

We will now begin the eleventh lecture on Minor Prophets. /Today we will begin with Malachi chapter 3. /The title of chapter 3 is "Tithes."

First, God would send a messenger and then send Christ. /Verses 1-6. /Second, return to the Lord. /Verse 7. /Third, give tithes. /Verses 8-12. /Fourth, do not stand against the Lord. /Verses 13-15. /Fifth, those who honor the Lord will be blessed. /Verses 16-18.

/Read verse 1. /"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

/God said that he would send the messenger of the Lord. /The messenger of God is John the Baptist. /God would send John the Baptist before he would send Christ.

/God would make the Israelites repent through John the Baptist. /God would prepare them to receive Jesus through John. /Then God would fulfill his covenant through Christ.

/This is quoted in Matthew 11:10. /John the Baptist was the end of the law and beginning of the gospel. /There were no prophecies for 400 years after the prophet Malachi.

/Then 400 years later, God gave a revelation through John the Baptist. /John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ. /Luke 1:76 /Matthew 11:4 /Matthew 17:11 /Mark 9:12, 13

/It says, "the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple." This meant that Christ would come. /It also says, "the messenger of the covenant...will come." /The messenger of the covenant is the Mediator.

/This meant that Jesus would complete the works of a priest. /John the Baptist prepared a way for Jesus. /He made the people repent. /He prepared the people to receive Jesus.

/Verse 2. /But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.

/Christ would come to judge. /Christ's judgment began at His first coming. /John 9:39 /No one can stand as sinners before Jesus. /Jesus does not approve of sins.

/Christ makes sins clean. /Sinners cannot stand before God. /However, our sins that are as red as blood will become clean when we believe in Jesus. /Anyone who repents and believes in Jesus can participate in salvation.

/However, those who do not believe in Jesus will receive judgment. /Jesus destroys all sins. /Jesus judges sinners. /Therefore, sinners must repent and believe in Jesus so that they can receive forgiveness of their sins.

/Verses 3-4. /He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings

in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

/Christ would remove all filthy things through the atonement of the cross. /The Lord makes all unfaithful things clean. /The “Levites” refer to the priests. /It also refers to all believers in the New Testament times.

/This means that the believers in the New Testament times would become clean. /We believers would give righteous offerings to God through Jesus. /It also says, “refine them like gold and silver.” /Believers would be refined through many hardships.

/Then believers would become clean. /We will become more and more godly. /We will become more and more clean. /Next it says, “Judah and Jerusalem.” /These refer to believers in the New Testament times.

/Therefore, the “offerings” are the offerings that believers give to God in this New Testament period. /The believers would become like Judah and Jerusalem. /Judah and Jerusalem symbolize believers. /Next it says the offerings would be like “days gone by, as in former years.”

/Believers in this New Testament period give offerings to God with faith. /They are like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who gave offerings to God in the past. /God is pleased with such offerings.

/Verse 5. /“So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.

/When people do not repent but continue to live in sin, they will receive God’s judgment. /Here, this is God’s word of encouragement to repent. /First, God judges the sorcerers. /They are fortune tellers.

/They are those who chase after false religions. /We must not serve idols or believe in superstitions. /Second, God judges adulterers. /Third, God judges those who swear falsely.

/Fourth, God judges those who defraud laborers of their wages. /James 5:4 /Leviticus 19:13 /Fifth, God judges those who oppress the widows and the fatherless. /Psalm 68:5

/Sixth, God judges those who deprive aliens of justice. /1 Timothy 3:2 /Titus 1:8 /Seventh, God judges those who do not fear him. /Deuteronomy 4:10 /Deuteronomy 10:12

/Verse 6. /“I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

/It says that the Lord does not change. /This means that the Lord will never change. /God will save his people just as he promised. /God will not allow his people to be destroyed. /God would send his messenger.

/God would send his angel. /Then God would prepare the people to receive Jesus. /However, anyone who does not repent will receive judgment before God.

/Verse 7. /Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

/The Israelites did not keep God’s commands and regulations. /The people only ritually kept the Sabbath and seasons. /They ritually gave offerings. /However, the people did not obey God’s word. /Isaiah 1:11-15

/The people answered, “How are we to return?” /They left God. /What must we do to return to God? /We must repent. /We must seek God. /Jeremiah 29:13 /We must obey the Bible, God’s word.

/Verses 8-9. /“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse — the whole nation of you — because you are robbing me.

/The Israelites robbed God. /This means that they did not give tithes to God. /Leviticus 27:30 /Numbers 18:20 /Deuteronomy 14:22 /Tithes belong to God. /Jesus also said that we must give tithes to God. /Matthew 23:23

/Abraham also gave tithes. /Genesis 14:17-20 /Tithes belong to God. /Everyone in the universe belongs to God. /Psalm 24:1 /However, we set apart a tenth of what we have and we offer it to God.

