

ARAMAIC BIBLE COMPANION

A PREACHER'S SUMMARY

I am taking the novel step of giving you a short summary of the book in line with a message preached at **the clock tower** (Leicester City) during the final bank holiday of August 2010.

(1) Like every prophet Malachi has a “burden”. It is not so much the weight of it upon him but as the water-carrier calls and gives from the leather water-hide he bears so Malachi is concerned that others should be refreshed from the message he carries. His first word is “I have loved you, my people, as a friend loves! **“How’s that?”** is the reply? The LORD points out that Esau was Jacob’s friend or brother but the concern was one way. Esau just tried to rebuild the ruins of his own life and as the writer to the Hebrews says he became a πορνος (English “Porn”) with all that that entails-smutty living impure lifestyle.

(2) The LORD arrests his people because they held His name in contempt. **“How’s that?”** the people reply. The LORD answers “Your offerings are blind sick beast with broken legs and even stolen animals-that reflects how you think of me!” and in addition you say, “Religion is just weariness. The prophet responds to the people’s criticism in God’s word “Please I wish you would simply pray and seek God –without anything in your hands and he will show GRACE. There is grace in the O.T. God was and is and will always be a God of Grace.

(3) As to the Priests the LORD continues “I will curse the blessing you give”. Think of that. The Aaronic blessing becomes a curse. When the priests say “The LORD bless you and keep you –the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace” the people find the reverse to be true. They are not kept but lose their battles and their harvests and cattle. They know nothing of God’s grace and they have war in their homes and war in their land.

You see as Malachi says the priests should “teach” the people.

The failure of the house of Levi was visited on the nation by the cutting off of the watchman the prayer warrior and the devout who drew near to God. This is one of God’s judgments on nations whose religious leaders neglect their duty.

(4) As to family life the prophet continues “You have acted faithlessly in the matter of the wife of your youth”. Malachi then goes on to an acute analysis of marriage. He says God Almighty the Creator made the two Adam and Eve ONE and *his Spirit still remains at work* in this matter and He sought out through the Marriage union “a seed of God” –a Saviour for man. Notice first that Malachi gives us notice of the Tri-unity of God. Notice second that Malachi has exactly the handle on marriage of Paul who says it is sacred –and for the very same reason. God made marriage to enable the expansion of mankind and because man would sin for the provision secondly of a Saviour.

The prophet follows this up by saying that the nation’s problems are spiritual. If they would under the abiding Spirit get their act together-sort out their relationships-start living faithfully as man and woman –and turn to the LORD as the Spirit convicts and Prompts then home and hearth would benefit gloriously

(5)The prophet continues to speak of the Day of the LORD. “The LORD whom you seek will come to His temple. He will be like a refiner of gold and silver. Take warning.

The LORD’S warning is in the words “You have robbed me!” **How’s that**” the people reply. The LORD answers “You have not even given me a tenth of your lives-you have not acknowledged the cross!” This charge is put in a Jewish form-Israel had ceased to tithe and they failed to bring the “heave offering” which is an ancient sign of Christ being lifted up on the cross.

In our society we spend all we have-we hardly spare a beggar’s penny for the kingdom of God. We never give a thought from one year’s end to another as to why Christ died. It was for you and me-for “the ungodly.”

We are accountable for what God has loaned us. We are accountable before the cross.

(6) The prophet continues “You have spoken strong or harsh words against the LORD”. “**How’s that**” the people reply.

The LORD responds “You have said it is a worthless thing to serve God-it brings big trouble”.

The LORD typically hardly takes the reply under His notice. Instead He says “I am writing a book to keep in mind for their future joy –I am writing about those who spoke of me-who kept on talking about my word-my will and sharing the good news. You may never have written a book but if you want to have a book written about you why not give your life into the LORD’S hands and start looking for the King and praying and getting close to God as Malachi says. When you do your story will be recorded in that wonderful book.

(7) The prophet finished on a high note. He said there would be a lovely day. Today and the next two days (August 31 Sept 1-2) are to be fine. You woke up to a lovely day. One day this old world will wake up to a beautiful day when the Sun of Righteousness will appear with healing in his prayer shawl or the hem of his garment. First there will be a “catching away” of the saints-what Malachi calls a “gathering of the Jewels or treasures of God” and then the third world war and a day of Refiner’s fire-but it will be succeeded by this new dawn-the rule of Christ.

The people of God are to remember Moses with a capital “R” (in Hebrew a capital Z” ׀ר׀ך׀]-for this kingdom will rule on holy lines like Moses set down in the law.

Before it God’s people are to remember Elijah will come and that will change matters in the Middle East.

Fathers will be moved for their sons and sons will want to turn to God and have their fathers turn to Him as well. It will be a day when there will be nothing as important as family. When the church is taken home and the world enters **a dark tribulation phase** and a great prophet arrives from heaven the most important thing on earth then and now is **your family**.

The question remains “What do you think of the Sun of Righteousness?”

I turned to the four faces of the Leicester clock tower and repeated two phrases in conclusion before shouting “Amen”

(1) WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CHRIST?

(2) WHAT DOES CHRIST THINK OF YOU?

Bob Coffey L’shuvkha Marya

To the glory of the Lord

Aramaic Bible Companion