In & Out®

Malachi

Revering the Lord, Standing in Awe of His Name

IN & OUT®

Malachi

Revering the Lord, Standing in Awe of His Name

ISBN 978-1-62119-470-5
© 2015 Precept Ministries International. All rights reserved.
This material is published by and is the sole property of Precept Ministries International of Chattanooga, Tennessee. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Precept, Precept Ministries International, Precept Ministries International The Inductive Bible Study People, the Plumb Bob design, Precept Upon Precept, and In & Out are trademarks of Precept Ministries International.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible, ©1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.lockman.org

1st edition
Printed in the United States of America

PAGE **LESSONS**

1 LESSON ONE: I Have Loved You

11 LESSON TWO: Take Heed to Your Spirit . . .
Let No One Deal Treacherously

17 LESSON THREE: Are You Robbing God?
Are You Aware of the Consequences?

APPENDIX

25 Malachi Observation Worksheets

33 Malachi at a Glance

35 Israel's Division and Captivity

37 The Rulers and Prophets of Malachi

Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218
Chattanooga, TN 37422

I Have Loved You

Have you ever questioned God's love for you? If so, what caused you to doubt the sincerity or genuineness of His love?

And what happened? What happens in or to a relationship when love is doubted?

TAKING IT IN

What a book you are about to study for the next three weeks! It is God's final word in the Jewish Bible, the closing book of what the Church calls the Old Testament. There were 400 years between Malachi and the Gospels. Consequently, the nation of Israel experienced a famine for hearing the words of the Lord, just as the prophet Amos said (8:11).

Yet God is sovereign, omniscient. He knows what He is going to do. Silence will follow these final words. So what does He say through Malachi—and why? What does He want the people to think about? To remember? (By the way, Malachi means "My messenger.")

This is what you are about to discover for yourself as you inductively study this short but incredibly timely book. Application to the people of God today couldn't be more needed. Therefore, we suggest that you begin each day with prayer, asking God to use this book to show any area of weakness that's causing you to stray from Him and His precepts of life.

1. Your first assignment is twofold:

    a. Prayerfully read the book of Malachi in a setting where there is no distraction. As you read it, remember these are God's words, not man's. They were written by holy men of God under the divine inspiration of God, thus they are "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). Man did not invent them; rather these holy men moved by the Spirit of God spoke from God as 2 Peter 1:20-21 tells us.

    If it is not too distracting, it would be good for you to read the book aloud, slowly, thoughtfully. Hearing the words has a powerful impact. As you read, color every occurrence of *says the Lord (of hosts)*. Some of us use

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

yellow (our color for God). Use the text of Malachi which is printed out as Observation Worksheets in the Appendix of this study.

b. Now read Malachi again.

   1) Notice Malachi 1:1. According to this verse, what is the book of Malachi and who is it delivered to?

   2) The marginal note for verse 1 in the New American Standard Bible (NASB) gives you an alternative word for "oracle": "burden."

c. As you come to every *but you say* or *yet you say,* underline or mark it in a distinctive way or color so that it pops and you can see its every occurrence throughout Malachi. (Also mark *in that you say, you also say, you have said.*)

d. Now look at every place you marked *but you say*, *yet you say*. Using the chart at the end of the lesson, list what you learn.

e. Finally, think about what you've observed. How would you describe the spiritual condition of these people? Record your insights below in as few words as possible. Do you relate to any of this?

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

2. What is the timing, the historical setting of the book of Malachi? Let's explore that so you can see *when*—in the history of Israel—this is being said.

   a. If you are just growing in your knowledge of God's Word and are not familiar with Israel's history, you might want to look at the chart "Israel's Division and Captivity," found in the Appendix. This chart will take you from the division of the kingdom into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, through their captivities, and beyond the seventy years of exile or captivity of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

   b. In light of all you've read in Malachi, take time now to look at another chart in the Appendix that is taken from *The New Inductive Study Bible:* "The Rulers and Prophets of Malachi."

      1) Record where, according to this chart, Malachi fits in time.

      2) Nehemiah is a historical book; Malachi is a prophetic book from a messenger of God sent at a specific time to speak for Him. What's the relationship between Malachi and Nehemiah?

   c. Looking at the events of Ezra and Nehemiah on "The Rulers and Prophets of Malachi," what do you learn about the state of Jerusalem and the temple that had been destroyed when Babylon conquered Judah?

   d. What part of temple worship is mentioned in Malachi?

