

Malachi 1

Jesus

- 4 Ch's Written by the LORD's Prophet Malachi. Lit. God's Messenger
- Last of the OT Books. Last of the OT Prophets save J the B

I. I Have Loved You

1 The burden of the **word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.**

- **Chronology:** Written 440-400 BC
 1. 100 yrs after returning to Jerusalem from Babylon
 2. Just after the days of Haggai/Zachariah
 3. During the end of the Book of Nehemiah

2nd Temple now completed

God made promises to the people during construction through Zech/Haggai...

Zechariah 8:12 'For the seed shall be **prosperous**, The vine shall give its fruit, The ground shall give her increase, And the heavens shall give their dew— I will cause the remnant of this people To possess all these.

- **Haggai**
 1. I am with you/My Spirit remains among you
 2. Latter glory of this Temple will be greater than former
 3. General blessings of Peace/Prosperity

Temple is complete. Worship has begun. Promises not yet fulfilled. Why?

- Continuing the same sins as those in Nehemiah
 1. Defiled Priesthood
 2. Defiled Marriages
 3. Defiled Sacrifices

People blame God: You don't love us!

2 **"I have loved you,"** says the LORD.

I have loved you

2b ..."Yet you say, '**In what way have You loved us?**'"

- **First of 7 Revealing Questions:** Words revealing hearts...
 1. **1:2** In what way have You loved us?
 2. **1:6** In what way have we despised Your Name?
 3. **1:7** In what way have we defiled You?
 4. **2:17** In what way have we wearied You?
 5. **3:7** In what way shall we return to You?
 6. **3:8** In what way have we robbed You?

7. **3:13** In what way have we slandered You?

If God loves me...Why is this happening to me?
The LORD answers...I chose you

2c ...Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet **Jacob I have loved**; 3 But **Esau I have hated** And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness." **4 Even though Edom has said,** "We have been impoverished, But we will return and build the desolate places," Thus says the LORD of hosts: "They may build, but **I will throw down**; They shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, And the people against whom the LORD will have **indignation forever**. 5 Your eyes shall see, And you shall say, '**The LORD is magnified beyond the border of Israel.**'"

Jacob [later Israel] and Esau were twins
God chose Jacob over Esau before they were born

Romans 9:11 (...the children **not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil**, that the **purpose of God according to election** might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), 12 it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." 13 As it is written, "**Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.**"

God chose Jacob based on His foreknowledge of Esau rejecting God
Esau chose to sell his Birthright/Despise God's future Blessing

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the Pilgrims of the Dispersion **...2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**, in sanctification of **the Spirit**, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood **of Jesus Christ**: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

Romans 8:29 For **whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Finish the good work in us

God acted accordingly...
Blessed Jacob's descendants/Cursed Esau's descendants

Jacob I loved...Esau I hated
IOWs Esau/Edom I gave over to destruction Jacob/Israel I sustained/protected

Deuteronomy 4:37 ...because **He loved your fathers**, therefore He **chose their descendants after them**; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power...

Deuteronomy 7:8 ...but **because the LORD loves you**, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, **the LORD has brought you out** with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 23:5b ...God turned the [Balaam's] curse into a blessing for you, **because the LORD your God loves you.**

The point? Not the rejection of Esau...but God's love for Israel
He Loved/Accepted Jacob/descendants in accordance w/His purpose/foreknowledge

Jacob: Picture of the indwelling Spirit I loved

Esau: Picture of the flesh to be utterly destroyed [Esau's grandson was Amalek]

Judah had been warned during construction of the second Temple not to despise what the people may have considered insignificant works of the LORD in their lives. They were reminded to count their blessings/keep their heads but something happened between the time of Haggai/Zechariah to get to Malachi. The renewed excitement of building the temple did not last into an enthusiasm for serving God when the Temple was completed as demonstrated by the people's irreverent questions. [NJC]

Q. 1 How have you loved us?

A. 1 I chose you. Supernaturally sustained/protected you...

II. Garbage

6 "A son honors his father, And a servant his master. **If then I am the Father, Where is My honor?**

Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Colossians 3:20 Children obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

End Times Sign/Judgment is on the Way?
Disobedience to Parents

2 Timothy 3:2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents**, unthankful, unholy,

Proverbs 30:11 There is a generation that **curses its father**, And does not bless its mother ...**17** The eye that mocks his father, And scorns obedience to his mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.

