

I. Review of the Revival

A. Prophetic pattern

1. Restoration to the land
2. Renewal of the people
3. **Coming of the Messiah**

B. Essential features of the renewal

1. Psalm of remembrance of the lovingkindness of the Lord
2. Commitment to follow the Lord
 - a) Separation from marriages with non-Israelis
 - b) Commitment to keep the Sabbath
 - c) Contribution to the needs of the temple and the priesthood

II. Place of Malachi in History of the Remnant Period

A. Placement is difficult

1. No reference to Malachi in either Ezra or Nehemiah
2. No reference to time in Malachi
3. Late in OT history
 - a) Either before Ezra
 - b) Or after Nehemiah
4. Because of the reference to anticipation of the Messiah, we will place it late

III. Conditions During Malachi's Ministry

- A. External worship seems to be going on
- B. Anticipation of the Messiah seems strong
- C. Zeal for the things of God has cooled
- D. The people are out of touch with their own condition
 - 1. Eight questions of surprise are asked in the book
 - 2. Zeal has cooled but no one seems aware of it
 - 3. The situation is similar to the condition pictured in the church of Laodicea (Revelations 3:15-19)
 - 4. Real problems
 - a) Questioning God's love (1:1-5)
 - b) Offering defective animals for sacrifice (1:6-14)
 - c) Foreign marriages (2:10-12)
 - d) Divorce (2:13-16)
 - e) Withholding the tithe (3:8-12)
 - f) Complaint about difficulties (3:13-15)

IV. Malachi's Answer

- A. Recognize your condition and danger
- B. *Return to Me and I will return to you (3:7)*
 - 1. Demands a change of heart
 - 2. Demands a change of conduct
- C. Remember the day of the Lord (4:2)