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

3. Now that we have an overview of Malachi, let's observe chapter 1 more closely so that we can see exactly what is happening.

   On the back cover of this workbook there is a **Key Word Bookmark** that serves two purposes.

   First, it lists key words which appear throughout the Bible and gives you suggested ways of marking them so that you can be consistent throughout the Word of God. A **key word** helps unlock the meaning of the text and is frequently repeated. Please note, the markings on the bookmark are merely suggestions—there is no right or wrong way to mark.

   Second, on the other side of the bookmark you will find space to list key words used in Malachi. Mark or color them as you will on your Observation Worksheet. Then you can use this as a reminder of the words you want to mark.

   a. Now let's observe Malachi chapter 1. Mark the following key words and their synonyms or pronouns in distinctive ways. Throughout this workbook, words with an asterick denote those with a suggested marking on the bookmark.

      1) *love**
      2) *Esau, Edom*
      3) *priests*
      4) *sacrifice, offering*
      5) *despise(d)*
      6) *defiled*
      7) *profane*
      8) *fear(ed), respect*
      9) *My name (Your name)*
      10) *curse* (cursed)*
      11) anything that tells you *when* (references to time)* or *where* (geographical locations).*

   b. What do you think the main theme of Malachi chapter 1 is? How would you summarize its content using words from the text? Record this on the "Malachi at a Glance" chart found in the Appendix.

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

4. Now let's look at the first five verses of Malachi 1. As you look and think about these verses, what point is God making and why? How is He making it?

5. Let's get a little biblical history on Esau and learn why he is also referred to as Edom.

   a. Genesis 25:19-34—Just do a read-through and note below who Esau is and why he is called Edom.

   b. Genesis 28:6-9 (Ishmael was the son of Abraham by Sarah's maid Hagar.)

6. Now let's go back to Malachi 1:3-4. The questions are simple, but answering them will help you make sure you've observed the text accurately.

   a. What has God done to Edom? For how long?

   b. What might Edom say?

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

c. Who will prevail, and how do you know this?

7. Read Malachi 1 again using your Observation Worksheet.

   a. Who are verses 6-14 directed to?

   b. Now, paying attention to the key words which you have so carefully marked, what are the *main* issues the Lord deals with in these verses? List them below.

   c. Read Malachi 1:11, 14. What do you learn from marking *My name?*

   d. How does Malachi 1:5 relate to Malachi 1:11, 14?

Well done. Just two weeks to go and you will have a great grasp of the book of Malachi and God's reason for including it in His Book. Remember, the things written in the Old Testament are "for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (1 Corinthians 10:11).

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

LIVING IT OUT

1. Romans 9:6-13 quotes God's words about Esau in Malachi 1:2-3. How does God support His right to choose?

2. The whole vision of Obadiah concerns Edom, but he's also mentioned in the New Testament. Read the following passages and note what you learn about Edom or Esau.

   a. Obadiah 1:4, 10-16

   b. Hebrews 12:15-17

3. Now . . .

   a. How does this make you feel about God? From a strictly human perspective, what does it call into question about God? How might someone object who does not have a full understanding of God's sovereignty? It's all right to write it down; God knows even our thoughts and they don't scare or shock Him. He's God!

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

b. How would you answer such an objection from the text? God has it covered. Read Romans 9:6-21. What does the Word of God tell you?

c. Where do you see God's sovereignty in Romans 9:6-21?

d. So what does faith do? What will you do with all this, beloved of God?

Whenever there was a problem, God sent His messenger to warn His people. O Beloved, do you realize that this is one of the roles of the Word of God today? The things which were written beforehand were written for our warning, for God does not change. Sin is always sin, no matter the culture.

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

BUT I SAY/ YET YOU SAY	**Theme (main subject)**	
	God's reply/action to the response	
	Their response	
	Group addressed	
	God's charge	
	Scripture	

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

Malachi 1
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.

2 "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have You loved us?" "*Was* not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob;

3 but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation and *appointed* his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness."

