MALACHI



Purpose of this Course Section

To glorify God in the equipping of our people at FBC to better understand and learn from the Malachi narrative. Nowhere else is this purpose more crucial than in the key theme(s) of Malachi including Israel's covenantal unfaithfulness and the coming Day of the LORD. As the last of a host of prophets before him, Malachi indicts Israel/Judah and especially its priesthood through the first half of the text as it details their failure to love, honor and respect the LORD accordingly – something that we as the church must never repeat. The last half of the text reveals the coming of a messenger who will "prepare the way" of the LORD at some point in the future.

The Prophet Malachi Holding A Scroll

c. 1300-1500 AD

France



AUTHOR

Malachi is fully recognized by conservative scholars as the author of this prophetic text.

However, the opening verse of Malachi (1:1) is the only reference to his name throughout the Bible.

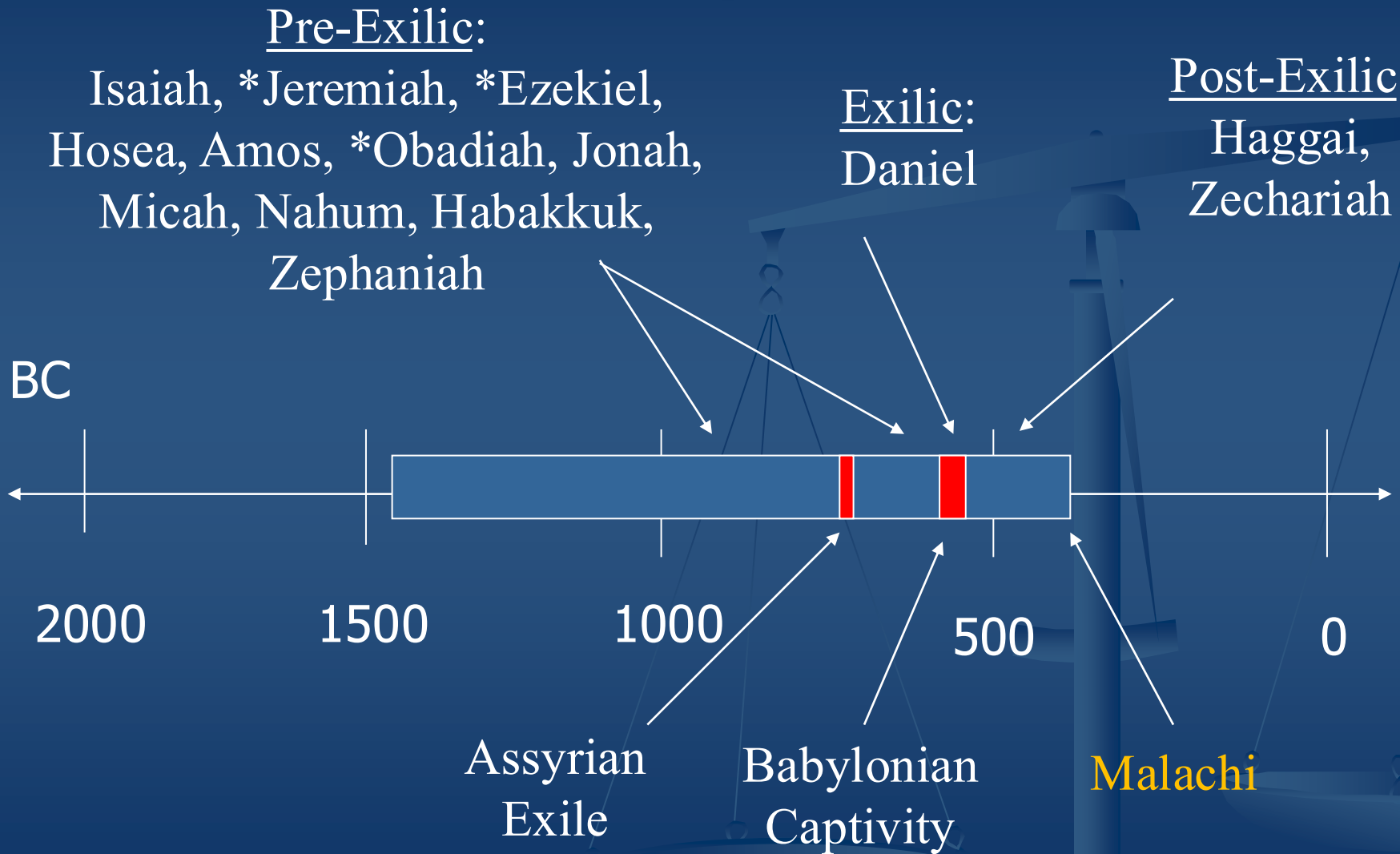
Moreover, we do not know whether this is the *name* of the author or simply *a reference* to him as God's messenger (Hb 'malachi' = My messenger). Hb Mal'ak מלאך means "messenger, ambassador or angel."

