

Malachi (meaning ‘My messenger’)

Written during the time of the Persian Empire (539 –333 BC)

'Governor' (1:8) Malachi uses Persian word ‘pecah’ – see also Nehemiah 5:14 and Hag 1:1

Probably Malachi was a contemporary of Nehemiah.

Temple sacrifices were taking place:

Temple rebuilt 516 BC (Zerubbabel)

Ezra returned in 457 BC

Nehemiah came to Jerusalem to rebuild wall in 444 BC

Returned to Persia in 432 BC

Returned to Jerusalem 425 BC

Malachi probably written c. 430 BC.

The Message of Malachi

The Lord loves Israel (1:1 –5)

Priests were corrupt (1:6 – 2:9)

People not keeping covenant with God (2:10 – 3:15)

Mixed marriages – joined to idol worshippers (2:10-13)

Divorce (2:14-16)

Wearying God with words (2:17)

Judgment as a refiners fire and fuller's soap (3:1-5)

Tithes not paid (3:6-12)

Speaking words of unbelief (3:13-15)

Reward of the Righteous (3:16 . 4:3)

Coming of Elijah (4:4-6)

Law (4:4) Elijah (4:5)

Curse (4:6) Old Testament ends with a curse. New Testament ends with 'the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all' Rev 22:21