

Minor Prophets, Major Messages | Malachi: Remember the Law of Moses

Use with the full teaching and a Bible. Read or watch first, complete the questions, then discuss and apply. For family study, an adult can select suitable portions and accept spoken answers.

Test the teaching's explanations against the cited passages. Keep the answer key and facilitator notes separate when distributing learner pages.

[Open the full teaching](#)

Teaching summary

This teaching examines Malachi's call to remember the law of Moses while awaiting the Day of YHWH. Malachi, whose name means 'my messenger,' addressed the Jewish community after its return from Babylon and the restoration of the temple. Although God had brought the people home, many questioned his justice and considered obedience pointless because evildoers appeared to prosper. Their restored surroundings had not produced faithful hearts.

The people's unfaithfulness included wrongful divorce, adultery, sorcery, false testimony, oppression, defective sacrifices, and neglected tithes. The priests shared responsibility because they failed to guard knowledge and teach God's ways, instead causing others to stumble through partial instruction. Malachi warned that judgment would destroy the wicked, while those who feared YHWH would be spared. His closing appeal in Malachi 4:4-6 joined remembering the Torah with the promised arrival of Elijah before that day.

Remembering God's law requires repentance and renewed obedience, and it is also a community responsibility. Parents must teach their children, and spiritual leaders must instruct the wider community. The teaching applies this warning to leaders who neglect or discourage Torah observance today, while recognizing believers who are returning to God's commandments. The opportunity to repent remains, and remembering the law involves putting it into practice rather than merely recalling its words.

Malachi's promised messenger prepares the way by turning hearts. The teaching proposes that fathers turning toward children includes unfaithful leaders recognizing the harm their sins cause, and that children turning toward fathers includes renewed loyalty to YHWH and his covenant. Luke 1:16-17 and Matthew 11:10-14 explicitly connect John the Baptist with Elijah's spirit and power and the preparation for Yeshua. The teaching also expects Elijah to prepare the way before the Messiah's return; that future expectation should remain attributed and supplies no date or identification of a present-day figure.

Malachi 4:2 promises healing in the wings of the sun of righteousness. The teaching connects the Hebrew word for wings with the garment corners where tzitzit are attached. These fringes remind God's people to keep his commandments. In Matthew 9:20-22, a woman touches the fringe of Yeshua's garment and is healed. This is presented as a possible Messianic connection: healing is found at the garment's 'wings,' and Yeshua's wearing of tzitzit also demonstrates remembrance of the Torah.

Yeshua further echoes Malachi in Matthew 5:17-20 by affirming the Law and Prophets, calling his followers to do and teach the commandments, and requiring righteousness beyond that of hypocritical leaders. Like Malachi, he rebukes leaders whose conduct and traditions undermine God's instruction. The teaching concludes that preparation for the Day of YHWH includes placing God's words on the heart, teaching them to children, and ordering daily life by them, as described in Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

Summary points

- Malachi addressed a restored community that still questioned God's justice and neglected his commandments.
- The priests' failed instruction contributed to the people's unfaithfulness.
- Coming judgment is paired with hope for those who fear YHWH and repent.
- Malachi ends by calling God's people to remember the law of Moses.
- Parents and spiritual leaders share responsibility for teaching God's ways.
- The promised messenger turns hearts toward God and prepares people for his coming.
- John the Baptist fulfilled an Elijah-like role before Yeshua's first coming.
- The teaching sees a possible connection between healing at Yeshua's garment fringe and Malachi's image of healing in the wings.
- Yeshua calls his followers to do and teach the Torah rather than imitate hypocritical leaders.
- Remembering God's law means practicing it and passing it on while awaiting the Day of YHWH.

Fill in the blank

Use the teaching and the cited Bible passages. Equivalent wording is welcome when it expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. Malachi's closing appeal is to remember the law of _____.
2. The priests failed in their responsibility to give the people faithful _____.
3. Those who fear YHWH still have time to _____ before judgment.
4. Alongside spiritual leaders, _____ are responsible for teaching children God's ways.
5. The prophet promised before the great and awesome Day of YHWH is _____.
6. Yeshua told his followers to do and _____ even the least commandments.