/Tithes are the way to receiving grace and blessings from God. /The “offerings” are the things that we give to God. /They are what we offer to God. /The offerings are like the first fruits.

/Verse 10. /Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

/We must give proper tithes to God. /We must give acceptable offerings to God. /We must give physical tithes to God. /We must also give our time to God.

/What blessings does it say that those who give tithes will receive? /First, God will pour out so much blessings that we will not be able to store it all. /God will give spiritual and

physical blessings. /Next in verse 11, God will prevent pests from devouring our crops.

/Third, God will not let the fruit of the vines fail to bear fruit. /Fourth, the land will become delightful and all the nations will call us blessed. /The nations will look up to us.

/God allows us to succeed, /God protects us, /and he will not allow us to fail. /God gave us this promise. /We will be blessed when we give tithes.

/There was a wealthy man named John D. Rockefeller in America. /When Rockefeller was young, his mother told him to give tithes to God. /Later, the number of those who calculated Rockefeller's tithes was forty. /He had that much fortune.

/Verses 13-14. /"You have said harsh things against me," says the LORD. "Yet you ask, 'What have we said against you?' "You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty?"

/The Israelites said, "We kept God's commands, but we did not gain anything." /The people said that it was of no use to fast or mourn before God.

/They did not receive blessings because they did not properly serve God. /When we properly serve God, God will bless us. /When we serve God, it will not be in futile.

/We will receive blessings when we serve God. /God is the source of all blessings. /We will receive blessings when we keep God close.

/Verse 15. /But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.' "

/The Israelites complained. /"The arrogant are blessed." /"The evildoers prosper." /"Those who challenge God escape." /The people showed disregard for the God of justice.

/They neglected God who is the God of judgment. /They complained. /They were wrong. /They spoke evil words. /God judges sinners and blesses the righteous. /God is the God of justice.

/However, the Israelites thought that the arrogant were blessed. /Anyone who sins will be destroyed. /People may temporarily live well even after they sin. /However, all who sin will eventually receive judgment.

/The righteous might not do well at first. /We do not receive blessings right away when we walk in faith. /However, when the time comes, God will surely bless those who live by faith.

/Verse 16. /Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD

listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.

/God blesses those who fear the Lord. /God gives rewards to those who honor his name. /He writes their names on a scroll of remembrance. /The “scroll of remembrance” is like the book of life. /Revelation 20:12

/Every act of faith is written on the scroll. /Then those who lived by faith will receive rewards according to what is recorded on the scroll. /Certainly, anyone who believes in Jesus will receive salvation. /When we obey God’s word as we believe in Jesus, we will receive rewards.

/We have been saved through faith in Jesus. /Exodus 32:32 /Daniel 7:10 /Psalm 56:8 /69:28 /Luke 10:20 /Revelation 20:12 /The names of all who believe in Jesus are written in the book of life.

/God also records and remembers all the things we did with faith in this world. /Then God gives us rewards. /God honors those who honor his name. /We will be blessed if we fear God.

/Verse 17. /“They will be mine,” says the LORD Almighty, “in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him.

/The day “I make up” is the day when God pours out his grace. /It also refers to the New Testament times. /2 Corinthians 6:2 /The believers in the New Testament period would fear the Lord. /Believers would become God’s sons, /and God would be their Father.

/We will be blessed when we fear and honor God. /This day can also indicate the day when Jesus would return. /God considers his people to be his “treasured possession.”

/God specially loves us believers. /Exodus 19:5 /Deuteronomy 7:6 /Deuteronomy 26:18 /Amos 9:9 /We can temporarily encounter hardships. /Yet, ultimately, we will receive salvation and blessings.

/Verse 18. /And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

/It says, “you will again see.” /This means that the Israelites would repent and return. /Jesus will come again. /When Jesus returns, the already saved believers will come with Jesus.

/Then when Jesus returns, all believers will receive salvation. /However, the wicked who do not serve God will receive judgment. /1 Thessalonians 4:14 /1 Corinthians 6:3 /2 Timothy 2:13 /The righteous will receive salvation and the wicked will receive judgment.

/We believers will judge the sinful world with Jesus. /Jesus is the Judge, /King of kings, and the Lord of lords. /We believers are all small kings. /How thankful are we for this?

/We will continue with Malachi chapter 4. /The title of chapter 4 is "Restoration." /First, the Lord judges the arrogant. /Verse 1. /Second, those who fear the Lord will receive blessings. /Verses 2-3. /Third, repentance. /Verses 4-6.

/Read verse 1. /"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them.

