

Notes for Malachi 1:1 to 1:3

Hebrew & Greek pronunciation spelled phonetically

Malachi (*Mahl-ah-KHEE* in Hebrew) likely wrote his prophecy between 433 and 425 B.C. After Malachi, there were no new prophets for about 400 years. This time is often called the “400 Years of Silence” or “intertestamental period”.

Malachi means “My Messenger”

Maśśā' (*mas-saw'*) often means burden, but also oracle. It is also used for the prophecies of Zechariah 9:1, Nahum 1:1. and Habakkuk 1:1.

Matthew 6:24 - *No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*

Romans 6:16 - *Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?*

A “master” is anything that enslaves us.

Alcohol, drugs, sex, success, too much time in hobbies like golf, fishing or hunting and, obviously, money are all examples of “masters” that enslave us.

In Jesus’ warning, He specifies money (or “mammon” or “wealth” in other translations) as a master in opposition to God, but there are many “masters” that try to enslave us.

Isaiah 6:11- *Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said: “Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste,*

Isaiah 53:1 - *Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?*

Revelation 3:15-16 – *“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”*

John 14:15 - *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”*

Luke 12:48 - *But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. **Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.***

Philippians 2:13 - *for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

John 15:5 - *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing*

As God’s child – as part of His Bride – how would you describe God’s love to you?
Is your life or family such a mess that you have doubts about it as the Israelites did?
Do you want to say, “How have You loved me?”
I think there is a little of that in all of us.
Maybe what we should ask instead is, “How have I loved God?”