

## Malachi 3:1

We now approach the symbolical interpretation of the portion of Malachi 3:1 which reads “shall suddenly come to his temple.” This interpretation declares the term *temple* to be in reference to that fleshly body that Jesus occupied during His brief stay here on earth. The Scriptures say that God suddenly came into His temple. What is more sudden than conception? Conception is a momentary event, and not a progressive one taking a length of time. At one moment there is no life, and the next moment there is life. When the Holy Ghost overshadowed Mary, she conceived in an instantaneous manner, the same as a natural conception. Although the Babe Jesus was not yet born, the body was already the dwelling place of the “Fulness of the Godhead.” Thus, God had suddenly come into His temple.

Even the novice Bible student will be quick to admit that the term *temple* is used in the Bible as a synonym for body. Perhaps the best example of this symbolism is found in John 2:19-21, which reads, “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body.”

By accepting this interpretation to Malachi, one cannot help but accept the absolute deity of Jesus Christ. But, if you do not choose to accept the symbolic interpretation, and wish to stick to the literal interpretation, then you are still attesting to the absolute deity of Jesus. If the verse is referring to God, then one must admit that Jesus Christ is God, for the action that is prophetically attributed to God is performed by Jesus. If we insist the verse is referring to Jesus, we still must admit that Jesus Christ is God, for Jesus entered a temple referred to as His own, yet built by the Jews unto God. Therefore, if we are to accept the authenticity and the canonicity of Malachi 3:1, we must also accept the Oneness of God.

(All the Fulness by David Campbell, Printed in the U.S.A., 2017 [2016], 48-49)