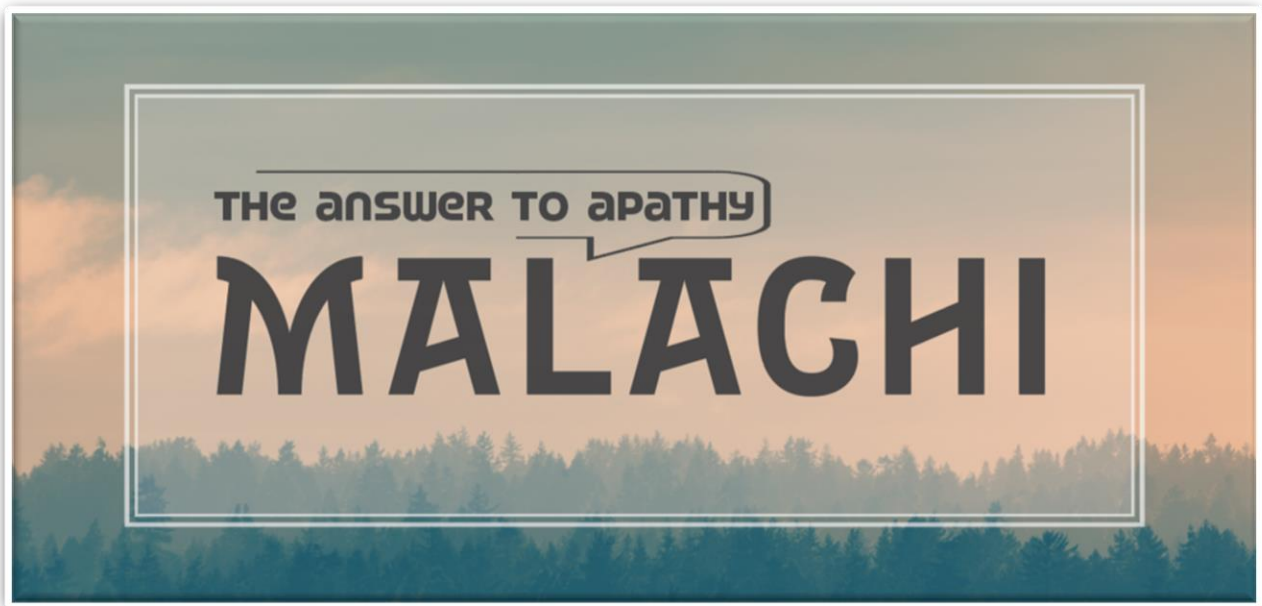


Wednesdays at 7pm
January-March 2023



Public Invited

<https://www.nechurchofchrist.org/>

Haggai & Malachi

I'm excited to study with you two books in the Old Covenant that have so much to teach us. Our goals for class will be to obviously learn more but most importantly be transformed by what we've learned. Invite a friend!

Schedule: Wednesdays 1st Quarter of 2023

Jan 4 th	Historical Context: The Restoration Begins (Ezra-Nehemiah & Zechariah)		
Jan 11 th	Haggai 1:1-15	The Challenge To Work	
Jan 18 th	Haggai 2:1-9	The Builders Encouraged	
Jan 25 th	Haggai 2:10-23	Blessings Will Come	
Feb 1 st	Malachi 1:1-5	Jehovah's Love	
Feb 8 th	<i>Malachi 1:6-14</i>	<i>Jehovah Despised</i>	<i>Substitute while @ FC Lectures</i>
Feb 15 th	Malachi 2:1-9	Jehovah's Curse	
Feb 22 nd	Malachi 2:10-16	Jehovah's Family	
Mar 1 st	Malachi 2:17-3:5	Jehovah's Justice	
Mar 8 th	Malachi 3:6-12	Jehovah's Blessing	
Mar 15 th	Malachi 3:13-4:3	Jehovah Ignored	
Mar 22 nd	Malachi 4:4-6	Jehovah's Return	
Mar 29 th	What Do We Do with Nahum?		

To prepare for class begin by reading the whole book. Then read the section to be covered that week & consider the following standard questions:

- (1) What does the text say?
- (2) Why does it say it that way? What did it mean for the original audience?
- (3) What does this teach me about God? And finally,
- (4) What lessons can we learn that are relevant for today?

IF time allows, look through the questions in the workbook for class discussion.

When questions or concerns come up, don't hesitate to contact me:

coulterwickerham@yahoo.com

**Jan 4th Historical Context: The Restoration Begins
(Ezra-Nehemiah & Zechariah)**

1) What is your favorite “Minor Prophet” & why?

2) Who are the key characters?

3) What are the key events of this time period?

4) What cultural aspects are important?

5) What practical lessons can we learn from this material?