4 Though Edom says, "We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins"; thus says the LORD of hosts, "They may build, but I will tear down; and *men* will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom the LORD is indignant forever."

5 Your eyes will see this and you will say, "The LORD be magnified beyond the border of Israel!"

6 " 'A son honors *his* father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?' says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, 'How have we despised Your name?'

7 "*You* are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, 'How have we defiled You?' In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is to be despised.'

8 "But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?" says the LORD of hosts.

9 "But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?" says the LORD of hosts.

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

10 "Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle *fire on* My altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD of hosts, "nor will I accept an offering from you.

11 "For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name *will be* great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering *that is* pure; for My name *will be* great among the nations," says the LORD of hosts.

12 "But you are profaning it, in that you say, 'The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised.'

13 "You also say, 'My, how tiresome it is!' And you disdainfully sniff at it," says the LORD of hosts, "and you bring what was taken by robbery and *what is* lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?" says the LORD.

14 "But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King," says the LORD of hosts, "and My name is feared among the nations."

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

Malachi 2
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

"AND now this commandment is for you, O priests.
2 "If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor
to My name," says the LORD of hosts, "then I will send the curse
upon you and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have cursed
them *already,* because you are not taking *it* to heart.
3 "Behold, I am going to rebuke your offspring, and I will spread
refuse on your faces, the refuse of your feasts; and you will be taken
away with it.
4 "Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that
My covenant may continue with Levi," says the LORD of hosts.
5 "My covenant with him was *one of* life and peace, and I gave them
to him *as an object of* reverence; so he revered Me and stood in awe
of My name.
6 "True instruction was in his mouth and unrighteousness was not
found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and
he turned many back from iniquity.
7 "For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should
seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD
of hosts.
8 "But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have
caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have corrupted the
covenant of Levi," says the LORD of hosts.
9 "So I also have made you despised and abased before all the people,
just as you are not keeping My ways but are showing partiality in the
instruction.

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

10 "Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers?

11 "Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD which He loves and has married the daughter of a foreign god.

12 "*As* for the man who does this, may the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob *everyone* who awakes and answers, or who presents an offering to the LORD of hosts.

13 "This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts *it with* favor from your hand.

14 "Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

15 "But not one has done *so* who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did *that* one *do* while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth.

16 "For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the LORD of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

17 You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, "How have we wearied *Him?*" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them," or, "Where is the God of justice?"

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

Malachi 3
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

"BEHOLD, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear
the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly
come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom
you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.
2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand
when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers'
soap.
3 "He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the
sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may
present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.
4 "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the
LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.
5 "Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift
witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against
those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage
earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn
aside the alien and do not fear Me," says the LORD of hosts.
6 "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are
not consumed.
7 "From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My
statutes and have not kept *them.* Return to Me, and I will return to
you," says the LORD of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?'
8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How
have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.
9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole
nation *of you!*

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.
11 "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast *its grapes,*" says the LORD of hosts.
12 "All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.
13 "Your words have been arrogant against Me," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?'
14 "You have said, 'It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts?
15 'So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up but they also test God and escape.' "
16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard *it,* and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.
17 "They will be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare *My* own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."
18 So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

Malachi 4
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

"FOR behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch."

2 "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

3 "You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing," says the LORD of hosts.

4 "Remember the law of Moses My servant, *even the* statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel.

5 "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.

6 "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

© 2015 Precept Ministries International

Malachi at a Glance

Book Theme:

Author:

Date:

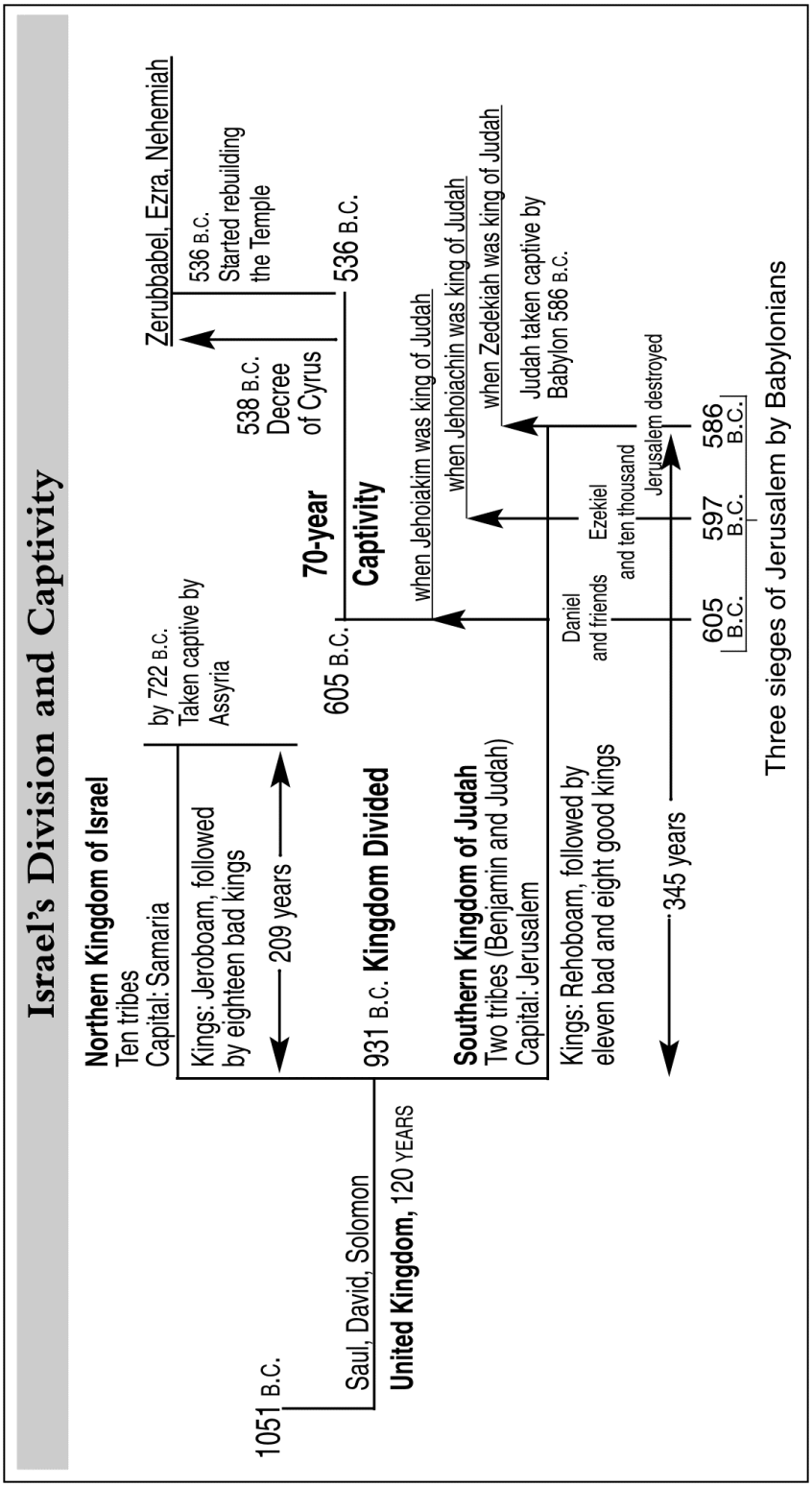
Purpose:

Key Words:

