

Inner-Biblical Allusion of the Day of the Lord in Malachi 1:2-5 and its Thematic Function

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Abstract

Scholars generally focus on discussing the concept of the Day of the LORD (DOL) in Malachi 3:1-5 and 4:1-6 but hardly touch on the DOL allusion in Mal. 1:2-5. The purpose of the study was to establish the DOL allusion in Mal. 1:2-5 and to determine the thematic function of the concept of the “the Day of the LORD” in Malachi. This study, employing the Inner-biblical Allusion and Exegesis method, established that Mal. 1:2-5 alluded to the DOL thematically and linguistically as indicated by the following Hebrew terms: (1) שְׁמֵימָה, (2) יָהּ, (3) רֶשֶׁשׁ, (4) אֲדוֹם, (5) תְּרִבָּה, (6) צְבָאוֹת, (7) הָרִים, and (8) יְגֵדֵל. Historically, structurally, and linguistically, Edom had experienced desolation already upon the writing of Malachi. Some of the thematic functions of the historical DOL in this passage are (1) it serves as a thematic inclusion in the book of Malachi. The first one in Malachi 1:2-5 is a historical DOL and the latter in Mal. 4:1-6 seems to be eschatological. It shows that Malachi purposely structured his book to start with DOL and ends with DOL, (2) it shows that the “Jacob and Esau/Edom” theme does not stop in Mal. 1:2-5 but extends in Malachi 4:1-6, (3) it serves as a reminder of God’s love for Judah and a warning at the same time. It will be a fruitful study, which this paper recommends, if Mal. 3:1-5 and Mal. 4:1-6 will be studied deeper in connection with Mal. 1:2-5 in the context of DOL.

Keywords: *day of the LORD, eschatology, allusion, Malachi, inner-biblical*