



THE BOOK OF MALACHI



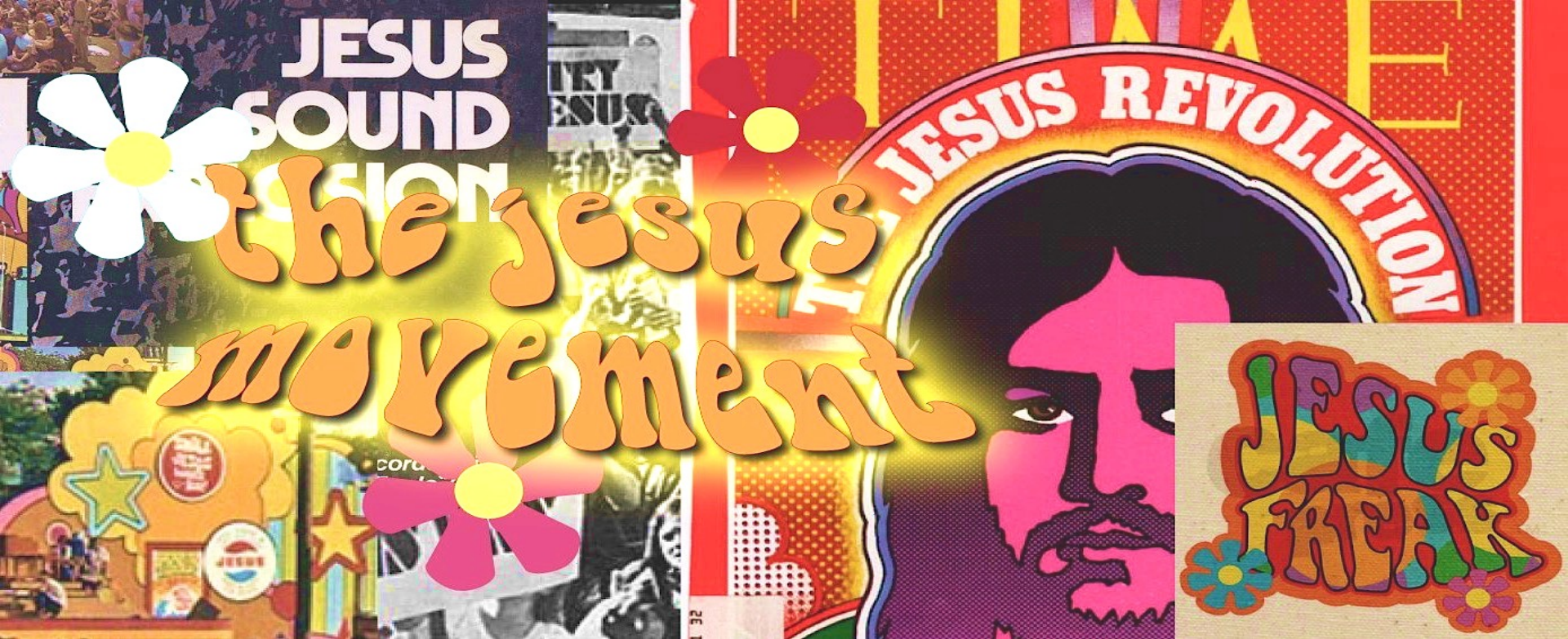
- Important theme of Malachai is the failure of religious leadership to know truth and teach it
- Malachai's message applies to both Judaism and Christianity
- Soren Kierkegaard Professor of Christian ethics and Christian love. Critical of Church doctrines

TROUBLER OF THE CHURCH

**SOREN
KIERKEGAARD**



- Existentialism = family of philosophies that explores the human struggle to lead an authentic life, and to find a source of purpose, meaning and value
- *“The Christianity of Christendom...transforms Christianity into something entirely different from what it is in the New Testament... the opposite”*



- Christendom is the term he uses to call the combined Church institutions of the world
- Constantinian Church = Christendom
- Looked at from a panoramic view, the "Christianity" of the Church is the opposite of the faith that Christ taught and lived
- Reform called The Jesus Movement 1960's and 70's

Seet hie Scripfa

MALACHAI

A name or
a title?



- 2000's a new movement: Hebrew Roots/Messianic
- Malachai = my messenger or my angel
- ***Malachai*** an apocopated form of ***Malachiyah***
- Some believed he was Ezra the scribe
- Later Jewish tradition accepted Malachai as a proper name, and not the title of an anonymous author

MINOR PROPHET



- Malachai uses mostly prose, little symbolism
- Several existing old translations of Malachai to compare : Hebrew, Greek, Syriac, Aramaic & Latin
- Final book of the 12 Minor Prophets
- Talmud says Malachai returned from Babylon with Zerubbabel
- Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachai a kind of collaborative trilogy



Nehemiah, Ezra, Malachi



- Best chance at dating Malachai is probably in relation to the destruction of Edom
- Malachai seems to have similar agenda as Nehemiah
- Problems of general wrongs, intermarriage, Priesthood corruption, not paying tithes, not observing Sabbath
- Judah (Yehud) very connected with the rest of their region; didn't live in a Jewish bubble

- Yehud a Persian backwater
- Persia paid little attention to Yehud
- Xerxes or Artaxerxes was probably king when Malachai wrote
- Power struggle with Greeks and Egypt
- Poor living conditions in Yehud
- Had Haggai's prophecies failed?





