Malachi's Call to Remembrance

Summary

Malachi's rebuke wasn't just for ancient priests — this article reads it as a direct message to an end-time "Elect" who remember what they were first taught, rather than drifting into "lukewarm" tradition.

- The end-time "Elect" identified as those who "remember" original teaching, as distinct from those who "forget."
- Malachi's rebuke of the priesthood applied to modern religious authority generally.
- The Elect identified, individually and collectively, as the end-time "Elijah" who tests religious claims against Scripture.
- Malachi 2's "wife of thy youth" read as the New Covenant Congregation formed at Pentecost.

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"Then they that respected Yahweh spake often one to another: and Yahweh harkened, and heard it, and a book of REMEMBRANCE was written before him for them that respected Yahweh, and that thought upon his name" *(Mal. 3:16).* This is a special "book of remembrance" written to the Elect - those that "feared" and "thought" - meditate on the Word of Yahweh.

We, the Elect, are told to remember what we were taught *(Mal. 4:4-6)*. Many prophecies for our time discuss and warn about our having turned away from past instructions *(2 Thes. 2:2-3; Rev. 3:7-21)*. It is a book of remembrance, because the Elect remember - discern, what was originally taught them by His Holy Spirit. That is why we will be spared from the Great Tribulation *(Mal. 3:17; Matt. 24:21,22; Rev. 3:10),* and given a special position in Yahweh's Kingdom forever *(Rev. 3:12)!*

Traditional Christians fail to escape "to a place of safety" because they forget, and turn to a "lukewarm" message. "Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth Yahweh and him that serveth him not" *(Mal. 3:18)*. The entire book of Malachi revolves around two groups; those that forget - the majority, and those that remember - the minority.

Yahweh sent Malachi to firstly, correct the ministry, and secondly, warn the people. In Malachi 1:6 through 3:3, every verse is directed to the ministry. "...and now, I pray you, beseech Yahweh that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith Yahweh, Lord of Hosts" *(Mal. 1:9).* "This has been by your means", would be better translated, "this has been your *[the priests]* doing" *(Soncino Commentary).*

Religious authority is guilty of being the main cause for our rebellious attitude in these end times. "...ye have caused many to stumble at the law" *(Mal. 2:8)*. Yahweh then purges the ministry just before the Messiah's return *(Mal. 3:3; 4:6).*

The attitude of most traditional religious authority is scornful. "...ye have snuffed at it" *(Mal. 1:13).* This literally means, "you snort at me". Soncino says the change of the pronoun to "it" from "me", is due to a deliberate alteration by the Scribes in order to remove the harshness of the expression!

There is no greater responsibility than being entrusted with Yahweh's Word. History is filled with disasters when the religious authorities have failed to do their job.

The Apostle John tells us; "I wrote unto the congregation *[called out ones]*: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds

which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and CASTETH THEM OUT OF THE CONGREGATION" *(3 John 9,10).*

John wrote this shortly before he died. The few faithful brethren left, were being "cast out", or put out of the local assembly by this self-appointed religious authority, who craved attention.

Actually, what John is telling us, is that these cast out ones, were the ONLY ones still in the TRUE Congregation because they insisted on following the Messiah - not some self-appointed "authority". They WERE the CONGREGATION, because they were joined to the Messiah through, and being led by, His Holy Spirit.

John spoke out in faith! The Elect are called to do the same thing today - to warn against false doctrine taught by false religious authority! Paul also openly challenged Peter in Galatians 2:11. Sometimes it has to be done to keep the spirit of Yahweh's Word! The Apostle John was not concerned about his followers being cast out of the Ephesus assembly - because they were still following the Messiah!

An Israelite is one who follows the Messiah - not a man or a church organization. Following the Messiah is exactly what Malachi's message is all about.

"Unto the angel of the congregation of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou HAST TRIED THEM WHICH SAY THEY ARE APOSTLES, AND ARE NOT, AND HAST FOUND THEM LIARS" *(Rev. 2:1,2).*

Some men, were saying that they were Apostles, when in fact they were not. Yahweh then praised the Ephesus congregation for detecting this falsehood. This is prophecy for our time, and Yahweh is saying that we MUST put religious authority to the test, or risk being deceived! We must place our focus on the Messiah - the one "in the midst" of the seven candlesticks. Our focus must not be on a man or church organization *(as represented by the candlesticks).* In plain words, we are in serious trouble if we follow any man-made church organization.

