

MAJOR LESSONS FROM THE MINOR PROPHETS

Malachi: Proven Faithfulness

¹*A prophecy: The word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi. (Malachi 1:1)*

A look ahead . . .

¹*"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. (Malachi 3:1)*

²*"But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. (Malachi 4:2 NASB)*

In the meantime . . .

⁶*"I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty.*

"But you ask, 'How are we to return?' (Malachi 3:6,7)

- ▶ **The Answer:** *Malachi 3:8-11*

Withholding the tithe . . .

- **_Hurts_ the _work_ of God**

¹⁰Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. (Malachi 3:10a)

- **Violates the principle of increase**

... see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. (Malachi 3:10b)

⁹Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. (Proverbs 3:9;10)

³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38)

- **Gives license to the devourer**

¹¹Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the Lord of hosts. (Malachi 3:11 NASB)

**"Test me in this,"
says the Lord Almighty.**

¹⁶Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. (Malachi 3:16)