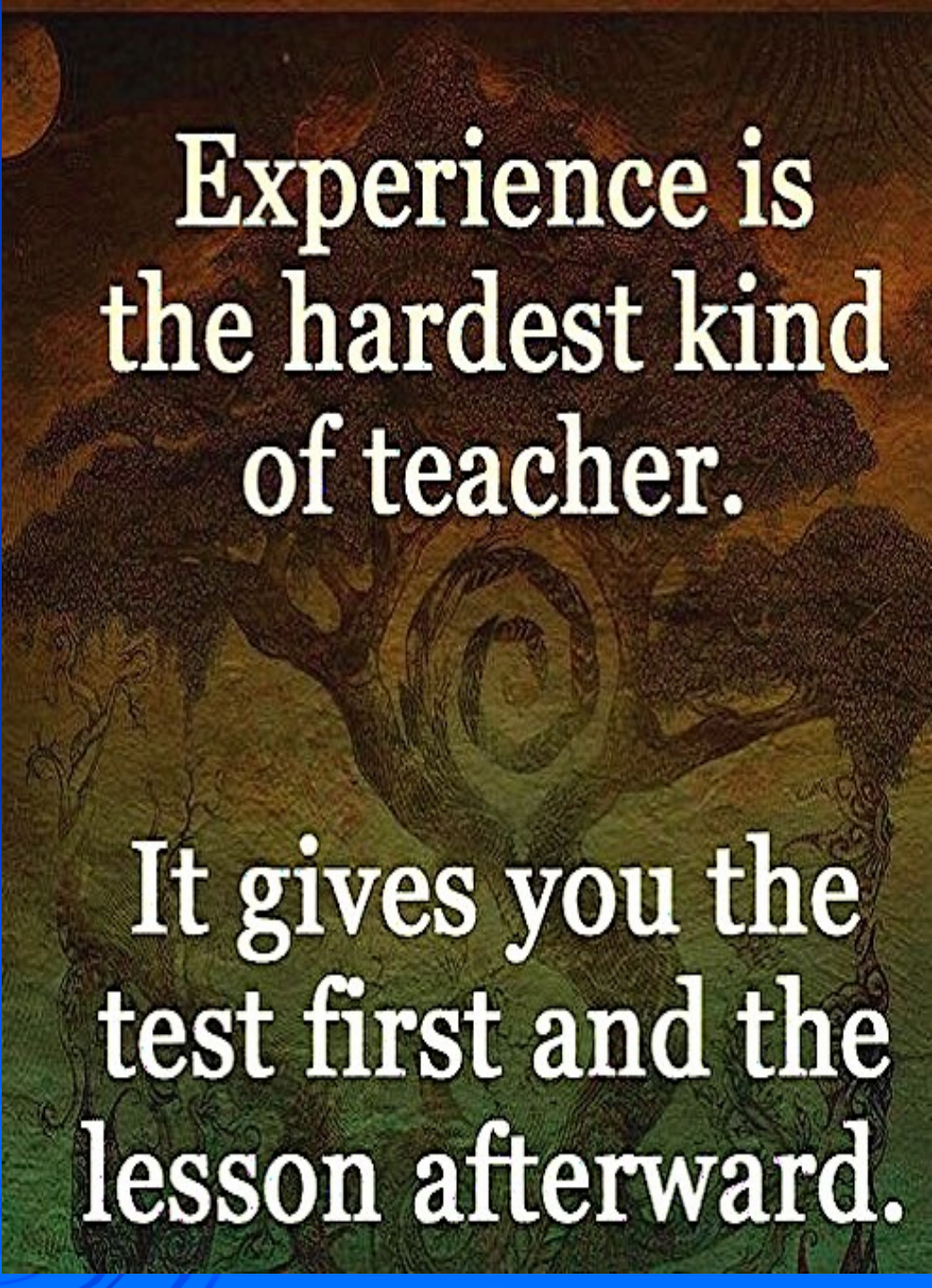
- During Haggai's time, Judah returned from Babylon
- Returnees experienced a long period of economic hardship, but Haggai said it would get better
- By Malachai's time, it was worse
- Who is more at fault? The Prophets? The governor? The Priesthood? God?
- Malachai directed blame to the Priesthood and the Jewish people in general

REMEMBER THE TORAH



- No mention by name of Malachai in the NT
- Several paraphrases and allusions
- In Synagogue, Malachai is sometimes used in services
- In the Torah Portion nearest to Passover: Malachai 3:22 is read
- This was aimed squarely at the Priesthood
- It applies the same today with the leadership failures of Christendom

- We have the blessing of hindsight to see the prophecies having been fulfilled (something most Jews didn't)
- Malachai was probably a priest before he became a Prophet
- Malachai speaks from a "Covenant" perspective
- His moral stance is objective, based on the Law of Moses
- Despite the rebuke, God says "I love you!!"



Experience is
the hardest kind
of teacher.

It gives you the
test first and the
lesson afterward.