Note: Don't confuse this with the Hb meh'lek מלך which means "king."

The form used in Malachi 1:1 yields the possessive pronoun "my," and therefore, "My messenger" מלאכי (Note: the letter כ in Hebrew changes form to ך when it's at the end of the word).

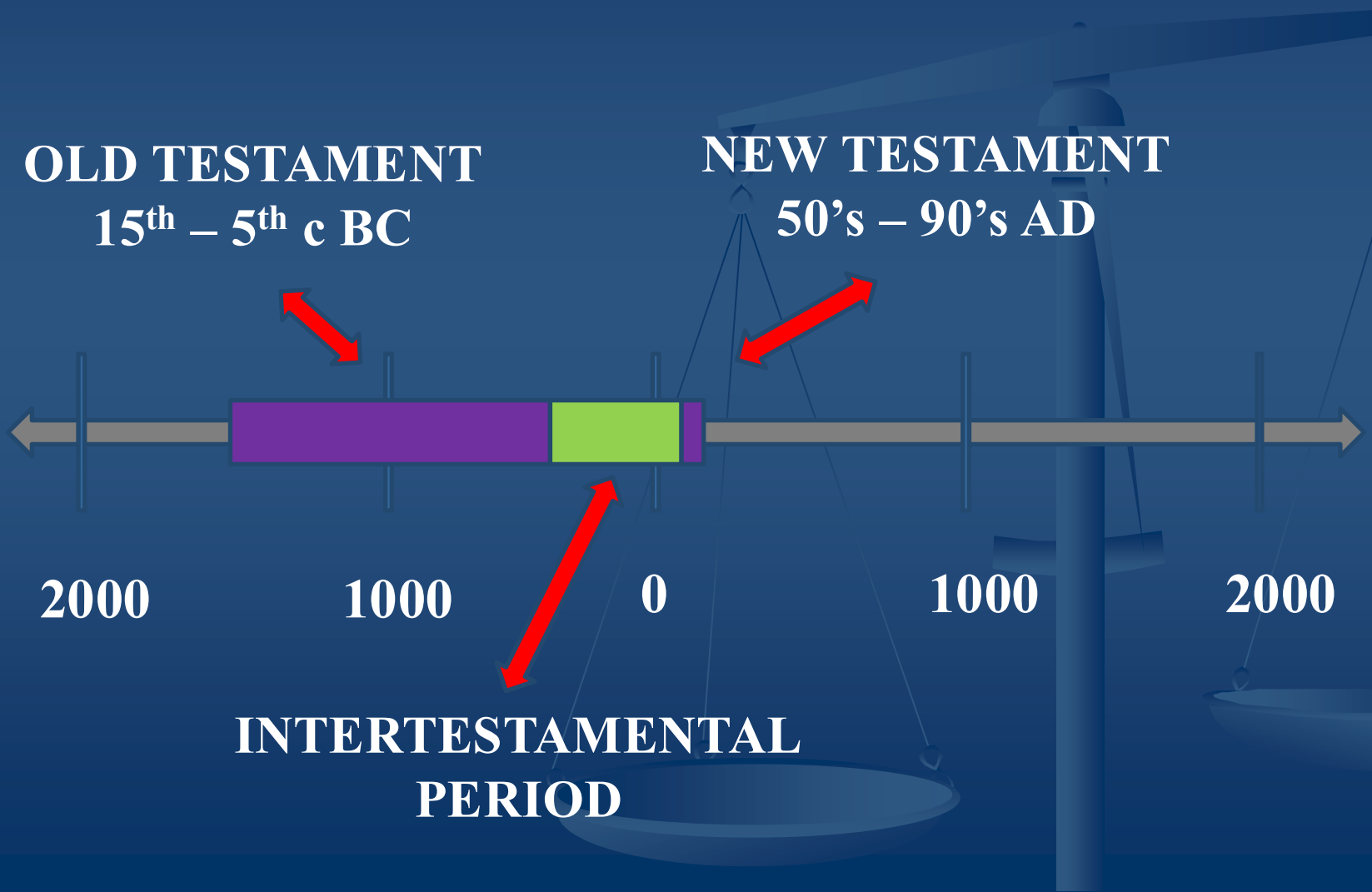
Old Testament Timeline

(Prophets)



* Denotes prophets that likely date from Pre-exilic to Exilic

BIBLICAL TIMELINE



DATING MALACHI

- Despite a lack of specifics, evidence points to a date during the late 5th century BC text. It's difficult to pinpoint a date without a specific reference to a king or otherwise.

- However, the general chronological ordering within the *minor* prophets (i.e., LXX; Hebrew canon; etc.) places it last in the sequence.

- Moreover, the sacrificial system had evidently been re-established, which would certainly date it after the second temple was completed in 515 BC.

