

Minor Prophets...

THE MINOR PROPHETS

The Book of Malachi
Mal. 3:-7-12

...Major Message

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Mal. 3:7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept *them*. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

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- The focus of the first message was on **the people's relationship to God** (spiritual responsibility),
- The focus of the second one was on **their relationship to one another** (social responsibility), and
- The third one is on their **relationship to their possessions** (economic responsibility).

2. Their Ungodly Attitude, 3:7-12

a. In Provoking God, 3:7-9

(1) Defiantly, 3:7

Mal. 3:7 Even from the days of your fathers **ye are gone away from mine ordinances**, and have not kept *them*. **Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.** But ye said, Wherein shall we return? **...Major Message**

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Ex. 32:7 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for **thy people**, which **thou** broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*:

8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These *be* thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it *is* a stiffnecked people:

Deut. 4:30 When thou art **in tribulation**, and all these things are come upon thee, *even* in **the latter days**, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;

31 (For the LORD thy God *is* a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.

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Deut. 30:1 And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call *them* to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,

2 And **shalt return** unto the LORD thy God, and **shalt obey** his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, **with all thine heart, and with all thy soul**;

3 That **then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.**

4 If *any* of thine be driven out unto the outmost *parts* of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee:

5 And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers. **...Major Message**

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6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

7 And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee.

8 And **thou shalt return and obey** the voice of the LORD, and **do all** his commandments which I command thee this day.

9 And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:

10 **If thou shalt hearken** unto the voice of the LORD thy God, **to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.**

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Jas. 4:8 **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.** Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.

(2) Deliberately, 3:8

Mal. 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

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There were several kinds of tithes:

(1) the tenth of the remainder after the first-fruits were taken, this amount going to Levites for their livelihood (Leviticus 27:30-33);

Lev. 27:30 And **all the tithe** of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land, *or* of the fruit of the tree, **is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD.**

31 And if a man will at all redeem *ought* of his tithes, he shall **add thereto the fifth part** thereof.

32 And concerning **the tithe** of the herd, or of the flock, *even* of whatsoever passeth under the rod, **the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.**

33 He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.

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(2) the tenth paid by Levites to the priests (Numbers 18:26-28);

Num. 18:26 Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel **the tithes which I have given you** from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, *even a tenth part* of the tithe. 27 And *this* your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though *it were* the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress.

28 Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering **unto the LORD of all your tithes**, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.

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(3) the second tenth paid by the congregation for the needs of the Levites and their own families at the tabernacle (Deuteronomy 12:18);

Deut. 12:18 But thou must eat them before the LORD thy God **in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose**, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that *is* within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto.

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(4) another tithe every third year for the poor
(Deuteronomy 14:28-29).

Deut. 14:28 At the end of three years thou shalt bring
forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and
shalt lay *it* up within thy gates:

29 And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor
inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the
fatherless, and the widow, which *are* within thy gates,
shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; **that the
LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine
hand which thou doest.**

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- A tithe = a tenth.

Lev. 27:32 And concerning **the tithe** of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, **the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.**

- Men of God tithed BEFORE the Law.

Gen 14:18 And **Melchizedek** king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God.

19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And **he gave him tithes of all.**

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Heb. 7:1 For this **Melchisedec**, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

2 **To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all**; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

Gen. 28:20 And **Jacob vowed a vow**, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:

22 And this stone, which I have set *for* a pillar, shall be God's house: and **of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.**

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- God had Moses place a tithe of Manna to put into the Ark of the Covenant.

Ex. 16:33 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and **put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD**, to be kept for your generations.

34 As the LORD commanded Moses, so **Aaron laid it up before the Testimony**, to be kept.

35 And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.

36 Now **an omer is the tenth part of an ephah.**

- Nehemiah continued the tithe.

Neh. 10:38 And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites **take tithes**: and the Levites shall **bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house.** (Neh. 13:12) **Major Message**

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- Malachi commanded the tithe.

Mal. 3:10 **Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse**, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

- Jesus commended the tithe.

Mt. 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for **ye pay tithe** of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: **these ought ye to have done**, and not to leave the other undone.

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- Paul encouraged “grace giving”

2 Cor. 8:1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of **the grace of God** bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

...

7 Therefore, as ye abound in every *thing, in* faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and *in* all diligence, and *in* your love to us, **see that ye abound in this grace also.**

8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and **to prove the sincerity of your love.**

9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, **though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.**

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(3) Disastrously, 3:9

Mal. 3:9 *Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.*

b. By Proving God, 3:10-12

(1) The Challenge, 3:10a

Mal. 3:10a “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and **prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts...**”

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(2) The Change, 3:10b-12

(a) Within, 3:10b-11

Mal. 3:10b "...if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and **pour you out a blessing**, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts."

Psa. 78:40 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, *and* grieve him in the desert!

41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and **limited the Holy One of Israel.**

(cf. 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:1-4, 9-14; 2 Cor. 9:2, 7, 12; Phil. 4:10-19)

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Lu. 6:38 **Give, and it shall be given unto you**; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For **with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.**

2 Cor. 9:6 But this / say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

7 **Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give**; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8 And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, **may abound to every good work:**

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(b) Without, 3:12

Mal. 3:12 And **all nations shall call you blessed**: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

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Conclusion

Phil. 4:16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

17 Not because I desire a gift: but **I desire fruit that may abound to your account.**

18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, **wellpleasing to God.**

19 But **my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

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