Since we are to honor our imperfect earthly fathers...
How much more should we honor our perfect Heavenly Father?

6b ...And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence?

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' 24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

Where is My honor as Father? Where is My fear as Master?
What are your Spiritual Leaders teaching you?

6c ...[Now] To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?'

Q.2 In what way have we despised Your Name

A.2 You despise My Name by your entitled/prideful/disrespectful *attitude of Service...*

Yet you dare ask: *If you love me why are you so distant?*

Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. [It's not Me] **2** But **your iniquities have separated you from your God**; And **your sins have hidden His face from you**, So that He will not hear. **3** For **your hands are defiled with blood**, And **your fingers with iniquity**; **Your lips** have spoken lies, **Your tongue** has muttered perversity.

7 "You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, **'The table of the LORD is contemptible.'** **8** And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, **Is it not evil?** And when you offer the lame and sick, **Is it not evil?**

Q.3 In what way have we defiled **You?** **A.3** By offering defiled sacrifices
BTW Sacrifices anticipating My Son crucified for your sin as the Perfect Lamb

Deuteronomy 15:21 But if there is a defect in it, if it is lame or blind or has any serious defect, you shall not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.

Religious Leaders: Oblivious to the pure evil of offering garbage to God
Religious Mechanical Indifference...Precursor to religious groups forming

The priests weren't even aware that they despised God with their actions. This meant that [disrespect] came by degrees; they probably did not know the extent of their offense and simply carried on as before. They slowly slid into despising God's Name. [Guzik]

Yet how beautiful/strengthening is taking personal accountability
Repentance leading to Restoration leading to Refreshing

You offer Me junk/wonder why you're not blessed?...

8b ...Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

After Nehemiah Judah was led by a civil Governor
Give him your offerings/See what happens!

9 "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. **10 "Who is there even among you who would shut the doors,** So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain?

Beg for My favor while offering Me junk? Bad attitudes/Rotten sacrifices?
I'd rather you just shut the doors of the church!

10b ...I have no pleasure in you," Says the LORD of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands.

We bring junk...Our lives go sideways...We get mad at God?

Genesis 4:6 So the Lord said to Cain, "**Why are you angry?** And why has your countenance fallen? **7 If you do well, will you not be accepted?** And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

God receives pleasure from our obedience
Obedience reflects our love for God/Obedience manifests the presence of God...

John 14:15 "**If you love Me, keep My commandments...** He who has My commandments and keeps them, **it is he who loves Me.** And **he who loves Me will be loved by My Father,** and **I will love him and manifest Myself to him.**"

God will not manifest Himself to the disobedient
In 500 years His patience with the Jewish people will run out...He will turn to the
Gentiles

11 For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, **My name shall be great among the Gentiles;** In **every place** incense shall be offered to My name, And a **pure offering;** For My name shall be great **among the nations,"** Says the LORD of hosts.

- **Malachi:** Last book before NT

Shock to Malachi's hearers: I'm going to the Gentiles
Beginning of the end for Jews in general till the Tribulation

Isaiah 60:3 The **Gentiles shall come to your light...**

1 Timothy 2:8 I desire therefore that the **men pray** everywhere, lifting up holy hands...

Gentiles will exalt Me with a pure offering
You profane My Temple?

12 "But **you profane it,** In that you say, 'The **table of the LORD is defiled;** And its fruit, its food, **is contemptible.'**

Their selfish, insincere worship was also unsatisfying to the worshippers. Because they did not meet God in their worship it was as hollow for them as it was for God. True worship is never contemptible or a weariness. [Guzik]

Numbers 21:5 ... "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and **our soul loathes this worthless bread."** **6** So the Lord

sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

U2 With or without you lyrics: You gave it all but I want more

All the things of God were a burden to them
They desired more for their own pleasure w/out the *burden* of pleasing God

13 You also say, '**Oh, what a weariness!**' And you **sneer at it,**" Says the LORD of hosts. "And you bring the **stolen**, the **lame**, and the **sick**; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD.

