

THE COMING OF CHRIST IN THE MINOR PROPHETS

An Anglican Advent Bible Study

Malachi



The Advent Season

- Advent means “coming” or “appearing”
- Advent—though having a *penitential* aspect—is a season for *preparation*: for celebrating Christ’s First Coming and readying ourselves for His Second.
- Advent’s major themes include:
 - Expectation: waiting/making the way for Jesus through prayer, study & personal preparation
 - Hope: looking for the restoration of God’s People and His promise of peace to us/world
 - Joy: celebrating Christ’s Advent and the ongoing presence of His “Interim Coming”
 - Love: sharing affection by spending less time on worldly cares and more on Church & family
- Observing Advent’s Expectation/Anticipation:
 - Advent wreath & calendar
 - *O Antiphons* (“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”)

The name Malachi means “my messenger.” The Septuagint gives its meaning as “angel,” since *angelos* is the Greek word for “messenger.” An angel was a messenger and could be either human or supernatural. In fact, there were a few church fathers who actually thought that Malachi was a spiritual angel, that an angel wrote this book.

Time setting of Malachi

Malachi is considered a “post-exilic” prophet who ministered in the last part of the fifth century. Malachi certainly wrote to the people of Judah (1:1; 2:11) and was the prophet at the time of Nehemiah as Haggai and Zechariah were the prophets at the time of Zerubbabel and Joshua. Malachi wrote about the corruption of the temple sacrifices, meaning that he likely delivered his message many years after the Israelites rebuilt the temple in 515 B.C. The prophet’s concerns mirror those of Nehemiah’s, suggesting that Malachi prophesied to the people while Nehemiah left the city for several years, beginning in 432 B.C. (Nehemiah 13:6). Based on the content of the book (particularly in chapters 1 & 2), it becomes clear that Malachi delivered his message of judgment to a Judean audience familiar with worshipping at the temple in Jerusalem who had turned away from the true worship of the Lord. Hence, Malachi was keen to anticipate a future restoration of pure and orthodox worship, yet not among strictly among the Jews, but also the Gentiles!

“I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand. ¹¹ For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts. ¹² But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible. ¹³ Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts;” (1:10b-13a).

Malachi concludes the prophetic books as Nehemiah concludes the historical books of the Old Testament. He probably prophesied during the time of Nehemiah’s governorship or immediately afterwards.

A messenger would prepare the way for the Messiah.

Prophecy	Fulfillment
<p>Malachi 3:1 "BEHOLD, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts."</p>	<p>Matthew 11:10-11 " For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding, he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."</p>

The Messiah would make a sudden appearance at the temple.

Prophecy	Fulfillment
<p>Malachi 3:1 "BEHOLD, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts."</p>	<p>Mark 11:15-16 " And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; ¹⁶ And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple."</p>

The Messiah would be the messenger of the new covenant.

Prophecy	Fulfillment
<p>Malachi 3:1 "BEHOLD, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts."</p>	<p>Luke 4:43 "And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent."</p>

The Messiah's forerunner would come in the spirit of Elijah.

Prophecy	Fulfillment
<p>Malachi 4:2 “But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings;”</p>	<p>Luke 1:76-78 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, ⁷⁸ through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,</p>
<p>Malachi 4:5 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:"</p>	<p>Matthew 3:1-2 " 3:1 IN those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 11:13-14 "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elijah, which was for to come."</p>

The Messiah's forerunner would turn many to righteousness.

Prophecy	Fulfillment
<p>Malachi 4:6 "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."</p>	<p>Luke 1:16-17 "And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Mark 1:3-5 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁴ John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. ⁵ And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins."</p>