

agreement with the Mosaic covenant of Dt. 30...are available and apparent. The priests are accountable to God as he is accountable to His word and this is demonstrated in the moving account of God's recognition of His own in 3:17-18. The justice of God is powerfully upheld in this book and the failure of the nation as a means of accounting for its defeat is very apparent.

Questions to help in the study or to make us think more clearly about the material might include: What is the force and point of the divorce argument of 2:14-17? How applicable is the tithing promise of 3:10? Who is the messenger of 4:5-6? Perhaps we might wonder why the Lord goes to the extent of the argument, alibi, and answer method that is seen throughout this book? Many applications from these and similar questions may be made from the text of Malachi.

I am not familiar with any specific archaeological material related to Malachi.

To gain a fuller understanding of the book review the material in the Pentateuch with regard to the work of the Priests. How did Levi earn the promotion and confidence of chapter 2? Consider the faulty offerings of chapter 1 in the light of Leviticus 27. Note the famous "governor's yardstick" as a clue to the nature of the acceptability of the things we bring to give God.

For Further Reading: Baldwin: HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH, MALACHI. See also the helpful devotional work of Newton Conant: CHEATING GOD.

b. For further study:

Study carefully the blessings that are promised in Malachi and the means that are assigned to attaining them.

C. Summary and Conclusion

In the Minor prophets in particular, since they are less known, you will find it meritorious to look up the citations in the New Testament. You will also note that in all of them a common trilogy of ideals is set forth:

Sin and rebellion are strongly denounced

Continuous exhortations are made to turn to the Lord

A promised age of blessing is the continuing hope.

To these are appended many small messages seasoned for the particular time or historical setting. Notice that blessing and judgment are regularly woven together...the one being demonstrative of God's justice, the second being demonstrative of God's concern and care.

And our next section will begin on the next page.