Isaiah 43:22 "But you have not called upon Me, O Jacob; And **you have been weary of Me**, O Israel.

Godless Religiosity is taking form

- **Malachi:** 440-400 BC
- **Pharisees/Sadducees:** 200-150 BC

14 "But cursed be the deceiver Who **has in his flock a male**, And takes a vow, But **sacrifices to the LORD what is blemished—**

Cursed be the hypocrites
Invoking My Holy Name while offering Me garbage
Says a lot about who you think I AM...Do you know who I AM?

14b ...For I am a great King," Says the LORD of hosts, "**And My name is to be feared among the nations."**

Psalm 47:2 For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.

Malachi 2

Jesus

I. Corrupt Priests

1 "And now, **O priests, this commandment is for you.** 2 If you will not hear, And if you will not take it to heart, To give glory to My name," Says the LORD of hosts, "**I will send a curse upon you**, And I will **curse your blessings**. Yes, I have cursed them already, Because you do not take it to heart.

Ultimatum specifically for the Religious Leaders of the people
Obey and Fear Me or continue to be cursed/humiliated by Me

3 "Behold, I will **rebuke your descendants** And **spread refuse on your faces**, The refuse of your solemn feasts; And one will take you away with it.

4 Then **you shall know** that I have sent this commandment to you, That My covenant with Levi may continue," Says the LORD of hosts.

To the Priests/Their descendants: Future Pharisees/Sadusees of Jesus day
I will smear feces on your faces...Then you will understand

Sacrificed animals still had excrement in their systems, and God said this should be burned outside the sanctuary [Ex 29:14]. Here, God said He would spread that refuse on their faces, so that **they would have to be taken outside the sanctuary.** [Guzik]

You've lost sight of your awesome Privilege/Responsibility

5 "My covenant [promise] was with him, **one of life and peace**, And I gave them to him that **he might fear Me; So he feared Me** And was **reverent before My name.** 6 The **law of truth was in his mouth**, And injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, And turned many away from iniquity.

Spiritual Leadership
Privilege/Responsibility that can be forfeited

7 "For the lips of a priest should **keep knowledge**, And people should **seek the law from his mouth**; For he is the **messenger of the LORD** of hosts.

Qualifications of True Spiritual Leaders of People
IOWs Leaders that please God vv 5-7

- **Fear of the LORD**
- **Reverence for His Name**
- **Truth from their Mouths**
- **Keepers of Knowledge:** Knowledgeable in God's Word
- **Seekers of His Word:** Diligent in God's Word
- **Aware of their place before God:** Bowing before the God of the Word

After return from exile/Temple built/Priests went sideways...
Ceased considering serving the LORD as a great Privilege/Responsibility

8 But **you have departed** from the way; You have **caused many to stumble** at the law. You have **corrupted** [ruined/spoiled] **the covenant** of Levi," Says the LORD of hosts.

The Priests have Departed from The Way
Stumbling themselves/Causing Others to Stumble

Jeremiah 18:15 [Strayed] ... **From the ancient paths, To walk in pathways and not on a highway...**

Disqualifications of True Spiritual Leaders of People
IOWs Leaders who grieve God

- **Departing:** From the old path: New not true/True not new
- **Stumbling:** Their by words/lives: Hypocrites
- **Corrupting:** God's Word. Heretics for profit

You've Corrupted the Covenant of Peace I made w/Levi/Priests

9 "Therefore I also have made you **contemptible** [despised] **and base** [humiliated] Before all the people, Because you have **not kept My ways** But have **shown partiality in the law.**"

Spiritual Hypocrites: Always held by God/others as Contemptable/Base
Publicly Sinning/Publicly Rebuked

1 Timothy 5:19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. **20** Those who are sinning rebuke **in the presence of all**, that the rest also may fear.

