THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.

(Division.)

| 1:1-5. | NATIONAL ELECTION. |
| 1:6—4:6. | NATIONAL REJECTION. |

For the Canonical order and place of the Prophets, see Ap. 1, and p. 1207.
For the Chronological order of the Prophets, see Ap. 77.
For the Inter-relation of the Prophetic Books, see Ap. 78.
For the Formula of Prophetic utterance, see Ap. 82.
For the References to the Pentateuch by the Prophets, see Ap. 92.
For the Inter-relation of the Minor (or Shorter) Prophets, see p. 1206.

Malachi is one of the six undated Minor (or Shorter) Prophets. His book shows that the Temple-worship, with its sacrifices, &c., had been fully restored; but the ceremonial formalism and hypocrisy, which culminated in the days of our Lord’s ministry, are seen actively at work.

No sooner were the restraining influences of Ezra and Nehemiah removed, than the corruption began; and went on apace, as evidenced by Mal. 1:7, 8; 3:8, &c.

From the "Restoration" and the First Passover to the birth of Messiah was exactly 400 years, the last great period of Probation (40x10; see Ap. 10). It was the great testing-time given to the Nation in the Land.

If we take the date of Malachi as being 400 years before the anointing of Messiah and the commencement of His Ministry (A.D. 26), then we have, reckoning back from A.D. 26, the year 374 B.C. This gives thirty years from the Restoration to the condition of the Nation described in this prophecy, and twenty-nine clear years from Ezra’s last date (1st Nisan, 403 B.C.): a period amply sufficient for the terrible declension of which Malachi speaks. Milner, in his valuable Church History, remarks that great reformations seldom seem to last in their purity more than thirty years.

If this be so, then Malachi may be dated as about 374 B.C., thirty years after the commencement of the Temple-worship, which marked the beginning of the 400 years till the birth of THE Messenger (John the Baptist), and THE Messiah. (See Ap. 77. 9)

This is Page 1296 From The Companion Bible.
The prophetic warning of the word of Jehovah to Israel by the hand of Malachi [My messenger].

I have loved you, hath said the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast Thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob,

And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the jackals of the wilderness.

Whereas Edom saith, We are beaten down, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus hath said the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The territory of lawlessness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever.

And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the territory of Israel.

A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a Father, where is Mine honour? and if I be a Master, where is My fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise My name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised Thy name?

Ye bring nigh polluted bread upon Mine altar, and ye say, Wherein have we polluted Thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD it is contemptible. And if ye bring nigh the blind for sacrifice, it is not evil? and if ye bring nigh the lame and sick saying, it is not evil? bring nigh it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

And now, I pray you, beseech God that He will be gracious unto us: this hath come to pass at your hands: will He accept your persons? hath said the LORD of hosts.

Who is there even among you priests that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on Mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts.

For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same My name shall be great among the nations; and in every place incense shall be brought nigh unto My name, and a pure gift-offering: for My name shall be great among the Gentiles, hath said the LORD of hosts.

But ye have profaned Me, in that ye say, the altar of the LORD it is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible.
13 Ye said also, "Behold, what a weariness is it!" and ye have complained by snivelling at My altar, hath said the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought a gift-offering: should I accept this of your hand? hath said the LORD.

14 But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the LORD a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, hath said the LORD of hosts, and My name is dreadful among the Gentiles.

2 And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you.

2 If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto My name, hath said the LORD of hosts, I will even send the curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that My covenant might continue with Levi, hath said the LORD of hosts.

5 My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave this life and peace to Levi as an awe-inspiring, reverend characteristic, because he stood in awe of Me, and abased himself before My name.

The law of truth was in his mouth [for teaching], and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with Me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity.

For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and the People should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have made void the covenant of Levi, hath said the LORD of hosts.

Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the Peoples, because ye have not kept My ways, but have had respect of persons in administering the law.

[Ye say] Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal faithlessly every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

Judah hath dealt faithlessly, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the Sanctuary of the LORD the Sanctuary He loved, and hath married the daughter of a woman temple-worshipper of a foreign god.


2. 1-16 (F, p. 1927). PRIESTS AND PEOPLE. MORAL. (Divinism.)

F2 | K1 | 1-9. The Priests reproved.
K2 | 10-16. The People reproved.

1 2-9 (K1, above). THE PRIESTS REPRISED (Introversion and Alienation.)


And now, O ye priests. See the Structures, above. this commandment. As reformation.


