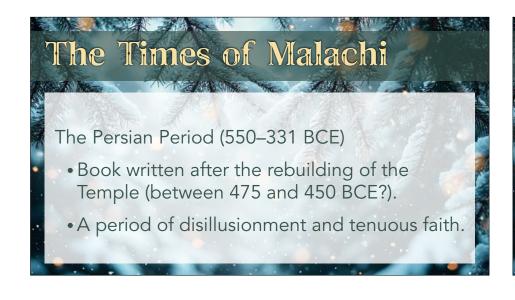
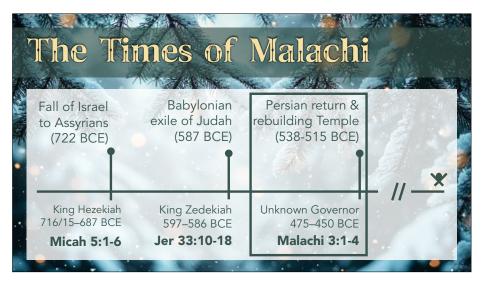


"An oracle: The word of Yahweh to Israel through Malachi" (1:1). • Malachi (מלאכי) – name lit. means "my messenger" in Hebrew (cf. 3:1). • Not clear whether it is a personal name or a descriptive title (e.g., LXX).

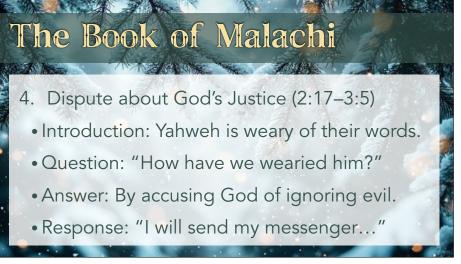


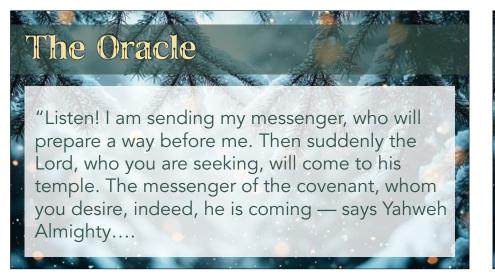


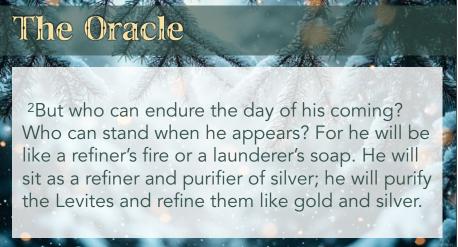


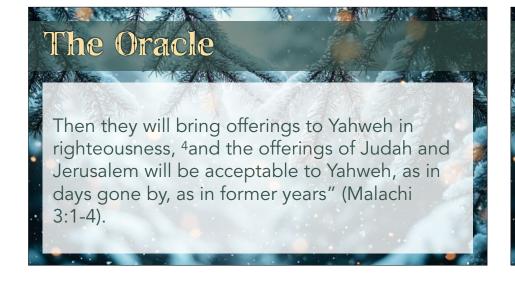


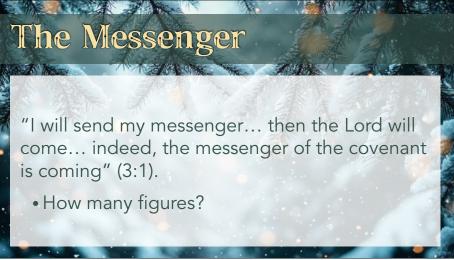












The Messenger

"My messenger" is identified with John the Baptist.

- Messenger (מלאך) mediator of a message, can be a human or angelic messenger.
- Identification is clear in the NT (Mark 1:2-3; Matt 11; Luke 1:16-17, 7:27).

The Messenger

"The Lord" is identified as Jesus the Messiah (Luke 2:21-40; John 2:12-22).

- "Lord" (אדני 'adonai) Lord, master. In context clearly referring to God.
- If John is the first messenger, then it implicitly understands the coming of the Lord as a reference to Jesus.

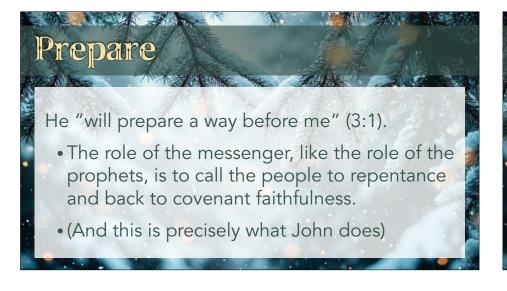
The Messenger

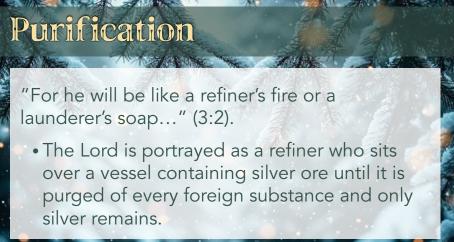
The identity of the third figure, the "messenger of the covenant," is more mysterious.

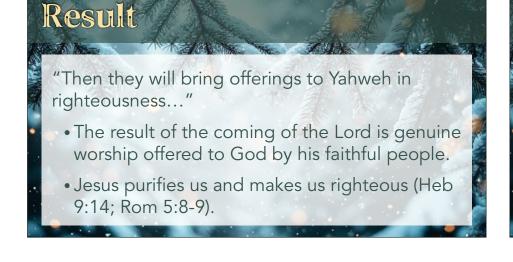
- Angelic messenger (cf. Exod 23:20).
- Jesus as "the messenger of the [new] covenant."
- Or a second reference to the initial messenger.

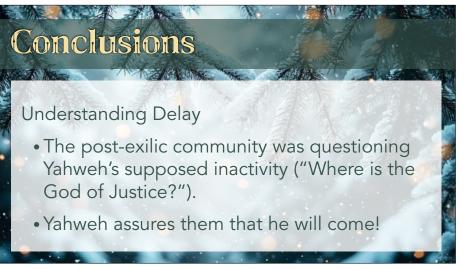
The Messenger

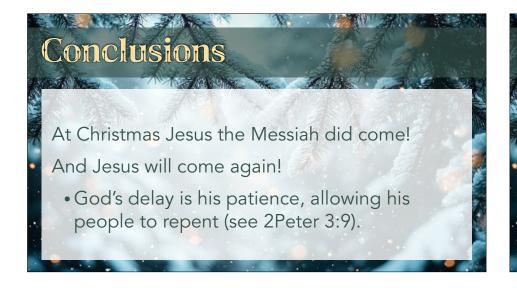
- A. Listen! I am (A) sending (B) my messenger
 - B. Then suddenly the Lord, who you are seeking, will come to his temple.
- A. The **(B) messenger** of the covenant... **(A)** he is **coming** says Yahweh Almighty.











Conclusions

"The Messiah for whom John prepared the way is-always and in every way-for us and not against us. It is the love of God, in the end, that wins the day. The love of God is the blazing fire that purifies us, remakes us, and sets right all that is broken in us and in the world. The love of God brings us to repentance. The love of God sets the oppressed free and makes all things new. The love of God insists on truth and justice. The love of God reveals every hidden thing. And it is this love that is coming for us" (Tish Harrison Warren, Advent: The Season of Hope, 54).

Conclusions

How do we prepare the way for the Messiah's coming?

- There's nothing we can do to make ourselves "more acceptable" to God.
- But we can have a posture of repentance and openness to God's grace and love in our lives.