

**Study Aids**  
Discussion Questions  
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 85

Questions:

What is the great major theme that Malachi repeats here? Is it not that Israel is to trust God completely, and to respond in loving obedience? It is a lesson they had never been able to fully master. But do we do any better?

Do you see trust and obedience in the Old Testament as parallel with the New Testament terms of faith and sanctification?

In what were the Children of Israel to trust? In the promises of God. How were such promises validated and shown to be worthy of their trust? As Joshua said to the people in chapter 23: verses 14 and 15: “all the promises of God concerning you have been fulfilled, not one has failed.” So God showed His promises to be true in the Old Testament by His actions, the actions of the Exodus, the miracles in the desert, the conquest of Canaan, the power and glory days of the kingdom of David, and even the punishment of Babylon.

In what do we trust in the New Testament? Is it not also in His promise? We trust in the promise of God that was made manifest in the person of His Son. It is the promise of reconciliation and restoration, of being welcomed back into His family, and life eternal with our Heavenly Father. Just as God has validated His promise in the O.T. by His actions, He has validated His promise to us in the N.T. by His action of raising Jesus from the dead.

Can you trust that promise and respond in love with a sanctified life of obedience?