3 Behold. Fig. Asterisms. Ap. 8. corrupt... as in 3. 11. Ps. 106. 9. Is. 17. 13. Heb. ga‘ar. Occurs fourteen times. Always rendered "rebuke" except here, and Jer. 29. 27 ("reproved"), dng... refuse; always sacrificial. Occ. seven times. feasts. Put by Fig. Melonomy (of Adjunct), Ap. 6, for the sacrifices offered at the feasts.

1 The priest's lips should keep knowledge, and the People should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

2 But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have made void the covenant of Levi, hath said the LORD of hosts.

5 My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave this life and peace to Levi as an awe-inspiring, reverend characteristic, because he stood in awe of Me, and abased himself before My name.

6 The law of truth was in his mouth [for teaching], and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with Me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity.

7 For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and the People should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

8 But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have made void the covenant of Levi, hath said the LORD of hosts.

9 Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the Peoples, because ye have not kept My ways, but have had respect of persons in administering the law.

10 [Ye say] Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal faithlessly every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

11 Judah hath dealt faithlessly, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the Sanctuary of the LORD the Sanctuary He loved, and hath married the daughter of a woman temple-worshipper of a foreign god.

Have we not all... created us? [Ye say] Have we not, &c., as in v. 14. Fig. Paroemia. See John 8:33, 39, 41, &c.
12 The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the *wakener and answerer*, out of the *tents* of Jacob, and him that *bringeth near a meal-offering* unto the LORD of hosts.

13 And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out [of the wronged wives and children], insomuch that He regardeth not the meal-offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand.

14 Yet ye say, Wherefore [*doth He not except it*]? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt *faithlessly*: yet is she thy *mate*, and the wife of thy covenant.

15 And did not He *make of twain one flesh*? *Yet* had He the residue of the spirit. *And what did Abraham do who was seeking a seed from God?* [Was Abraham faithless to Sarah and did he ill-treat her when he took an additional wife?]

*Therefore be watchful over your own* spirit, and let none deal *faithlessly* against the wife of his youth.

16 *For the LORD, the God of Israel hath said I hate divorce: for one covereth violence with his garment,* saith the LORD of hosts; therefore, take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not *faithlessly*.

17 Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye have *said*, Wherein have we wearied Him? When ye say, *All who do wrong are* good in the sight of the LORD, and He delighteth in them; or, Where is the *16God of judgment*?

3 **Behold Me sending** My messenger [John the Baptist], and he shall prepare [by removing obstacles from] the way before Me: and the LORD, Whom ye seek, shall *unexpectedly* come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: *behold, He shall come, hath said* the LORD of hosts.

2 But *who may endure* the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He *is* like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' *lye*:

3 And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and *He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver,* that they may *bring near unto the LORD a gift-offering in righteousness*.

4 Then [when Jehovah shall have sent Messiah, and He is accepted] shall the gift-offering of Judah and Jerusalem be *acceptable unto the LORD, as in the age past times, and as in ancient years*.

5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and *I will be a swift witness against *the sorcerers,* and against the *adulterers,* and against *them that swear to a falsehood,* and against those that *oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow,* *and the fatherless,* and that turn aside the stranger *from his right,* and *revere* not Me, *hath said* the LORD of hosts.
6 For I am Jehovah; I have not changed; And ye are Jacob’s sons; Ye have not failed.

7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from Mine statutes, and have not kept them. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

8 Will a man defraud God? Yet ye are defrauding Me. But ye say, Wherein are we defrauding Thee? In the tithe and the heave offering.

9 Ye have cursed Me with a curse: for ye have defrauded Me, even the nation, the whole of it.

10 Bring ye the whole of the tithe into the storehouse, that there may be prey [animals for sacrifice] in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, hath said the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and empty you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the eater [locust] for you, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, hath said the LORD of hosts.

12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, hath said the LORD of hosts.

13 Your words have been hard against Me, hath said the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against Thee?

14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have gone off mournfully from the presence of Jehovah of hosts?

15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, the workers of lawlessness are successful; yea, they the proud ones, they that have challenged to prove God are even delivered.

16 Then [when Malachi had spoken thus unto them] they that revered the LORD spake often each one with his friend: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name.

17 And they shall be Mine, hath said the LORD of hosts, in that day when I am preparing a peculiar treasure; and I will spare them, according as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 Then shall ye return, and discern between a righteous one and a lawless one, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.
4. 1. For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all who work lawlessness, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, hath said the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

2 But unto you that revere My name shall the Sun [Messiah] of righteousness arise with healing in His rays; and ye shall go forth, and leap for joy like calves of the stall.

3 And ye shall tread down lawless ones; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I am preparing, hath said the LORD of hosts.

4 Remember ye the law of Moses My servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the sons, and the heart of the sons to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.