard circumstances and significant loss. 605-586 BC
- Compared to others, their own life is a disappointment. Haggai 2:3
- They forgot God's Word of love to them so they do not feel His love. Hosea 11; Isaiah 43:1-5
- They assimilated too much in the culture of the world and became self-sufficient. Hosea 13:6
- For 70 years, they lacked a full worship of God. Jeremiah 25:11

Restoration needs to honor God through proper worship Malachi 1:6-2:9

"You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, 'How have we defiled You?'" ... Malachi 1:7

Psalm 73:12-17 **Defiled** = ceremonial pollution of imperfect sacrifices. To put little worth into something.

Some problems with worship to be corrected:

- When leaders are unaware of their faulty worship. *"How have we defiled You?" (v. 1:7; Leviticus 22:19-22)*
- When people are not fully prepared for worship. *"presenting defiled food." (v. 1:7, 10, 14)*
- When we are apathetic and indifferent to true worship. *"You also say, 'My, how tiresome it is!'" (v. 1:13)*

The Solution

- Personally, listen to God's Word to prepare your own heart for worship. (v. 2:1-5)
- Expect to be instructed from God's Word. (v. 2:6-9; Nehemiah 8:1-10)

We reflect a restored heart as we obey God, proven with generosity Malachi 3:7-12

"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings." (v. 3:8)

- Commit to a consistent, generous gift to the Lord. *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house..." (v. 3:10)*
- Give in faith that God will provide for you. *"... and test Me now in this says the LORD of hosts, 'if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows ...'" (v. 3:10)*

The Restored Heart in Christ

"But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall." Malachi 4:2

	950	900	850	800	750	700	650	600	550	500	450	400
	Egypt			Assyria				Babylon		Persia		
	North & South Kingdoms				Judah Alone			Exile		Post-Exile		
	Solomon Dies			Israel Falls			Judah Falls		Captives Return			
MAJOR PROPHETS				Isaiah			Jeremiah/Lamentations		Daniel			
							Ezekiel					
MINOR PROPHETS	Obadiah		Jonah		Micah		Nahum		Haggai		Malachi	
	Joel		Amos				Zephaniah		Zechariah			
					Hosea		Habakkuk					
OTHER PROPHETS & OT BOOKS	Elijah		Elisha						Esther			
											Ezra	
											Nehemiah	

LifeGroup Discussion & Personal Reflection:

- When have you questioned God's love for you? What circumstances might have influenced those thoughts? What does God say about His love for you in these verses?: Romans 5:6-10; Titus 3:4-7; I John 4:10; Hosea 14
- In what ways do you prepare your heart to worship corporately on Sunday? How would the following ways help prepare your heart?: arriving early, reading through the passage of the morning, listening to music that praises our Lord, spending time in quiet prayer for God to speak to your needs, offering words of praise for His goodness in even the small areas of your life. What does God say about the importance to gather in His "sanctuary" (vs. 17) in Psalm 73:12-18? What is our responsibility to others as we gather to worship according to Hebrews 10:23-25?
- How would you assess your giving to God's work? What percentage of your income is offered to the Lord? What does 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 teach you about your offering to the Lord?

In Response:

GIVING: The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or calvarylife.org/give

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

PRAYER ROOM: The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.