Challenging

1. Malachi's name means '_____.'
2. Malachi 4:4 names _____ as the place where God commanded the statutes and rules.
3. The fringes worn as reminders of God's commandments are called _____.
4. Luke says John would go in the spirit and _____ of Elijah.
5. The woman who touched Yeshua's fringe had suffered for _____ years.
6. Malachi 2:8 says the priests had corrupted the covenant of _____.

Group discussion

Discuss respectfully and support answers from the passages. Use these lines for brief notes or a notebook for longer responses.

1. How did the people's complaints about God's justice relate to their own disobedience?

2. Why is remembering the Torah a responsibility of the whole community, including parents and leaders?

3. How do Malachi's warnings of judgment also leave room for hope and repentance?

4. How does John the Baptist's ministry help explain the promised turning of hearts?

5. What connections does the teaching draw between Malachi, tzitzit, and Yeshua's words and actions?

6. What practical changes would help your household or group remember and practice God's instruction more faithfully?

Answer key

For the leader or parent. Answers follow the teaching and the passages. Accept equivalent wording that expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. Moses

Malachi 4:4

2. instruction (also: teaching)

Malachi 2:7-9

3. repent (also: return, turn back)

Malachi 3:7; 4:1-3; teaching major message

4. parents

Deuteronomy 6:7; 11:19

5. Elijah

Malachi 4:5

6. teach

Matthew 5:19

Challenging

1. my messenger (also: my envoy)

Teaching overview: Malachi's name

2. Horeb

Malachi 4:4

3. tzitzit (also: tzitzith, tsitsit)

Numbers 15:38-40; teaching Messiah section

4. power

Luke 1:17

5. twelve (also: 12)

Matthew 9:20

6. Levi

Malachi 2:8

Facilitator notes

These responses give direction for discussion. They are not a test of identical wording. Invite participants to explain the passages and consider a faithful practical response.

1. They questioned whether YHWH acted justly while practicing injustice and neglecting his instruction themselves. Malachi exposes the contradiction and promises accountability. Their complaints should lead to self-examination and repentance, rather than become an excuse to conclude that obedience has no value.

Malachi 2:7-9, 17; 3:5, 13-15

2. The Torah assigns instruction to parents and public leaders so the community can hear, learn, and practice YHWH's ways. Malachi rebukes priests whose teaching caused people to stumble. Each person still responds, but faithful teaching and example help the whole community remember.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:19; 31:9-13; Malachi 2:7-9

3. The warning is paired with an invitation to return and hope for those who fear YHWH. Judgment makes the call urgent, while mercy makes repentance meaningful. We should teach obedience as the response of a returning people, not as a payment that secures forgiveness.

Malachi 3:7, 16-18; 4:1-4

4. Luke describes John going in Elijah's spirit and power, turning people to YHWH and preparing them for the Lord. Matthew applies Malachi's messenger promise to him. The teaching's further interpretation of fathers, children, and future preparation should remain distinct from these explicit New Testament connections.

Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6; Luke 1:16-17; Matthew 11:10-14

5. Tzitzit remind YHWH's people to keep his commandments, and Matthew records healing when a woman touches Yeshua's garment fringe. The teaching sees a possible wings-and-garment-corners connection with Malachi. Yeshua's instruction to do and teach the commandments gives the clearer explicit link with Malachi's central appeal.

Malachi 4:2, 4; Numbers 15:38-40; Matthew 9:20-22; 5:17-20

6. We can choose a manageable pattern of reading, discussing, and practicing one relevant instruction together, with adults modeling what they teach. Deuteronomy connects learning with ordinary daily life. Apply commands according to their actual audience and conditions; our study schedule or teaching method is a practical aid, not an added command.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 31:9-13; Malachi 4:4

Facilitator reminders

Do not treat tzitzit as a magical healing object. Matthew 9 attributes the healing to Yeshua in response to faith; the wings connection is the teaching's proposed allusion.

Keep criticism of unfaithful leadership specific and evidence-based. Do not declare the salvation status of every person who disagrees on a Torah question or apply the ancient tithing passage as an automatic requirement to fund a modern ministry.

The expectation of Elijah-like preparation does not identify a current leader or supply an end-times date.

Put it into practice

Choose one response to the passages. What will we do, and when will we revisit it? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.