

and therefore this reference will be further discussed with the predictions of the ultimate salvation of Israel by the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in the end time.

Malachi 2:15

The Authorized Version translates: "And did not he make one" Yet had he the residue of the Spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed . . ." The Hebrew of this verse is as follows:

וְלֹא-אֶתְּוֹדַעְתָּ וְנִשְׁאַר רוּחַ לֹו וְיָמָה
 הֶאֱתַד מִבְּקֶשׁ זָרַע אֱלֹהִים

Following the Hebrew carefully, we translate: "And did he not make one? And a remnant of (the) Spirit was his. And why (the) one? Seeking to secure the seed of God."

In the context of verses 11-16, we discover that Judah is represented as one who once loved the Lord, but who now has married the daughter of a strange god. This could mean either that the people of Judah as a whole are committing spiritual adultery through idolatry, or that the men of Judah (in general) are forsaking their wives and marrying women who worship false gods (and, by their new wives' influence, profaning the true worship of Jehovah). But whether verse 15 is speaking of Judah having been made one with the Lord, or of the men of Judah having been made one with their wives, the purpose seems clear. God sought to secure a seed from among them.

This text, then, seems to afford some basis for the idea that the activity of looking toward the production of a godly seed was operative in Malachi's day. If his book was written in the fifth century B.C., then perhaps the existence of regeneration, if not the doctrine of regeneration, was a reality in the Old Testament period.