Return from Exile

The Sun of Righteousness
Malachi 3-4
Lesson 17

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
December 26, 2010
Great Expectations

- The Promise: Genesis 12:1-3
  - Blessing
  - A great nation
  - Blessing for all nations
- The Seed – Son of Abraham, Son of David
- The Redeemer – Isaiah 53
- The nation Israel is established – Exodus 19
An Unfulfilled Promise

- A consistent pattern of sin – Ezekiel 16, 23
- The Kingdom is divided after Solomon
- The captivity by Assyria and Babylon
- The destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem
- A failed Promise – no Temple and no Nation
A reason for hope

- Predictions in Deuteronomy and the Prophets
- Promises of restoration by the Prophets
- Jeremiah’s 70 year prophecy
The Decree of Cyrus

- 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 — Ezra 1:1-4
- The return: Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah
- The “nation” outside of the Promised Land
A Divided Nation

- The return: Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah
  - The Promise of God drives this era
  - Building the Temple
  - Building the Wall of Jerusalem
  - Building the people – spiritual decline and renewal

- The “nation” outside of the Promised Land
  - No faith or hope
  - An ethnic community – not a source of blessing
  - The providential care of God
The Prophetic Word

- Haggai – priority and promise
- Zechariah – the King with Salvation
- Malachi – the last Word of the Old Testament
  - The love of God for Israel
  - The unworthiness of the people
  - The Messenger of the Covenant is coming
- God’s provision for the holiness of His people
- Re-focus on the Promise of God
This is my Father’s world

This is my Father's world,
    O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
    God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
    The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
    And earth and heav'n be one.
Malachi

Covenant Faithfulness – the love of God
Doubt and Disobedience – no fear of God
Malachi – Covenant Faithfulness

- “Jacob have I loved.”
- “Esau have I hated.”
- A call for faith – “Your own eyes shall see . . .”
Malachi – Doubt and Disobedience

- No honor of God – Romans 1:21
- Polluted offerings (1:6-14)
- False instruction (2:1-9)
- Idolatry (2:10-12)
- Unfaithfulness in marriage (2:13-16)
- Withholding tithes (3:6-10)
No honor for the LORD

- You have wearied the LORD (2:17)
- You are robbing the LORD (3:8)
- You speak harsh words against the LORD (3:13)
- No fear of the LORD!
  - I am a Great King . . . and my Name will be feared among the nations (1:14)
  - Covenant of fear . . . (Levi) feared Me (2:5)
  - Blessing on those who fear the LORD (3:16; 4:2)
The Messenger of the Covenant

▪ Here is the God of justice

▪ My messenger – Isaiah 40:3-5
  - Elijah – Malachi 4:5-6
  - John the Baptist – Matthew 11:10

▪ The Messenger of the Covenant – 2 roles
  - Judge
  - Purifier
The Messenger of the Covenant

- He will suddenly come to His Temple
- The Everlasting Covenant (Genesis 9:9-17)
  - The Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3)
  - The Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7)
  - The Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 19f)
  - The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
- The Second Coming of Christ
“I the LORD do not change . . .”

- Covenant of God v. the Justice of God
  - Man’s concept of justice v. God’s concept
  - God’s character truly was driving their present course and future

- The Covenant
  - Psalm 89:33 – cannot be altered
  - Psalm 138:2 – Word and Name honored – Word above Name
  - Heb. 6:13-14, 17-18 – God cannot lie – promise & oath
  - Hosea 11:9; Neh 9:31 – God will not destroy the nation
  - Micah 7:18-20 – A pardoning God

- The Covenant includes the Justice of God
A Call to Return

- They were robbing God
- They denied the value of God
- A call to trust God

Testing v. Trusting God
- Test: challenge God to act according to our desires
- Trust: accept God’s test of Himself

Lamentations 3:19-24
The Book of Remembrance

- Those who fear Him and esteemed His Name
- Written before creation (Rev. 13:8)
- The requirement of righteousness
- The Song of Moses (Rev. 15:3-4)
The Day of the LORD

- God distinguishes the righteous and the wicked
- A Day of wrath
- A Day of deliverance – the Sun of Righteousness
The Last Word

- Remember Moses
- Look for Elijah
- A universal truth – honor the LORD by faith