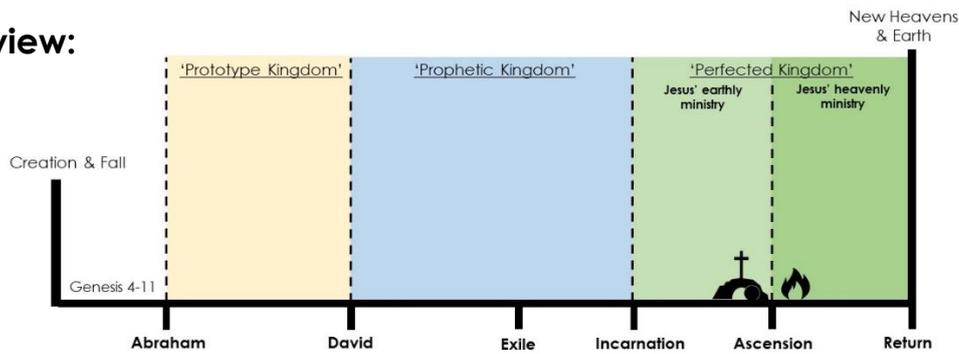


Introduction & OT Overview

Evening Bible Study Dates:

11 th October	Malachi 1:1	(Why we Need Prophecy)
18 th October	Malachi 1:2-5	(See the God of Love)
25 th October	Malachi 1:6-2:9	(See the God of Glory)
1 st November	Malachi 2:10-16	(See the God of Wisdom)
6 th December	Malachi 2:17-3:5	(See the God of Justice)
13 th December	Malachi 3:6-12	(See the God of Provision)
20 th December	Malachi 3:13-4:6	(See the God of Faithfulness)

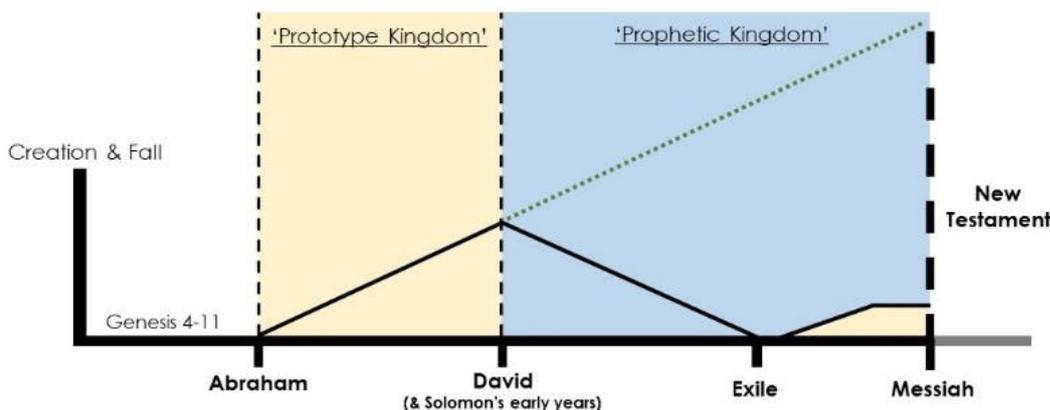
Bible Overview:



The story of the Bible takes us from creation to New Creation

Old Testament Overview:

- God's good creation (Genesis 1:31)
- Humanity's Rebellion (Genesis 3)
- Pattern of judgement & redemption (Sin – Seed/Cain – Seth/Flood – Ark/Babel...)
- Act of Redemption: Call of Abraham (God's plan to bless the world – Gen 12)



'Prototype Kingdom':

- Generally upward movement (Salvation)
- During this period we see God's covenant promises to Abraham coming true.
- The pinnacle of this period is during the early years of Solomon's reign (see table A)
- Ultimately this period is simply a 'shadow' of the good things to come under Jesus the Messiah (Heb 10:1)

'Prophetic Kingdom':

- Generally a downward movement (Judgement)
- During this period we see the 'undoing' of the covenant promises to Abraham
- The low point of this period is the Exile to Babylon (see table A)
- During this period the prophets call people to covenant faithfulness and use the 'shadows' of the 'prototype kingdom' to point towards the 'perfected kingdom' that will be ushered in by the Messiah.

Table A

	Abraham	David/Solomon	Exile
People	<i>I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. (Genesis 17:6)</i>	<i>The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore; they ate, they drank and they were happy. (1 Kings 4:20)</i>	<i>How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! (Lamentation 1:1a)</i>
Place	<i>The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.' (Genesis 17:8)</i>	<i>And Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River Euphrates to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. (1 Kings 4:21a)</i>	<i>So Judah went into captivity, away from her land. (Jeremiah 52:27b)</i>
Presence	<i>I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. (Genesis 17:7)</i>	<i>...the glory of the Lord filled his temple. (1 Kings 8:11b)</i>	<i>Then the glory of the Lord departed from over the threshold of the temple and stopped above the cherubim. (Ezekiel 10:18)</i>

Note how God's covenant promises to Abraham find their ultimate fulfilment in the New Creation

People:

*They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.
(Revelation 21:3b)*

Place:

Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. (Revelation 21:1)

Presence:

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. (Revelation 21:3a)

Malachi

Place in History:

Post Exile & rebuilding of temple.

- Temple is standing (1:10)
- Ruling by governors rather than kings (1:8)

The Problem:



The Remedy:

A Divine perspective on life

'A prophecy: The word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi' (Mal 1:1)

Overview of Malachi:

Introduction (1:1)	THE WEIGHTY WORD OF THE LORD TO GOD'S PEOPLE
First Dispute (1:2-5)	ISRAEL DOUBTS GOD'S LOVE
Second Dispute (1:6-2:9)	ISRAEL DOUBTS GOD'S WORTHINESS
Third Dispute (2:10-16)	ISRAEL DOUBTS GOD'S WISDOM
Fourth Dispute (2:17-3:5)	ISRAEL DOUBTS GOD'S JUSTICE
Fifth Dispute (3:6-12)	ISRAEL DOUBTS GOD'S PROVISION
Sixth Dispute (3:13-4:3)	ISRAEL DOUBTS GOD'S FAITHFULNESS
Epilogue (4:4-6)	GOD'S PEOPLE CALLED TO FAITHFULNESS