



# *Malachi*

## Overview

Malachi is a bridge between OT and NT.

Malachi is structured using questions (1:2, 6, 7; 2:17; 3:7, 8, 13).

Picture in Malachi

Picture in New Testament

<p><u>Messenger</u> (title, 3:1; 4:5 as a continuation of 3:1)</p>	<p><u>John the Baptist</u> (Mt 11:14)</p>
<p><u>Levites</u> = <u>priests</u> (2:4, 8; 3:3, especially 2:7)</p>	<p><u>us (Christians)</u> (1 Pet 2:5, 9)</p>
<p>God's Name great among <u>nations</u>. (Mal 1:5,11,14; 3:12)</p>	<p>The 3-in-1 Name great among <u>nations</u> (Mt 28:19)</p>

### Introduction

#### Discussion 1: Malachi--I never saw that before

Review the sermon outline and recall:

*How does it serve as a bridge between the Old and New Testaments?*

*How and why are questions used? <sup>1</sup>*

*Discuss any other "I never saw/knew/heard that before" moments.*

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<sup>1</sup> For a deeper look at this, the ESV Study Bible introduction describes the "disputations" here: <http://www.esvonline.org/resources/introduction-to-malachi/>

## Discussion 2: Ambassadorship

<sup>ESV</sup> **2 Corinthians 5:20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

If you are a trusting in Christ for your salvation, you are and ambassador for Christ. The question is: "what kind of ambassador are you?"

Below is an overview/outline of DSC's Ambassador training core series. Step through the sections and ask yourselves and one another--how equipped and prepared are you?

An ambassador is one who represents his/her sending Sovereign to a foreign (separated) people. To be an ambassador for Christ, we break it into three important areas: knowledge, wisdom, and character.

### **I. Knowledge "An Accurately Informed Mind"**

#### **A. The Sovereign you represent (Knowing God)**

1. How we know God
2. His Nature
3. His Character

#### **B. The message of the Sovereign (The Gospel)**

1. What it isn't (life enhancement program...)
2. What it is. (Message of reconciliation)

#### **C. Those to whom you represent the Sovereign (the culture)**

1. Postmodernism, deconstructionism, relativism, ... uh?
2. The language (scaling the language barrier--what do they mean vs. what do you mean by words like: Truth, Love, Faith, Tolerance, ...)

### **II. Wisdom "A Discerning and Artful Approach"**

#### **A. What is it? What's it for? Why should we pursue & pray for it? What has become its unhealthy substitute?**

\* *God's chosen decision-making tool--not superstition or divination*

1. Deciding what's true (*discernment--The great evangelical famine*)
2. Deciding what to do

- B. Tactics--How to navigate in conversation and move it in a productive direction
  - 1. Using disarming/gentle (Columbo) questions.
  - 2. Logical fallacies--recognizing and helping others to recognize them
- C. Tools for Evangelism
  - 1. Christianity Explained, Christianity Explored
  - 2. Two Ways to Live, The Objective Gospel, tracts, ...

### III. Character "A Faithful and Attractive Manner"

This is what will be starting up next week (actually the first week is an overview of the entire ambassador series intended for refresher/overview... repeatable! Then two weeks break before Ambassador III goes full swing. *Ambassador I & II are not prerequisites.*)

Though this may be the least interesting sounding, it is the one I'm (Rags) most excited about this time around.

**2 Peter 1:5-8** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. **For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A. Who does Jesus want us to *be*?" ... ["*More like Jesus.*"]

– We are often too quick to jump to “What would Jesus *do*?”

B. The fruits of the Spirit... present and growing

C. The perils of pride and promise of humility

– Lots of practical help from C. J. Mahaney