

God in the Ruins

The Message of the Minor Prophets

MALACHI

Malachi 1-4

6/5/2022

SIX DISPUTES

1. "I have loved you!" **How?**
 - By _____ (loving) Jacob.
 - His _____ on evil nations is a demonstration of his love for his people.
2. "You despise me and my temple." **How?**
 - By not giving me what's _____ and _____ in your lives.
3. "I will not accept your offerings." **Why?**
 - You've turned against me in _____, and against your wives in _____.
4. "You've neglected us. Where is the God of justice?"
 - I will send my _____ who will prepare the way before me.
5. "Turn back to me." **How?**
 - Start offering the _____ again.
6. "It's pointless to serve God."
 - It's _____ that saves. _____ is a result of that faith.

WAITING FOR THE MESSIAH

1. We must remain faithful to God and _____ him.
2. God's people must look for the new _____ that God will send before the great day of the Lord.
3. Israel's fate depends on their _____ to this Elijah.

THREE BIG IDEAS

1. Malachi warns against lackluster or _____ worship.
 - We can worship God well with our _____.
 - We can worship God well with our _____.
2. God opposes _____, and it _____ the ideal environment for passing on faith to children.
3. _____ the _____ is the messenger God sends.
 - The day of the Lord _____ and _____ with Jesus.

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MALACHI 1

¹ A prophecy: The word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi. ² "I have loved you," says the Lord. "But you ask, 'How have you loved us?'..."

⁶ "A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the Lord Almighty. "It is you priests who show contempt for my name." "How have we shown contempt for your name?" ⁷ "By offering defiled food on my altar..." ⁸ When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the Lord Almighty...

¹⁰ Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our ancestors by being unfaithful to one another? ¹¹ ...A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the Lord loves by marrying women who worship a foreign god...

MALACHI 2

¹⁷ You have wearied the Lord with your words. "How have we wearied him?" you ask. By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and he is pleased with them" or "Where is the God of justice?"

MALACHI 3

⁷ Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?' ⁸ "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me... ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it..."

¹⁴ "You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty?' ¹⁵ But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly evildoers prosper, and even when they put God to the test, they get away with it." ¹⁶ Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.

MALACHI 4

"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire," says the Lord Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. ² But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves..."

⁵ "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

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