We can't be followers of the Messiah unless we are testing and proving all things as the Bible instructs. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of Yahweh: because many false prophets have gone out into the world" *(1 John 4:1)*. Individuals go astray. Churches go astray. The Messiah never goes astray! "These *[Bereans]* were MORE NOBLE than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures DAILY, whether these things were so" *(Acts 17:11).* We must realize that our approach to Bible study reveals how noble we are! As Yahweh's Elect, we must search the Scriptures daily with all readiness of mind, to PROVE, whether what we are told by other men, is true or not!

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause Yahweh shall send them STRONG DELUSION, that they [the worldly wise and disobedient] should believe a lie" *(2 Thes. 2:10,11).*

Yahweh will personally send strong delusion! He is not sending it because He wants us to fail, rather, it is His way of "testing" us - whether we have "received the love of the truth" or not. It is not possible to deceive Yahweh's very Elect *(Matt. 24:24).* Our people today assume that there is safety in numbers, and they assume they are Yahweh's Elect simply because they are "members" of some man-made "church" congregation!

Yahweh's Congregation has been flooded with His precious truth. Unfortunately, it has fallen predominantly on deaf ears and "stiff-necked" people. Now Yahweh is revealing to us in Malachi's message, that just prior to the Messiah's return, He is going to test us - whether we just talk about faith and good works, or whether we actually live by, "every word" of Yahweh - do we remember what we were taught by His Holy Spirit?

This is an all-important question. Yahweh's purpose for the human race, is that He is using us to literally recreate Himself! Yahweh's Elect, those few that will partake of being "priests and kings forever" in the glorious Kingdom, are being separated from the rest - the majority, RIGHT NOW!

This is the whole purpose of our life! There are probably more warnings in the New Covenant about being deceived on this matter by false ministers using false doctrine, than any other subject!

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and Yahweh, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith Yahweh, Lord of Hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap" *(Mal. 3:1,2).*

The subject is obviously referring to the Messiah's Second Coming. Yahweh says He will send His "messenger", who would prepare the way for the Messiah. Just as John the Baptist came to "prepare the way" for the Messiah the first time, so a messenger will prepare the way for His return. That messenger is His Holy Spirit working through Yahweh's Elect!

"Verily I say unto you; There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his Kingdom" *(Matt. 16:28).* This verse is clearly about a vision of the Messiah's Second coming. "And his disciples asked him, saying; `Why then say the scribes that Elias [Elijah] must come first?' And Yah'shua answered and said unto them, `Elias truly shall come first, and restore all things'" *(Matt. 17:10,11).* Yah'shua plainly tells us that an "Elijah" will come first; prior to His SECOND Coming!

The purpose of Malachi's message, is to reveal to us, that His Holy Spirit, operating through Yahweh's Elect, is that end-time Elijah! The mere fact that we can "understand" this prophetic message, reveals to us that it is our responsibility to BE this end-time Elijah.

We must be preparing the way for the Messiah's return, if we hope to be His "firstfruits" Bride. We must know this by faith, based on Yahweh's Word. The Bible says the end-time Elijah - the Elect, will "remember", and declare basic Bible truths to the people, preparing the way for the Messiah's return.

"And now, O ye priests, this COMMANDMENT is for you. If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith Yahweh, Lord of Hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because you do not lay it to heart" *(Mal. 2:1,2).*

Here Yahweh is giving serious warning to the ministry. If we fail to heed this warning, then we are in effect, contributing to continuation of false doctrine that has caused so many traditional Christians to stumble at the law *(v 8).*

"Yet ye say; Wherefore? Because Yahweh has been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant...Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth..." *(Mal. 2:14-16).* Malachi discusses marriage immediately after discussing the ministry. The context here is very important.

