
Peter Adam’s commentary on the prophecy of Malachi is a recent addition to *The Bible Speaks Today* series. The threefold purpose of the series is to expound the biblical text with accuracy, relate it to contemporary life, and be readable. The author succeeds at all points.

Adam's volume is a refreshing study of this neglected Old Testament prophecy. The author's high view of biblical inspiration is evident throughout. He views the Bible as the very "voice" of God: "Our focus on the Bible is not because of secret bibliolatry, nor because mere Bible knowledge is the heart of Christianity. It is because I want God's voice to be heard, and because I want Christ to be known and trusted" (27). Adam fills his commentary with Scripture quotations.

The book is written in a readable, engaging style but clearly reflects a foundation of solid scholarship. The author is keenly aware of the key theological debates surrounding the Book of Malachi. He deals with these in a kind but uncompromising fashion. A good example is his discussion of Malachi 1:11, “For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations, and in every place incense is offered to my name, and a pure offering; for my name is great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.” Adam outlines five common interpretations of the passage, including the untenable notion of some that sincere pagan worship is in reality the worship of the true God. He discards this latter view based on the Old Testament's clear teaching that pagan worship is not acceptable to the God of Israel (66). He regards the passage as a future reference to the worship of Christ by the earth’s nations, a view that seems to be correct. Adam also is not afraid to take on the controversial annihilationist view of hell. He is not harsh but rejects it.

His introduction is brief, sound, and adequate for his purpose. After introducing the author and his historical setting, the author moves quickly to demonstrate to the reader that Malachi is a book for today, not just an antiquated relic from the religious past. Then Adam clarifies the features of his exposition:
1. The Old Testament as a prophecy of Christ
2. The Old Testament as training in godliness and ministry
3. Malachi addressed the people of God.

In an age of doubt and skepticism, Adam’s emphasis on Christ and reminder throughout the book that the Old Testament and specifically the Book of Malachi point to the Savior is especially heartening. Adam speaks of Christ’s fulfilling the work of the Old Testament priests at the cross (64), the danger of despising Christ’s atoning work (69), the importance of actively sharing the gospel of Christ (91), and the substitutionary atonement of Christ’s for our sins (123).

I also applaud the author for reminding the reader of the relevance of the Old Testament for the Christian. Throughout his commentary, Adam demonstrates this fact by pointing out how Malachi's message relates to the life of the modern believer and to the church corporately. For example, in his discussion of the corrupt priests, Adam observes: "And, as in Malachi's day, good leaders bring great blessing and bad leaders cause chaos" (79). The
author also shows that issues such as marriage to unbelievers and divorce (Malachi 2:11-16) are not foreign to today's world. Adam's discussion of divorce is frank but sensitive: "Because God loves marriage: I hate divorce" (16). The text does not say that God hates divorced people" (88).

Overall I found Peter Adam’s book to be a welcome addition to the literature on the prophecy of Malachi. His exposition is sound and reliable with up-to-date applications. He even includes some helpful pastoral observations on various issues that spring from a life of ministry. Adam’s commentary is not a technical detailed work. Other commentaries on Malachi fulfill this role (e.g., Pieter Verhoef, NICOT; Ray Clendenen, NAC). Yet for a good overview of the book’s message with a spiritual and practical emphasis, this reviewer thinks Peter Adam's volume will not disappoint.

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