

Season 3 Study 9: The Final Word

THE BIG YEAR

A Journey through God's Word

As we wrap up the Old Testament, what have you found most interesting, challenging and encouraging?

1. How do you feel about the Church and money? Have you had any outstanding experiences – whether negative or positive – when it comes to 'tithing' or giving to the Church?

READ MALACHI 2:17-3:5

2. How are we to understand God's 'weariness' (2:17)? What has wearied Him?
3. 3:1 mentions two different messengers that God sends in response to the people's complaint. Who are these two messengers, and what ministry will each have?
4. How does the ministry of the 'messenger of the covenant' relate to the complaint of the people against God?

READ MALACHI 3:6-12

5. What promises in vs 6-7 can God's people hold onto?
6. Why does God accuse the people of 'robbing' Him (vs 8)? Doesn't God own all things? Does He *need* money? Why does He insist on the people bringing the 'whole tithe' (vs 10)?
7. What impact is 'short-tithing' having on the nation (vs 9)? What does God promise if the people bring their whole tithe (vs 10-12)?
8. Can we apply this threat and promise to our modern context? What might the curses and blessings described in this passage look like today?

READ MALACHI 3:13-18

9. Summarize the people's complaint against God (vs 14-15)? Do you think they were saying it out loud? Have you ever felt a similar frustration in your walk with the Lord?
10. What *are* the real benefits of serving the Lord, in your experience?
11. What does God promise for those who fear Him (3:17-18)? When can we expect this promise to be fulfilled?

See Matthew 25:31-46

12. Which of these three sins dealt with in this passage can you repent of today?
 - Asking 'where is the God of justice'? (2:17)
 - Not trusting God with your wealth (3:8-9)
 - Suggesting that it is futile to serve the Lord (3:14)

Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.

(Malachi 3:16)