

CHARACTER BUILDER

MESSAGE NOTES

Malachi – God is Unchanging

Sunday, July 26, 2026 | Tommy Duke

First Baptist Church of Garden City

FACTS ABOUT MALACHI:

- The name Malachi means “_____.”
- Likely ministered around _____, after the exile, the rebuilding of the Temple, and during the Persian period.
- Malachi is the _____ of the Old Testament – God’s last prophetic message before 400 years of prophetic silence until John the Baptist.
- Original audience was the returned Jewish exiles who had become _____ in spite of God’s _____.
- Points out multiple _____, including corrupt priests, polluted worship, marital unfaithfulness, divorce, withholding tithes, skepticism toward God’s justice, and spiritual apathy.
- The primary purpose of Malachi is to call God’s people back to genuine worship, faithfulness, and reverence for Him.
- Malachi contains one of the God’s clearest declarations of His own _____, or His unchanging nature (Malachi 3:6).

GOD’S IMMUTABILITY:

GOD IS _____ AND THUS _____. THIS DOES NOT MEAN
THAT HE IS IMMOBILE OR INACTIVE, BUT IT DOES MEAN THAT HE IS
NEVER _____ OR GROWING OR DEVELOPING.

IN STUDYING HOW GOD SPOKE THROUGH MALACHI, I LEARN THAT...

1) _____ NEVER CHANGES.

“I have always loved you,” says the Lord. But you retort, ‘Really? How have you loved us?’ And the Lord replies, ‘This is how I showed my love for you: I loved your ancestor Jacob, but I rejected his brother, Esau, and devastated his hill country. I turned Esau’s inheritance into a desert for jackals ... When you see the destruction for yourselves, you will say, “Truly, the Lord’s greatness reaches far beyond Israel’s borders!”’”

– Malachi 1:2-3, 5

“Long ago the Lord said to Israel: ‘I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.’” – Jeremiah 31:3

*“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”
– Romans 5:8*

2) _____ NEVER CHANGE.

“Are we not all children of the same Father? Are we not all created by the same God? Then why do we betray each other, violating the covenant of our ancestors? Judah has been unfaithful, and a detestable thing has been done in Israel and in Jerusalem. The men of Judah have defiled the Lord’s beloved sanctuary by marrying women who worship idols... You cry out, ‘Why doesn’t the Lord accept my worship?’ I’ll tell you why! Because the Lord witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows. Didn’t the Lord make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. ‘For I hate divorce!’ says the Lord, the God of Israel. ‘To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,’ says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. ‘So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife.’ You have wearied the Lord with your words. ‘How have we wearied him?’ you ask. You have wearied him by saying that all who do evil are good in the Lord’s sight, and he is pleased with them. You have wearied him by asking, ‘Where is the God of justice?’ – Malachi 2:10-11, 14-17

*“Give the following instructions to the entire community of Israel.
You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.” – Leviticus 19:2*

*“But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.
For the Scriptures say, ‘You must be holy because I am holy.’” – 1 Peter 1:15-16*

(Jesus) “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose ... But I warn you – unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!” – Matthew 5:17, 20

3) _____ NEVER CHANGES.

“I am the Lord, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed. Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my decrees and failed to obey them. Now return to me, and I will return to you,’ says the Lord...” – Malachi 3:6-7

“The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.” – Lamentations 3:22-23

“The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. ... He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him. For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.” – Psalm 103:8-10, 12-14

4) _____ NEVER CHANGE.

*“‘They will be my people,’ says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. ‘On the day when I act in judgment, they will be my own special treasure. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child. Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.’”
– Malachi 3:17-18*

“Remember to obey the Law of Moses, my servant – all the decrees and regulations that I gave him on Mount Sinai for all Israel. Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives. His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse.” – Malachi 4:4-6

“God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?” – Numbers 23:19

Memory Verse:

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” – Hebrews 13:8

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO:

- ☐ Memorize Hebrews 13:8.
- ☐ Make a change today to align an area of my life with God’s standards.
- ☐ Trust in God’s unchanging promises (*please email me the daily promise reminder resource*).
- ☐ Learn more about letting God use me for His extraordinary plans, specifically in the following ministry areas:
 - ___ 1st Impressions ___ Audio/Video Team ___ Property/Space
 - ___ Kitchen Committee ___ GC Students ___ GC Kids

* Join us next Sunday, August 2, at 11:00am, as we begin our brand-new August teaching series on Philippians called *“Embracing Joy.”* We’ll also celebrate the Lord’s Supper together. Don’t miss this powerful service – in fact, pray about who you can invite to come with you!



Bible verses are from the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise noted.

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