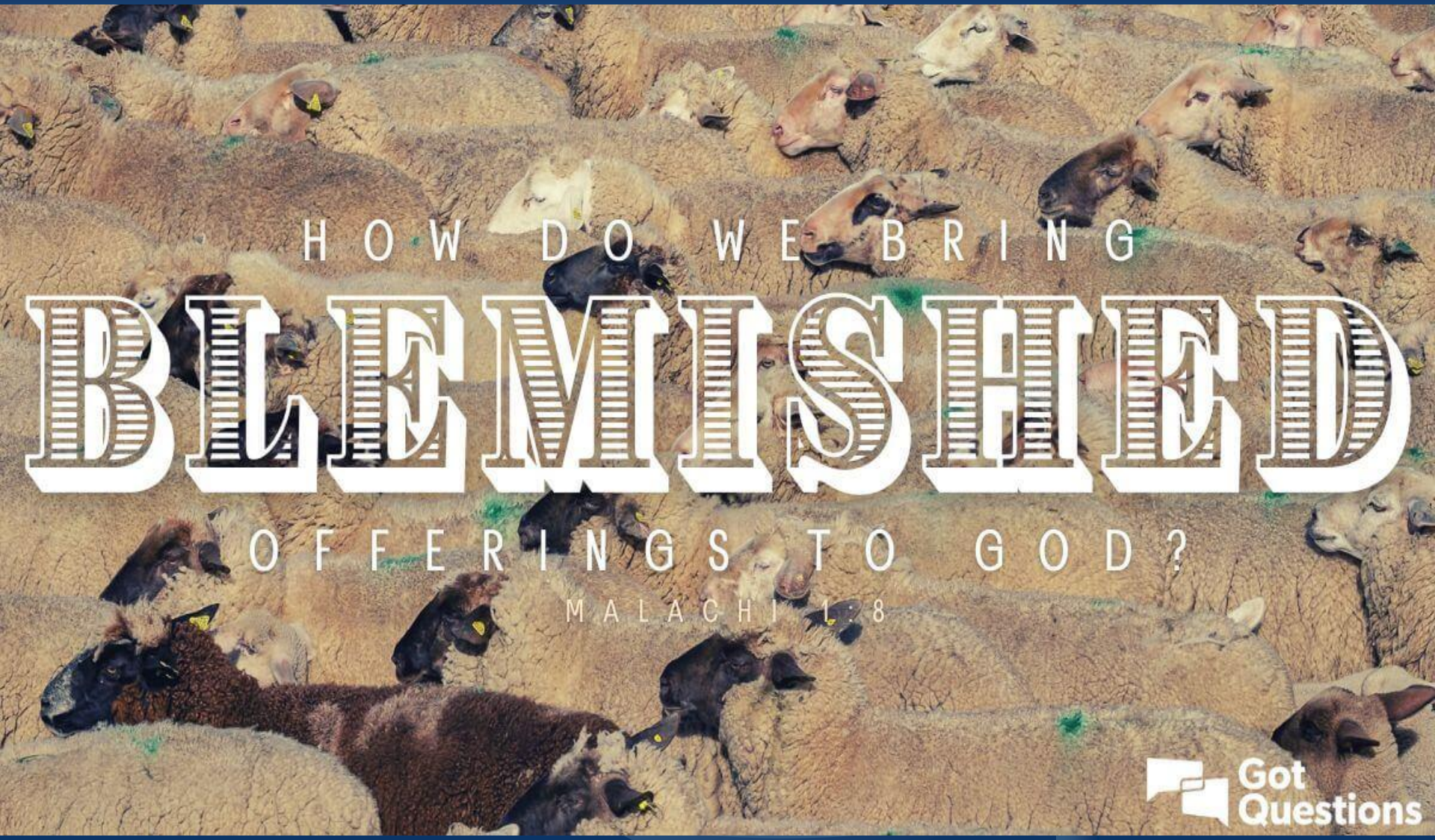
- The wall was started in the 20th year of Artaxerxes I or 445-444 BC and is said to have taken less than two months to complete.

- With no mention of Malachi in either Ezra or Nehemiah (i.e., who each write of both Haggai and Zechariah) it appears that a later date after Nehemiah's reign would be more plausible (Nehemiah was governor from 445-434).

- A time for the cultural deterioration needs to be taken into account also.

- Therefore, a likely date of roughly 425-435 BC is realistic – especially given its place in the canon and ending theme.

Chapter 1:6ff



Hebrew Chiasm – 1:11

A "My name shall be great among the Gentiles"

B "In every place incense"

C "shall be ***offered to My name***"

B' "And a pure offering"

A' "For My name shall be great among the nations"

