

AWAITING THE TRUE KING

CENTRAL TRUTH

The Israelites were on pins and needles, eagerly waiting for the Messiah. This figure would be the Anointed One of God, the Savior and Deliverer of humanity, ushering in God's kingdom on earth. As we study key passages in Zechariah and Malachi, we will see that **God promised a future King and Messenger**—roles ultimately fulfilled by Jesus.

KEY QUESTION


 **What is the significance of the two messengers whom Malachi prophesies about?**

Malachi promises that a messenger will arrive to prepare the way for another Messenger. The New Testament sees the role of this first messenger being fulfilled through John the Baptist. The second Messenger is presented as being both divine and human. Simply put, Malachi prophesies about the arrival of Jesus—God in the flesh.

KEEP IN MIND

- Reading passages about the Lord's anger may make students uncomfortable—but we shouldn't avoid reading these passages! Students need to see that while the Lord is gracious, He is also a just God who is not blind to human evil. To reject God and His ways is to reject the One who holds true life and abundant joy.
- The students in your small group are most likely unfamiliar with the Minor Prophets. Use this session's **Theology Note** to help students understand why Zechariah and Malachi—along with another ten prophetic books in the Old Testament—are referred to as the "Minor Prophets."

APPLICATION








 **Why is it valuable for us to know that the Old Testament points to Jesus?**

THE WIN

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should understand that the Old Testament points to Jesus, the promised King and Messenger who came to save us.

FOR THE LEADER: While prophetic books can certainly be challenging to read, help students to focus on the Lord's character while studying these passages—ultimately seeing that Jesus is the greatest display of God's faithfulness.

7 ARROWS

-  What does this passage say?
-  What does this passage tell us about God?
-  What did this passage mean to its original audience?
-  How does this passage change the way I relate to people?
-  What does this passage tell us about the human heart?
-  How does this passage prompt me to pray?
-  What does this passage demand of me?