Jan 11 Haggai 1:1-15 The Challenge To Work

- 1) Is it harder to reverence God when you are living in great wealth or dire poverty?
- 2) What was/where is Cyrus' decree in bible?
- 3) Why does 2 Chron 36:21 say the exile happened?
- 4) [1:1-15] What day does Haggai begin to prophesy?
- 5) Why does God *through* Haggai address their leaders?
- 6) What type of homes were the people living in?
- 7) Were they a struggling destitute people?
- 8) Why were the crops not plentiful?
- 9) What are the driving forces of our financial markets today?
- 10) What was The Temple supposed to represent?
- 11) When is it a convenient time to make God our priority?
- 12) Why did God say "go up & get timber" but not "get wood"?
- 13) Why were they to build the Temple? [v7]
- 14) How can we turn things around? How did God/Haggai expose their condition? v4
- 15) What is the result in the people?

Jan 18 Haggai 2:1-9 The Builders Encouraged

- 1) Does the bible encourage or discourage remembering our past?
- 2) How can Haggai's message help depressed children of God?
- 3) How long did Haggai prophesy?
- 4) Why is the 7th month significant?
- 5) What did the Feast of Booths memorialize & what was God trying to teach?
- 6) How does Haggai begin & get their attention?
- 7) What two commands for the remnant are in (v4)?
- 8) What promise does God refer to in v5?
Who was with them in The Exodus?
1st OT person endowed with God's Spirit?
- 9) Were things "shaken" in "a little while" (v6-7)?
- 10) Does Paul or the NT promise an "imminent return" of Jesus?
- 11) Why does Haggai bring up the gold & silver (v8)?
- 12) How should we understand the wealth of the nations (v7)?
- 13) What is the greater glory that comes later for this house? [Lk 21:5-6; Mt 27:50-54, 28:2]
- 14) [Eph 3:20-21] Do we pray for God to do *greater things* than we even think possible?

Jan 25 Haggai 2:10-23 Blessings Will Come

- 1) What is a Christian approach to birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, etc?
- 2) How does this relate to Haggai?
- 3) [2:10-23] Does it sound like Haggai's message has changed any?
- 4) Short Review: (In Ch 1&2) Who predicts the weather compared to who sends the weather?
- 5) Who does Haggai address in this section? What does he prove with the priests in v11-13?
- 6) What does this understanding of The Law imply?
- 7) What would the people have thought about this?
- 8) What was Haggai's point (v14)?
- 9) What would be a modern parallel?
- 10a) What concept about sacrifice is found in The Historical Book, Psalms, Proverbs, & Prophets? 1 Sam 15:22-23; Psm 40:6-8; 51:16-17; Prov 21:3; Isa 1:10-20; Jer 7:21-26; Amos 5:21-27; Micah 6:6-8
- 10b) Does this happen today?
- 11) What had YHWH done to try & bring Israel back (v16-17)? Is this possible today?
- 12) If Haggai began with a negative, how would you summarize how he ends?
- 13) What does Haggai say will happen for Zerubbabel (v20-23)?
Does that sound familiar?
Does it happen?
- 14) What had Jeremiah (22:28) prophesied about the line of David?

Was this promise to Zerubbabel a contradiction of that promise?
- 15) Who are the recipients of royal lineage today?

Feb 1st Malachi 1:1-5 Jehovah's Love

1) What do you already know about Malachi?

2) Fill in the outline of Malachi using the rhetorical questions & God's answers:

1:2-5 Q: God says,

1:6-14 Q: God says,

2:1-9 God *tells the priests,* _____

2:10-16 Q: God says,

2:17-3:5 Q: God says,

3:6-12 Q: God says,

3:13-4:3 Q: God says,

4:4-6 He concludes by reminding them of, _____

3) What were they doubting about God in these first five verses?

4) How did God answer their doubting question?

5) What does God say about Esau? How do we reconcile that with God's character?

6) Who is Edom & what might they plan to do? What does God say He'll do to Edom?

7) How was this supposed to affect Israel?

Feb 8 Malachi 1:6-14 Jehovah Despised (Substitute)

- 1) How & *why* do we & others “despise the Lord” today?
- 2) [1:6-14] What implications for parenting can be drawn from Mal 1:6?
- 3) Was their sin a conscious rebellion?
- 4) What analogies to political leaders have you heard in religious matters?
- 5) How is God commonly but wrongly summarized regarding the OT vs NT?
Does the OT show a gracious God? The NT?
Does scripture teach that God’s grace is so large it overlooks our sins?
- 6) What did Malachi say they should do with their worship?
Does this sound familiar to the OT?

Does this sound familiar to the NT?

When were the Temple Doors shut?
- 7) Is Malachi 1:11 a Messianic Prophecy?
- 8) Is God’s will ever *tiresome*?
- 9) Does Jesus tell a story *similar* to the case of v14?
- 10) Did the nations know/fear Jehovah?

Feb 8 Malachi 2:1-9 Jehovah's Curse

- 1) What do you know about priests & their role? How often have you studied priests?
- 2) Where did "priests" originate from? When did God do this? Why Levi?
- 3) [2:1-9] What priestly "blessing" is referred to as cursed?
- 4) What curse would God put on them & why did it matter? v3
- 5) Why would God put this curse on them? v4
- 6) Should we fear God? v5
- 7) Were priests restricted in what they could teach?
- 8) For whom was the priest a messenger?
- 9) Who are the priests of the NT? Are they living up to these divine standards?
- 10) Today, what should we expect from our teachers? Do we subconsciously expect more?
- 11) How can we cause others to profane God's name?
- 12) How could they "show partiality"?
- 13) Had the priesthood been warned before?

