



**Smithsonian Institution**

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

## **The Teacher Vol. 52 No. 2**

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## Lights on the Lesson

By Rev. Bernard O. Byrd, D.D.

Light No. 1- During the time of the captivity referred to in this lesson, much degeneration had come to pass in the religion of the Jews. That there might be a revival of truth and sincerity, an incentive was needed to produce a fire of enthusiasm. The people generally referred to the writings of Moses as "The Law."

Light No. 2- It was customary for the law to be read to the men and for the men to relay the information to the members of the family, but on this occasion, that is when they called for the reading of the law, women also were included.

Light No. 3- "Ezra was above the people" meant that he stood on a platform.

Light No. 4- By pointing Israel to the proper way to deal with themselves, the scripture shows that they were socially degenerate.

Light No. 5- The people being sanctified by God agreed or convenanted to keep themselves away from whom they contracted much pollution.

## Editorial Reflections

By Rev. S.A. Pleasants, D.D.

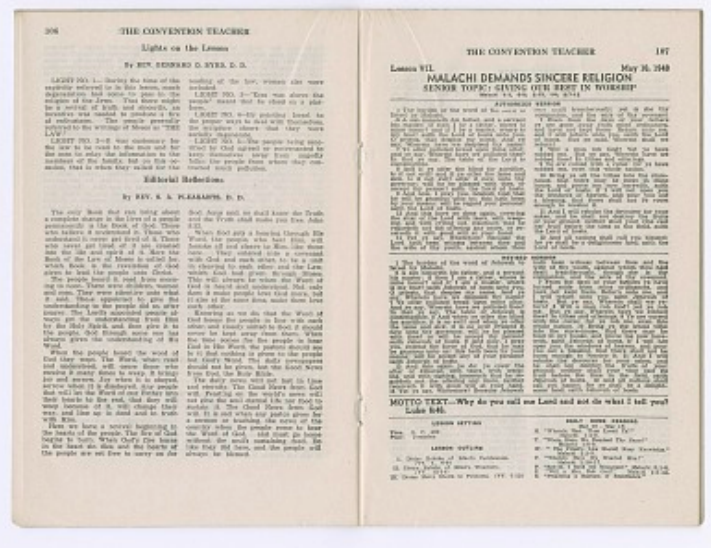
The only Book that can bring about a complete change in the lives of a people permanently is the Book of God. Those who believe it understand it. Those who understand it never get tired of it. Those who never get tired of it are created into the life and spirit of it. Here the Book of the Law of Moses is called for, which Book is the revelation of God given to lead the people unto Christ.

The people heard it read from morning to noon. There were children, women and men. They were attentive unto what it said. Those appointed to give the understanding to the people did so, after prayer. The Lord's appointed people always get the understanding from Him by the Holy Spirit, and then give it to the people. God through some one has always given the understanding of His Word.

When the people heard the word of God they wept. The Word, when read and understood, will cause those who receive it many times to weep. It brings joy and sorrow. Joy when it is obeyed, sorrow when it is disobeyed. Any people that will let the Word of our Father into their hearts to the end, that they will weep because of it, will change their way, and line up in deed and in truth with Him.

Here we have a revival beginning in the hearts of the people. The fire of God begins to burn. When God's fire burns in the heart sin dies, and the hearts of the people are set free to carry on for God. Jesus said, ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free. John 8:32.

When God gets a hearing through His Word, the people, who hear Him,



will forsake all and cleave to Him, like these here. They entered into a covenant with God and each other and the Law, which God had given through Moses. This will always be when the Word of God is heard and understood. Not only does it make people love God more, but it also at the same time, make them love each other.

Knowing as we do, that the Word of God keeps the people in line with each other, and closely united to God, it should never be kept away from them. When the time comes for the people to hear God in His Word, the pastors should see to it that nothing is given to the people but God's Word. The daily newspapers should not be given, but the Good News from God, the Holy Bible.

The daily news will not last in time and eternity. The Good News from God will. Feasting on the world's news will not give the soul eternal life nor food to sustain it. The Good News from God will. It is sad when any pastor gives for a sermon or teaching, the news of the country when the people come to hear the Word of God, and must go home without the soul's sustaining food. Do like they did here, and the people will always be blessed.

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The Convention Teacher 107

Lesson VII.  
May 16, 1948

#### MALACHI DEMANDS SINCERE RELIGION

Senior Topic: Giving our Best in Worship  
Malachi 1:1, 6-9; 2:13, 14; 3:7-12  
[[line]]

Authorized version

1 The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi

6 A son honoreth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honor? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible.

8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto they governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts.

9 And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the Lord of hosts.

13 And this have ye done again, covering the alter of the Lord with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand.

14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

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 window 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 you cine 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.  
[[line]]

#### REVISED VERSION

1 The burden of the word of Jehovah to Israel by Malachi.

6 A son honoreth his father, and a servant his master: if then I am a father, where is mine honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? saith Jehovah of hosts unto you, O priests, that despised by name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? 7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar. And ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of Jehovah is contemptible. 8 And when ye offer the blind for sacrifice, it is no evil! and when ye offer the lame and sick, it is no evil! Present it now unto thy governor; will he pleased with thee? or will he accept thy person? saith Jehovah of hosts. 9 And now, I pray you, entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he accept any of your persons? saith Jehovah of hosts.

13 And this again ye do: ye cover the altar of Jehovah with tears, with weeping, and with signing, somuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, neither receiveth it with good will at your hand. 14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because Jehovah hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously, though she is thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

7 From the days of your fathers ye have turned aside from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith Jehovah of hosts. But ye say, Wherein shall we return? 8 Will a man rob God? yet ye rob me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with the curse: for ye rob me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring ye the whole tithe into the store-house, and prove me now herewith, saith Jehovah 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 its fruit before the time in the field, saith Jehovah of hosts. 12 And all nations shall call you happy: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith Jehovah of hosts.  
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MOTTO TEXT - Why do you call me Lord and not do what I tell you?  
Luke 6:46  
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#### LESSON SETTING

Time: B.C. 400  
Place: Jerusalem

#### LESSON OUTLINE

- I. Divine Rebuke of Israel's Carelessness. (VV. 1, 6-9)
- II. Divine Rebuke of Israel's Treachery. (VV. 13-14)
- III. Divine Mercy Shown to Penitents (VV. 7-12)

#### DAILY HOME READING

May 10- May 16  
M. "Wherein Hast Thou Loved Us?" Malachi 1:1-5  
T. "Where Have We Despised Thy Name?" Malachi 1:6-9  
W. "The Priest's Lips Should Keep Knowledge" Malachi 2: 1-9  
T. "Wherein Have we Wearied Him?" Malachi 2:10-17  
F. "Behold, I Send My Messenger." Malachi 3:1-6  
S. "Will a Man Rob God?" Malachi 3:7-12  
S. "Preaching a Baptism of Repentance.:"

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