

Listen carefully to the Bible reading
from Malachi 1 verse 1 to 5

Malachi is in the Old Testament, but where in the Old Testament is it found? Have a look in the contents page of your Bible (or remember the Old Testament song if you know it!).

This is a good place for the book of Malachi because he was one of the last prophets to speak God's words before Jesus came.

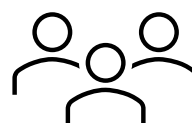
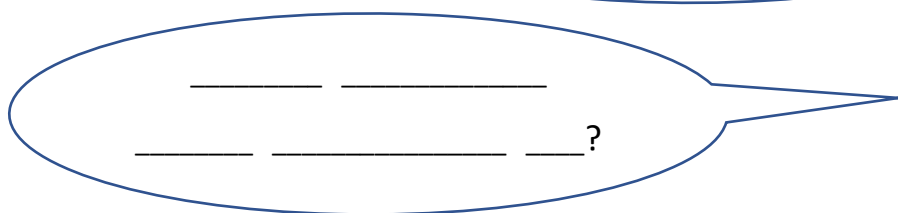
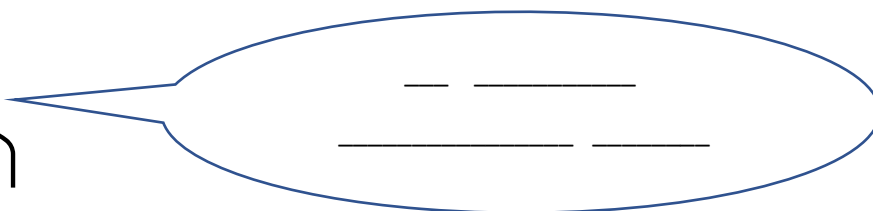
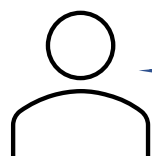
Read verse 1. This tells us that the words in this book were spoken by Malachi.

But who gave him the words to speak? _____

And who did he speak these words to? _____

Read verse 2. Complete the speech bubbles to show the first two things that are said.

The LORD



Israel

Wow! Can you believe it?

The people of Israel did not believe God loved them!

God spoke these words to Israel to remind them how he has loved them, and to call back those who were turning away.

This is what Malachi is all about:

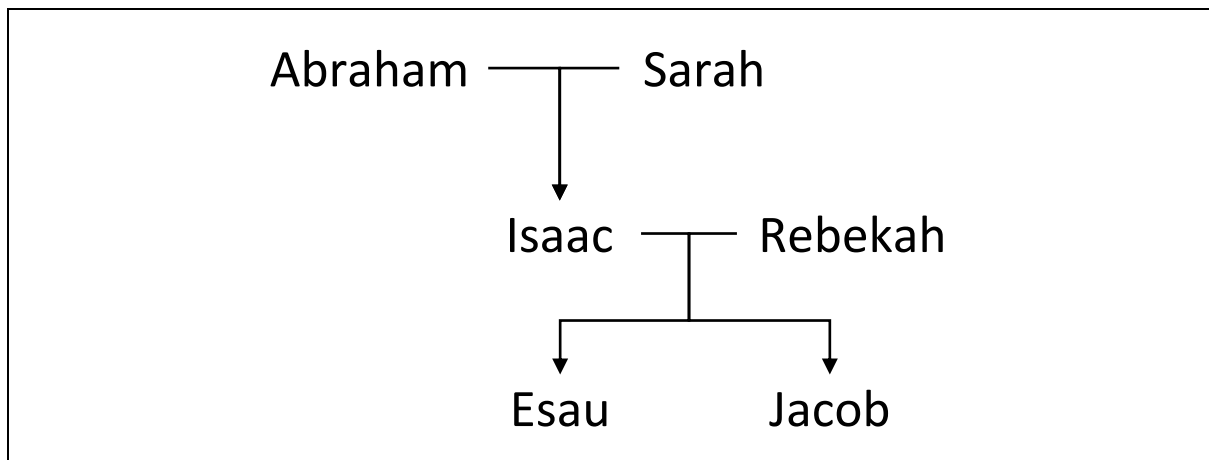
God calling people to...

Return to the Lord who loves his people

Have you seen a family tree before?

In a family tree the arrows start at the parents and point towards their children.

The people of Israel came from Jacob. Here is his family tree:



Who was Abraham's son?

(Clue: follow the arrow from Abraham) _____

Who were the sons
of Isaac and Rebekah? _____

Now read verses 2 and 3.

In the family tree above, circle the one God says he loved.

Now have a think. First let's think of ourselves and our friends. Why did you choose to be friends with them? Circle the answers below if they are true.

they have the
best toys

they are kind to
you

everyone likes
them

they help you

they don't have
any friends

they wanted to be
your friend

Now let's think about God.

Why did God choose Jacob and not Esau? Read the clues below to help you circle Yes or No.

1. Because Jacob was the best one? Yes / No
(Clue: Jacob was actually quite naughty!)

2. Because Jacob wanted to be God's friend? Yes / No
(Clue: God actually chose Jacob before he was even born!)

3. Because Jacob helped God to do things? Yes / No
(Clue: God doesn't need help from anyone!)

So why did God choose Jacob?

The answer is actually very simple:

Because

God is God, and he gets to choose!

But God says some strong words about the nation of Edom who came from Esau. Did you spot what he said about Esau in verse 3?

Remember, God is good and right in everything he does.

The people of Edom made themselves enemies of God and enemies of God's people.

They wanted to show Israel that Edom did not need God and would be great without him.

Read verse 4. What does God say to show he will stop his enemy Edom?

"They may _____, but I will _____ ."
(ldbiu) (aert) (odwn)

God will stop his enemies. But God's love for his people is wonderful and lasts forever!

Use the words in the box to complete the sentences.

us	chose	Jacob	die	love
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Just like _____, God _____ his people even

before they were born. If we are followers of Jesus, that

includes _____ too! God showed his _____ for us in

a very special way when he sent his son Jesus to _____

for us on the cross.