Chapter 2:1ff

A PROBLEM OF THE HEART



Marital Corruption: 2:10ff

- Intermarriage outside the Faith

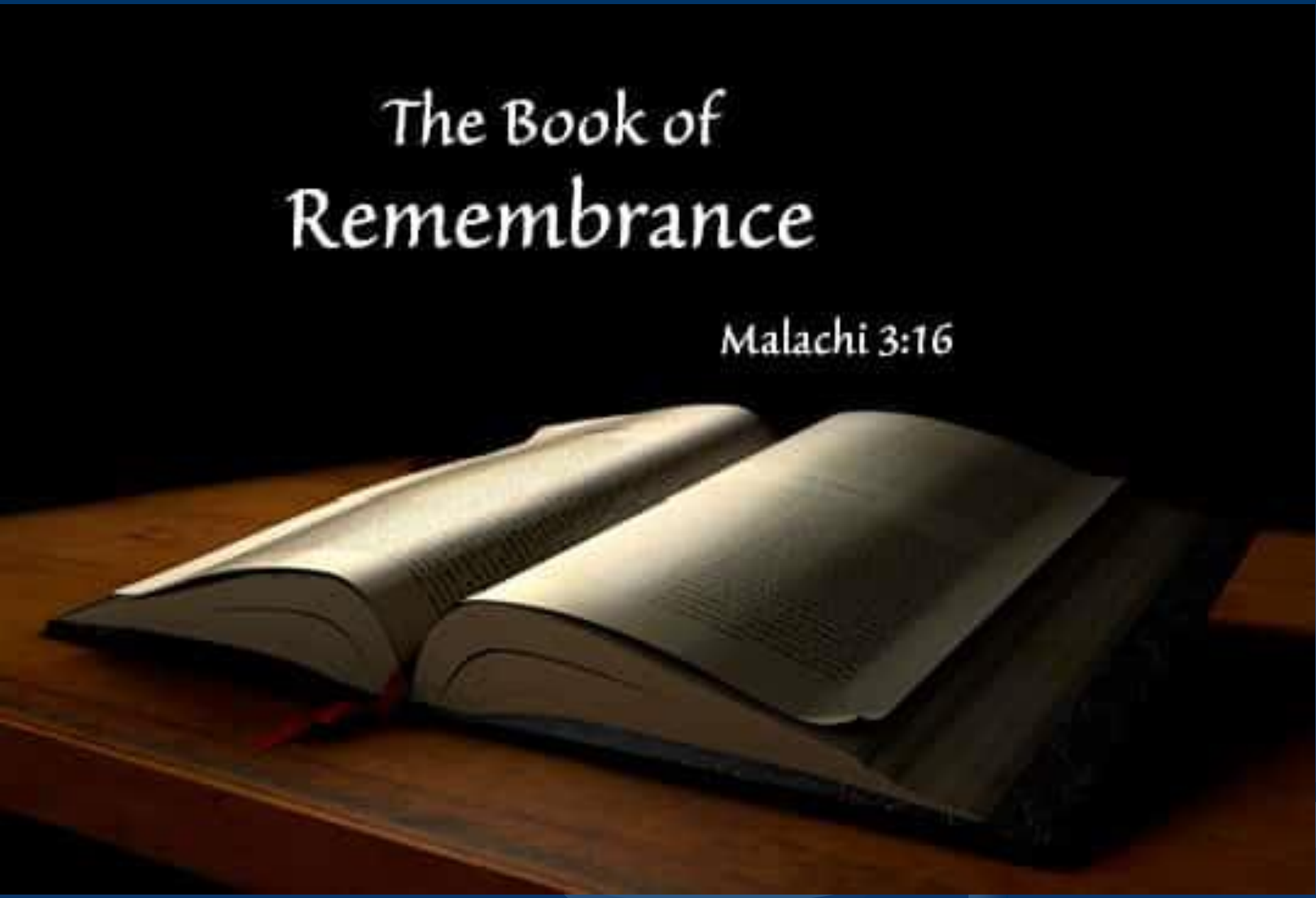
- Some Desecration and/or Profaned Behavior of Holy Things or Places

- Divorce

God Hates Divorce – 2:16

“For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce. For it covers one’s garment with violence,” says the LORD of hosts. “Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”

Malachi 2:16


The Book of
Remembrance
Malachi 3:16

St John the Baptist

by
Lippo Memmi

c. 1325 AD



Malachi 3:1a

"*Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me*. And the Lord that you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 11: 10-14

"For this is he of whom it is written: '*Behold, I send My messenger before your face, who will prepare Your way before You.*' Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than *John the Baptist* … And if you are willing to receive it, *he is Elijah who is to come*."

