

- III. The Predictive segment 9-14
  - A. The Burden of the oppressor 9-11
    - 1. The coming king 9
    - 2. The powerful lord 10
    - 3. The broken covenant 11
  - B. The Burden of the oppressed 12-14
    - 1. The restoration of Judah 12
    - 2. The opened fountain 13
    - 3. The deliverance of Jerusalem 14

The three sections take up the past, the immediate present and the future... all to illustrate for Israel the will of God.

c. You will want to study further:

- the method and variety of biblical symbolism
- the apocalyptic character of 12-14 in particular
- the role of the "former prophets" in fulfilling the ministry and ideas of Zechariah.

It is a very important book and you should know it well...we will probably pause for a view of a couple of critical problems at this juncture.

12. A survey study of Malachi (God's due")

a. An overview (TVT)

This is the last of the Minor Prophets and in the English Bible the last book of the Old Testament. It is written about 400 -420 BC and we are not sure if the term "Malachi" is a proper name or a general identification for one who would call oneself "my messenger." No family data is given and no autobiographical material is apparent. That the writer speaks of the priests as a third party suggests that he is not of the priestly line. The overall theme is one of integrity with God as argued in 1:6-14 and illustrated in the life of Levi and the priestly charge in chapter 2. If our date is correct then the prophecy is against the background of the return from exile and the completed temple. The revivals of Ezra and Nehemiah are history and the nation is falling into the same general pitfalls that have so bothered it in time past. Malachi is a combination of prose and poetry and while the text is mostly solid there are a few textual problems in chapters 2 and 3 that are of considerable proportion.

In outlining Malachi we note simply:

- I. Warnings against national hypocrisy 1:1-14
- II. Challenge to the priests 2
- III. Challenge to the nation as a whole 3
- IV. Challenge of blessing 4

In the program of redemption Malachi emphasizes the trueness of God's person (3:6) and his faithfulness to the covenant. He sees the coming messenger (3:1) and the power of the Sun of Righteousness (4:2). He demonstrates that the standards of God are not uneven or unknowable but in