Not keeping the ways of God by showing partiality: Bribes/Presents rather than justice
Pharisees/Sadusees beginning to take shape

II. Treachery of Infidelity

10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously with one another By profaning the covenant of the fathers?

Malachi asks...
Why do we continue to kick against the goads?

11 Judah has **dealt treacherously**, And an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, For Judah **has profaned** The LORD's holy institution which He loves: He has **married the daughter of a foreign god**.
12 May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob The man who does this, being **awake and aware**, Yet who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

What is this Treacherous Abomination?
Profaning [defiling/polluting] God's Holy Institution of Marriage

Marrying those who God says not to
You are Awake/Aware of God's commandment/Breaking it/Playing church

Ezra 9:2 For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the **holy seed is mixed with the peoples of those lands**. Indeed, the hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass."

Nehemiah 13:23 In those days **I also saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab** ...**29** Remember them, O my God, because **they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.**

2 Corinthians 6:13b [Awake/aware] ...I speak as to children, you also be open. 14 **Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.** For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.

Profane: Marrying those who worship other gods/Same-sex couples/Fornication
Awake/Aware of God's command/Breaking it/Playing church

13 And this is the second thing you do: You **cover the altar of the LORD with tears**, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. 14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between **you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously**

They kept their wives till they had passed their youth...then put them away so that they might get young ones in their place. [Clarke]

14b ...Yet she is your **companion** And your **wife by covenant**. 15 But did He not **make them one**, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? **He seeks godly offspring**. Therefore **take heed to your spirit**, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

You cover the altar with tears because for unanswered prayers
Your prayers hit the ceiling due to how you treat your spouse...

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, **that your prayers may not be hindered.**

I see how you treat your wife/companion/co-partner of My promise/My Spirit

Genesis 2:24 ...a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become **one flesh**.

Proverbs 5:18 Let your fountain be blessed, And **rejoice with the wife of your youth.**

- **God loves marriage...**

1. ...for what it displays about His relationship with us
2. ...for the good it does in society
3. ...for the way it meets the needs of men, women, and children
4. ...as a tool for conforming us into the image of His Son [Guzik]

Take heed to your spirit or be defiled, i.e. To that which motivates you
Self-interest or God's Glory? What does God think of divorce?

16 "For the **LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce**, For it **covers one's garment with violence**," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore **take heed to your spirit**, That you **do not deal treacherously.**"

Take heed to your spirit

It is important to realize that we can change our feelings towards our spouse. If we do not feel loving or connected or caring about them, that can be changed if we will take heed to our spirit. [Guzik]

17 You have wearied the LORD with your words; Yet you say, "In what way have we wearied Him?"

Two more things to answer why you're not being blessed...

In that you say, **"Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, And He delights in them,"** Or, **"Where is the God of justice?"**

Q.4 In what way have we wearied You.

A.4 You misrepresent My character

Sin 1: Flippantly claim I reward evil

The people of God in Malachi's day were depressed and discouraged because it seemed like the wicked prospered and had it better than the godly. This filled them with doubt and unbelief, and they grumbled that everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD. [Guzik]

Sin 2: Flippantly ask...Where is the God of Justice? Is He Unconcerned?

When they compared themselves with others, they thought it was unjust of God to bless others and not them. Nevertheless, their question shows that they don't understand what the God of justice would give to them. [If they obeyed] [Guzik]

The same LORD they claim is unconcerned w/what goes on in their lives
The same LORD who will send His Son to die for them as His unblemished Lamb

Zephaniah 1:12b ...That I will search Jerusalem with lamps And **punish the men** Who are settled in complacency, Who say in their heart, **'The LORD will not do good, Nor will He do evil.'**

Psalms 10:11 He has said in his heart, **"God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see."**

Psalms 94:7 Yet they say, **"The Lord does not see, Nor does the God of Jacob understand."**

Q. How do we weary God w/our words when we feel slighted by Him?

A. We misrepresent His character: Say that God rewards evil/God is unconcerned/Not good

Then dare to ask: *Why am I not being blessed*

John 3:16 ...**God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

He gave it all but they want more