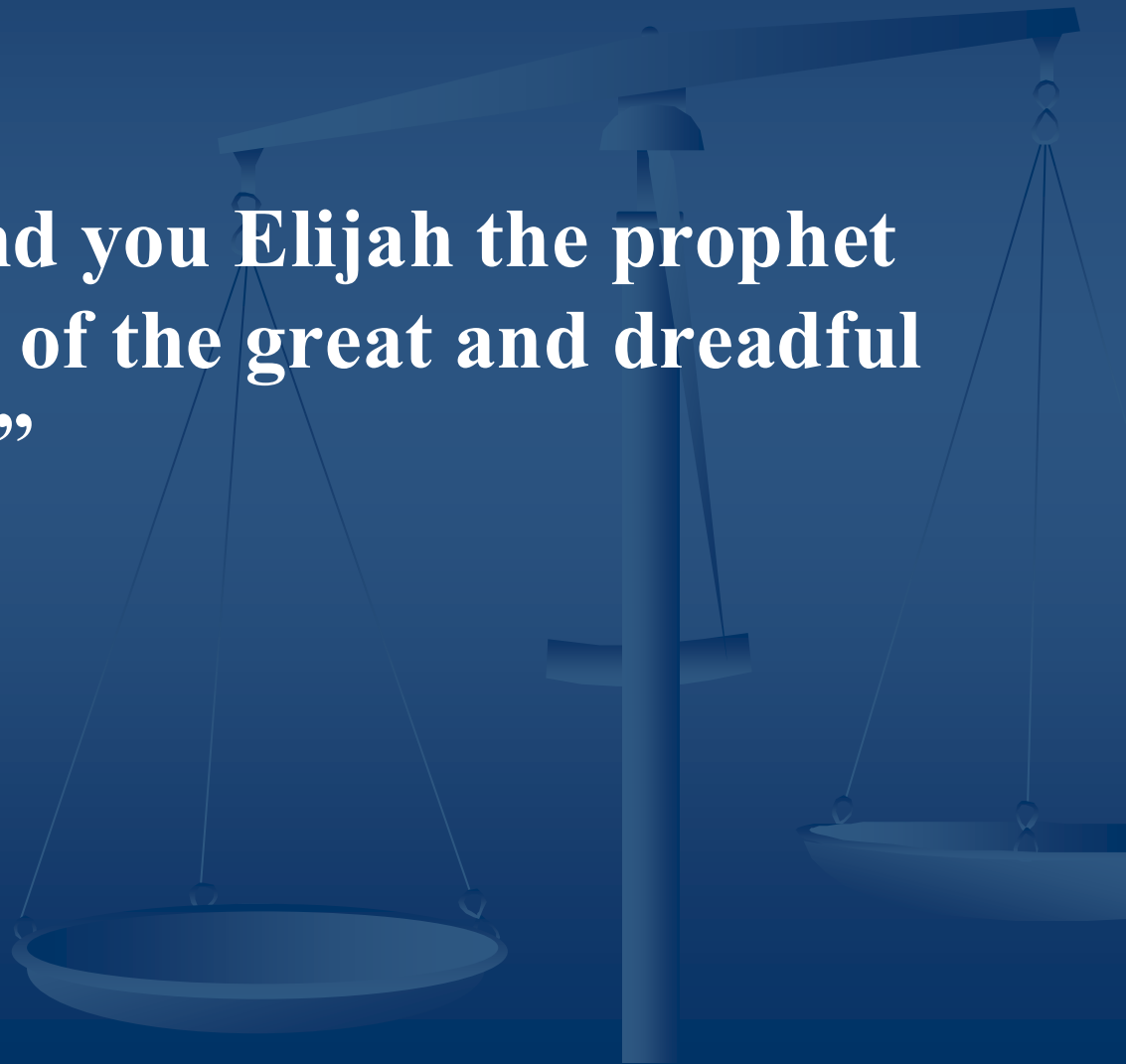
Isaiah 40:3-5

"*The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD*; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places smooth; *The glory of the LORD shall be revealed*, and all the flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Matthew 3:3-4

“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet *Isaiah*, saying: *The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD*, make His paths straight!”

Malachi 4:5



“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.”

MALACHI

