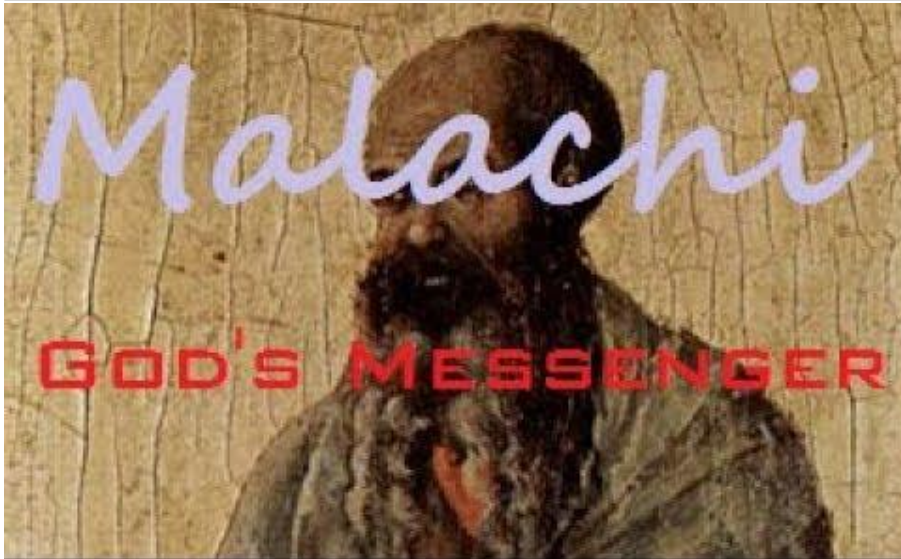


WOOLHAMPTON PARISH

‘THE GOD WHO SPEAKS’ – YEAR OF THE BIBLE

BRIEF GUIDE TO BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

## MALACHI



The name “Malachi” means “my messenger”; it may be a personal name, or may be taken from 3:1,

***“I am going to send my messenger  
to prepare a way before me.”***

The book is consciously a preparation for the great Day of the coming of the LORD, and so to round off the book of the Twelve Prophets - ***celebrating the enduring love of the LORD through history (1:1-5)*** - as Hosea celebrated it at the beginning of the Book. It is a spirituality based on the Temple and the Law, written during the Persian period, in order ***to recall the returned exiles to fidelity***, at a time when the first enthusiasm of the return from exile had worn off. Each section of the prophecy rebukes a group for their lack of fidelity to the covenant and quotes their feeble excuses. The final appendix both looks backwards to Moses, who gave them the Law and mediated the Covenant, and forward to the coming of Elijah, the final messenger. Jesus reiterates the same belief (Mark 9:11-13) regarding John the Baptist as this Elijah.

(from *The Bible – A Reader’s Guide*, by Henry Wansborough)

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**Now read Malachi chapter 3!**

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