Chapter Themes
1
2
3
4

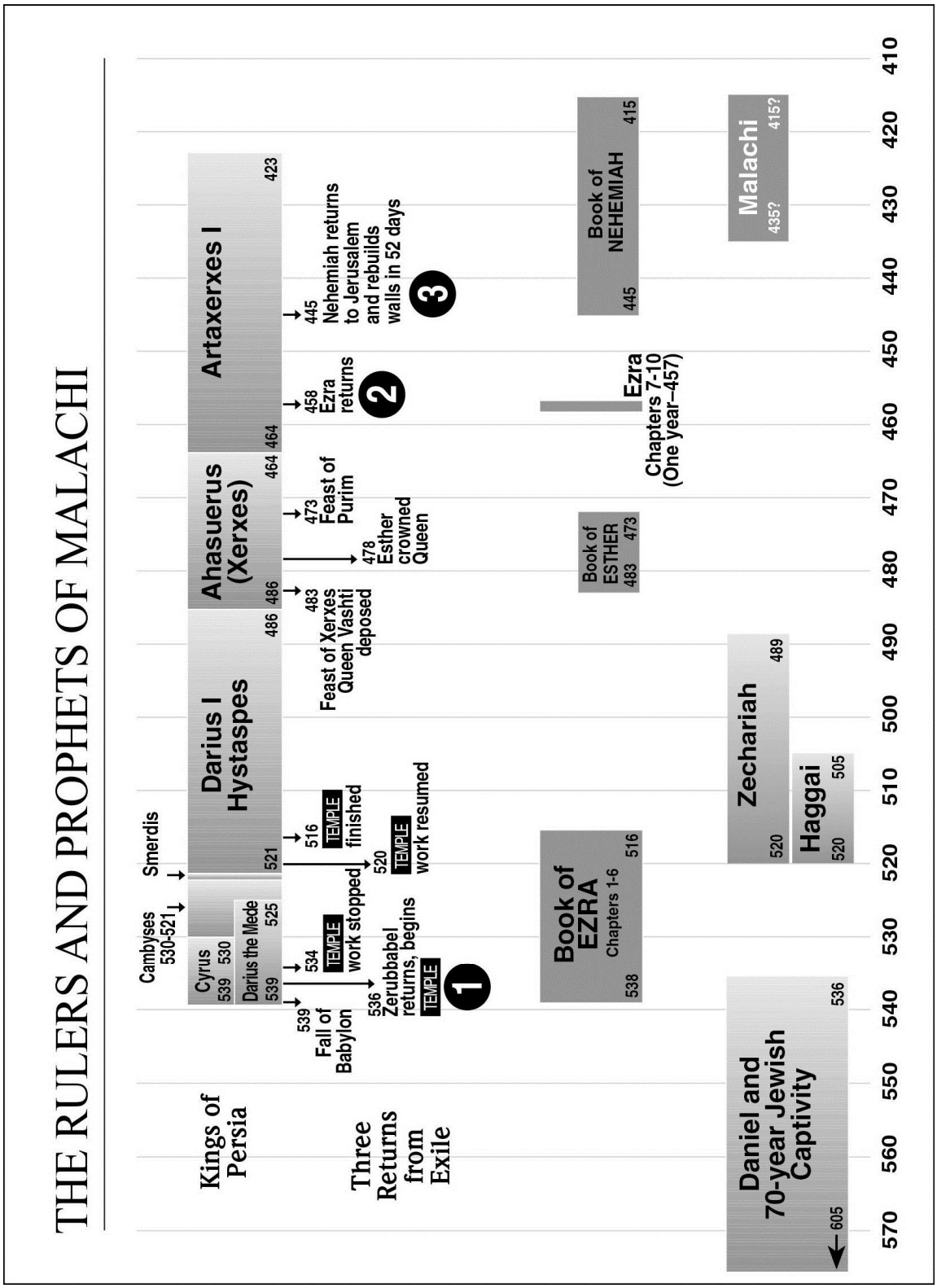
© 2015 Precept Ministries International

© 2015 Precept Ministries International



© 2015 Precept Ministries International

© 2015 Precept Ministries International


THE RULERS AND PROPHETS OF MALACHI
Kings of Persia
Three Returns from Exile
Cambyses 530-521
Smerdis
Cyrus 539 530
Darius the Mede 539 525
Darius I Hystaspes 521 486
Ahasuerus (Xerxes) 486 464
Artaxerxes I 464 423
539 Fall of Babylon
534 TEMPLE work stopped
536 Zerubbabel returns, begins TEMPLE
1
516 TEMPLE finished
520 TEMPLE work resumed
483 Feast of Xerxes Queen Vashti deposed
478 Esther crowned Queen
473 Feast of Purim
458 Ezra returns
2
445 Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem and rebuilds walls in 52 days
3
Book of EZRA Chapters 1-6 538 516
Book of ESTHER 483 473
Ezra Chapters 7-10 (One year–457)
Book of NEHEMIAH 445 415
Daniel and 70-year Jewish Captivity 605 536
Zechariah 520 489
Haggai 520 505
Malachi 435? 415?
570 560 550 540 530 520 510 500 490 480 470 460 450 440 430 420 410

© 2015 Precept Ministries International