

Notes for Malachi 2:17 – 3:4

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 called the “400 Years of Silence”.

Malachi means “My Messenger”

Jeremiah 7:24 - “But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward.”

In the epic poem, *Paradise Lost* by John Milton, Satan having just been cast out embraces evil and says, “**Evil, be thou my good.**”

Isaiah 5:20 - *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!*

Hebrews 12:1 - *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.*

Ecclesiastes 8:11 - *Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil.*

Matthew 11:10 - *This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”*

Mark 1:2 - *As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way*

Luke 7:27 - *This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”*

Luke 1:17 - *and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”*

Acts 2:36 - “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

The title “Adonai” is a Hebrew word meaning “Lord” or “Master”. “Kyrios” is used to translate both “Adonai” and “YHWH” (*Yahweh*). Jesus is repeatedly called Kyrios in New Testament which equals Adonai.

Malachi 3:1 – Three Key Figures

1. “I”, The Speaker is the Lord of hosts = God the Father (*some say it’s Jesus Christ*).
2. “My Messenger” = Identified in the New Testament as John the Baptist (*Matthew 11:10, Mark 1:2, Luke 7:27*). Connected to Elijah (*Malachi 4:5, Luke 1:17*)
3. Jesus Christ = Messenger of the Covenant. Will come to **His** temple - a claim to divine ownership. Called “Lord,” a title not used for Elijah or John. Interchangeable with Lord in the verse structure.

Ephesians 2:8 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*

Ephesians 6:13 - *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

Psalms 24:3 & 4 - *Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.*

In ancient times, a refiner used intense heat to purify precious metals like gold or silver. The fire melted the metal so impurities (*called dross*) would rise to the top and could be removed, leaving behind pure metal.

The refiner knows that the silver is pure when he can see his own reflection in the mirror-like surface of the metal.

In the same way, God will know that we have been purified (*our “dross” – our impurities – are removed*) when He sees HIS own image reflected in us!

Fuller's soap was likely a combination of alkaline substances (*like lye or potash*), and in the Bible, it represents God's deep, purifying work in the hearts of His people, cleansing them from sin and making them holy. It appears only in Malachi 3:2, but is hinted at in Jeremiah 2:22

Jeremiah 2:22 - *Though you wash yourself with **lye** and use much **soap**, the stain of your guilt is still before me, declares the Lord God.*