Feb 15 Malachi 2:10-16 Jehovah's Family

- 1) Would you rather hear about the Levitical Priesthood or Family? Why?
- 2) Does the OT focus exclusively on Israel as God's chosen ones?
- 3) True or False: "Jesus was the 1st to refer to Jehovah as 'Father'?"
- 4) What other OT book from this time discusses at length intermarriage?
- 5) Did the OT condemn all marriage to foreigners? Why?
- 6) Why would Israel ignore God's plan for marriage?
- 7) How would God view their offerings/sacrifices?
- 8) Why would God, through Malachi, endorse such a drastic response to their sins?
- 9) What does v14 seem to be describing? How is the wife described?
- 10) What is v15 describing?
- 11) How can this passage impact our mindset on raising children?
- 12) How do we harmonize v16 with God's Law in Dt 24 & the mass divorce in Ezra 9?

Feb 22 Malachi 2:17-3:5 Jehovah's Justice

- 1) Do you ever feel like the words of "Farther Along"? Is the song wrong?
Is the song the same as what Israel is guilty of in today's text?
- 2) According to Malachi, what is Israel guilty of now? What words?
- 3) How common is this attitude in scripture?
- 4) Do we or others say things like this today?
- 5) If Israel is as wicked as Ch 1&2 describe, why are they looking for justice?
- 6) [2:17-3:5] What new theme(s) are 1st introduced in today's text?
- 7) What does Malachi tell us about "God's Messenger"?
- 8) What does Malachi tell us about "The Day of YHWH"?
- 9) What would YHWH do on that day?
- 10) What happens to the Levitical Priests?
Who are the priests in the new covenant of God's Messenger?
What are the offerings of the new covenant?
- 11) What 7 violations of The Law are cited in 3:5? Why?
- 12) What about 3:5 surprises you?
- 13) What kind of worship does God desire, consider pleasing?

March 1 Malachi 3:6-12 Jehovah's Blessing

- 1) Does Jehovah ever change?
- 2) What is the context of "I, Jehovah, do not change."? *Why* had Israel not been destroyed?
- 3) [3:6-12] How does this speech, compare & contrast to Malachi's earlier speech? cf. 1:6-2:9
- 4) What does "I will return to you" imply about God?
- 5) Why would people ask God, "How shall we return"?
- 6a) How does God answer? How was their tithing wrong?
- 6b) Was tithing optional? Was it 10%?
- 6c) Was tithing a problem in Nehemiah's time? What were the consequences?
- 7) Did Malachi indict some or all of the nation?
- 8) What does scripture say about 'testing God'? Dt 6:16 & 1Co 10:9
- 9) Are the "windows of heaven" & "poured blessings" a Messianic promise?
- 10) What affect would God's blessings have on "the nations"?
What was God's original hope for Israel towards "the nations"?
- 11) How should we think of the transition from OT patterns to the NT?

March 8 Malachi 3:13-4:3 Jehovah Ignored

- 1) Who has the best translation of Malachi 4:2? What does this passage mean?
- 2) [3:13-4:3] We've heard this before, where did these issues occur previously in Malachi?
- 3) What assumptions can lead to Israel's mistake?
- 4) What is '*walked in mourning*'? v14
- 5) What is the modern equivalent?
- 6) Do Ezra or Nehemiah record any list of names like 3:16?
- 7) Why did God respond? What precedes His promise?
- 8) When will we be able to fully distinguish the wicked & righteous?
- 9) What will happen to the evildoer in 4:1?
- 10) What will God bring for those who "fear His name"?
- 11) How would you summarize "The Day" in 3:17-4:3?
- 12) Is this passage used in the NT as fulfilled by Jesus?

March 15 Malachi 4:4-6 Jehovah's Return

- 1) Who are the greatest characters of the OT? Who would be in your "Top 5"? Why?

- 2) Can you summarize Malachi with the 6 rhetorical question & answers?

- 3) How does Malachi 4:4 serve as a summary of all of Malachi?

- 4) Where does Malachi say God gave The Law?

- 5a) What synonyms does Malachi give for The Law?
- 5b) How does [Heb 9:1] describe The Law & worship? What does that imply?

- 6) To whom does God send "Elijah"? Why? Who specifically does v6 say he'll restore?

- 7) What does Malachi say "Elijah" will precede?

- 8) Who does the NT say was "Elijah"? What does this mean for Jesus?

- 9) Why does John deny this in John 1:21?

- 10) What did you learn about Malachi?

Mar 29 Bonus Class On Nahum:

Intro) Is Nahum often overlooked? Why?

1) What Old Testament prophet is connected with Nahum?

2) How would you summarize Nahum?

3) How does Nahum describe God?

4) How would summarize the language of Nahum 3:1-7?

5) Does the New Testament use language like this?

6) Why was Assyria in danger?

7) Does Nahum have anything positive to offer God's people?

8) Does the New Testament ever make use of Nahum?