

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Malachi 3:1-10

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. In Malachi 3:1, who do you think the LORD referred to?

The messenger was John the Baptist and the Lord was Jesus the Messiah.

2. What did the Lord do when He suddenly came to the temple and what happened to Him?

Jesus taught and cleansed the temple, and then the religious leaders plotted with the Romans and crucified Him. He died on the cross for our sins.

3. Compare Malachi 3:2-3 and Matthew 3:1-12.

Malachi said He would come with a refiner's fire to purify people and He would also draw near for judgment. John the Baptist said the Messiah would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire (to cleanse and purify people), and He would also burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.

4. In general, what types of sins does Malachi describe in Malachi 3:1-10?

Malachi reported sins against people and the sin of disobedience to God by robbing God through the withholding of tithes. Sins against people were spiritual, mental, and physical.

5. What might be the danger of believing in and acting on Malachi 3:10 while disregarding the teachings in Malachi 3:1-9?

Someone might think they can disregard God's laws, practice sin, and guarantee their prosperity by giving money to religious leaders.

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