The New Covenant Congregation that the Messiah said He would build, became the "wife of thy *[our]* youth" when Yahweh sent us our "Helper" - His Holy Spirit, on the Day of Pentecost. We, individually, are spiritual members of this Congregation *(as set out in Hebrews 12:23; "...to the general assembly and congregation of the firstborn who are registered in heaven").*

We, in modern spiritual Israel, became a part of this wife covenant whether we are aware of it or not! To obtain a "firstfruits", or "elect" status in this covenant, we must not allow ourselves to be deceived - and, we must keep all of Yahweh's commandments, including those warning commands contained in Malachi!

"Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgements" *(Mal. 4:4).*

Yahweh is telling us to remember four things: first, the law; second, the statutes; third, the judgements; and fourth, "Horeb", the place where the law all began with physical Israel. Malachi is an end-time book that keeps referring back to the beginning.

We too, must remember where our spiritual history began in this age - the wife of our youth. We are spiritual Israel today. Therefore we must "remember" what His Holy Spirit, through Yahweh's Word, taught us in the beginning of this era.

We must have our names in the "book of remembrance" *(Mal. 3:16)*, and we must be preparing the way - warning, by declaring the truth, prior to the Messiah's return. It is through these ACTIONS, that the Elect will qualify for a "place of safety" during the Great Tribulation, and to be "pillars" *(rulers)*, in Yahweh's temple *(Kingdom)* when the Messiah returns.

"If ye will not hear" *(Mal. 2:2),* means that Malachi's message has to be declared, in order that some *(most)* will not hear it. THIS IS THAT MESSAGE! YOU are holding it *(to be confirmed by your own Bible study)* in your own hands! It is prophecy being fulfilled this very instant.

"Therefore have I made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law" *(Mal. 2:9)*.

Today, traditional ministers and religious authorities show partiality - and virtually none of them keep Yahweh's commandments *(ways).* They are respecters of persons rather than the truth. They show partiality or favour to those who move away from the instructions Yahweh gave us, which causes many to stumble at the law.

They don't stop keeping all the law, they simply "stumble" at any of the laws they don't find "convenient", or "traditionally acceptable"! It leads them into a "lukewarm" attitude, usually motivated by insecurity, fear and/or money!

Yahweh says that if you are rightfully in the ministry, you should "keep knowledge" *(Mal. 2:7,8).* The Hebrew word for "keep", means to "watch, to guard". Traditional Christianity has adopted the pagan "traditions of men", and "forgotten" the commandments of Yahweh - they have overwhelmingly failed to "remember what we were taught" *(Mal. 4:4).*

The Prophet Malachi was a reformer trying to lead the religious leaders and the people back to the law. The priests were the usual expounders of the law.

The prophets only appeared on special occasions - as in the case of Malachi who came chiefly because the priests were leading Yahweh's people astray.

It's about people - Yahweh's congregation, the wife of the Messiah, being corrupted! Where did Malachi begin? Like Ezekiel and many other prophets, he began at Yahweh's sanctuary - the ministry today - where Yahweh's Word is supposed to be "guarded".

Yahweh's first criticism of modern spiritual Israel contained in the book of Malachi, concerns the sin of forgetting the Father.

In Malachi 1:6, the Father asks through the Spokesman; "If then I be the Father, where is mine honour?"

This is where many "Christians" get off track. Traditional Christianity teaches the Gospel of the Christ, about the Christ. The TRUE Gospel, is the one the Messiah TAUGHT - about the "Kingdom of Yahweh"!

The Kingdom of Yahweh, is Yahweh's Government, with Yahweh's laws, administered by the Family of Yahweh!

The Kingdom of Yahweh is the FAMILY of Yahweh. And who is the head of the family? the Messiah? Of course not!

The Father is the head of the family. Yahweh the Father is the central theme to the TRUE GOSPEL!

Yah'shua taught: "no man can come to Me except the Father which hath sent me draw him" *(John 6:44).*

The Father begets His own children. Not even the Messiah can do that in place of Yahweh! So we can see why these doctrinal "adulterations", lead the Father to ask, "WHERE IS MY HONOUR?"

This is the heart of the Gospel! Yah'shua taught us that the Father is the central figure, but this false traditional Christianity has relegated Him to a lesser status.

They have moved away from the true Gospel and now preach a "gospel" with the Messiah as the central figure.

When the Great Tribulation comes *("and, lo, it will come")*, there will be no more "SCHOLARLY" reasoning around Yahweh's simple truths!

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