/It says, "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace." /This is God's day of judgment. /God will judge the arrogant at that time. /God judges the wicked. /Proverbs 28:1 /Therefore, we must throw away arrogance.

/We must deny ourselves. /Daniel 4:30 /1 Peter 5:5 /The greatest form of arrogance is when one does not believe in Jesus. /We must obey God's word. /We must be gentle and humble.

/Verse 2. /But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall.

/Those "who revere my name" are the believers. /They fear God. /It says that the sun of righteousness would rise. /The "sun of righteousness" refers to Jesus Christ. /Luke 1:78, 79 /John 1:4 /Psalm 84:11

/Jesus heals us. /The Lord heals us of the illnesses of our hearts. /The Lord heals our spiritual illnesses that are the results of our sins. /The Lord heals our physical illnesses as well.

/“Healing” symbolizes salvation. /Ezekiel 47:12 /Jesus washes away our sins. /The Lord heals us of our physical and spiritual illnesses. /Jesus will rise with healing.

/Jesus heals us. /The Lord saves us. /Jesus healed many sicknesses while He was here on earth. /The Lord healed many physical sicknesses.

/The Lord did not only heal physical sicknesses, but also sicknesses of the hearts of believers as a result of their sins. /When believers are healed through Jesus, they will leap like calves released from the stall.

/We will leap with joy when we receive salvation. /Isaiah 49:9 /The joy of salvation will overflow within us. /When a calf is released from its stall, it will happily run around.

/We believers were tied up in sins. /We will once slaves to sin. /However, we now received spiritual freedom and liberation. /Therefore, we now live happily and with joy. /Our lives became delightful. /This symbolizes the height of believers' happiness. /Psalm

107:42

/Verse 3. /Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the LORD Almighty.

/God judges the wicked. /The "day when I do these things" is God's day of judgment. /The wicked may temporarily seem to do well. /However, in the Last Days, God will crush the wicked. /Then the believers will have the final victory.

/This means that there will be a day when the wicked will surrender before believers. /God will have the final victory in the end. /God's kingdom will have the final victory. /The believers will have the final victory.

/Verse 4. /"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

/The Israelites received God's decrees and laws through Moses at Mount Horeb. /However, the Israelites forgot about the Law of Moses. /They did not remember the decrees.

/Now, they were to remember God's commands again. /We must remember God's decrees and laws. /When God's people remember God's decrees and laws, they will meet Jesus. /We will recognize our sins through the laws. /Galatians 3:24

/The laws lead us to Christ. /The laws prepare us to receive Christ. /Therefore, we must follow the truth.

/Verse 5. /"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.

/Here, the "great and dreadful day of the LORD" was the day when Jesus would come. /It was Jesus Christ's first coming. /The "prophet Elijah" refers to John the Baptist. /This meant that John the Baptist would come first and begin the repentance movement.

/John the Baptist would prepare people to receive Christ. /John the Baptist would prepare the people's hearts to receive the Lord. /Then Jesus Christ would come. /Matthew 17:12, 13

/John the Baptist would do the same things that the prophet Elijah did in the Old Testament times. /They had the same calling and ministry. /They both led people to repent through their ministry. /When the people of Elijah's generation served idols, Elijah led the people to repent and return to God.

/Elijah led the Israelites to repent. /1 Kings 18. /In the same way, John the Baptist would lead the Israelites to repent. /Matthew 17:12. /Luke 1:17 /The people in Jesus' time were filled with sin.

/They left God and became corrupted. /Then John the Baptist came and led the people to repent. /John the Baptist led people to repent and return to God. /John the Baptist did the same works as Elijah.

/Verse 6. /He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

/He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children. /Luke 3:4-6 /At that time, the people were morally corrupted. /There were no morals between parents and children. /Their hearts were turned away from each other.

/Thus, John the Baptist would come and bring the people to repent. /He would turn the hearts of the fathers to their children. /He would turn the hearts of the children to their fathers. /Hence, they would become one in heart.

/They would become one in heart and will. /This is ultimately the repentance movement. /This was preparation for the people to receive Jesus. /Parents and children would become one in heart.

/Then people would receive Jesus. /Here it says, "or else I will come and strike the land with a curse." /This meant that the people would be cursed if they did not repent or receive Jesus.

/If they did not receive Jesus, even the land would be struck with a curse. /Therefore, we must receive Jesus.

/Whoever does not receive Jesus will remain in sin and they will fail. /Therefore, we must receive Jesus. /We must obey God's word. /We are saved through faith in Jesus. /We also receive blessings and rewards through obedience in God's word.

/Here we will conclude the eleventh lecture on the Minor Prophets. /We will conclude the last lecture on the Minor Prophets. /Thank you.