

Malachi 1:1-3:5 – 27 August 2026

“Not A Factory But A Family: Ep 1 of 2”

Introduction

- *Malachi is the 3rd of 3 post-exilic prophets
- *Malachi wrote around 450-400 BC, 60-100 yrs after Haggai and Zechariah
- *Enthusiasm of the rebuilt Temple has faded & priests & people alike have become corrupt or careless
- *Israel has retreated into factory mode rather than remembering that God brought them into a family
- *Malachi addresses this spiritual decline
- *God thru Malachi addresses the problems Israel created by this factory mindset & their solutions

Today, we address the 1st 3 of 5 problems Israel is steeped in and their solutions

These are all said in the format of Israel's question to God and God's response to Israel

1st Question From Israel – ‘How have we seen Your love?’ God’s Answer – ‘I’ve restored you to the land’ (Chap 1:1-5)

Read 1:1-2a

1. People tend to fade into believing that God doesn’t really love me, see me or know my needs
2. Opening point God wants to make is that He does intimately love us & wants to be involved

Read 1:2-5

1. The example God gives Israel of His love for them is to remember His everlasting commitment to give them this land
 - a. Hating Edom is a comparative statement; He doesn’t wish anyone’s demise
 - b. In this comparative statement; Esau won’t keep his land forever as Israel will
2. Edomites were largely wiped out by Babylon
 - a. This is described in Eze 35 & Obadiah
 - b. They constantly tried to rebuild to no avail

- c. Last known king was Herod (over Israel), but as a nation with territory Edom was gone
- d. Interesting prophecy in Jer 49:10-11 – their widows & orphans are invited to join Israel
- 3. Israel could look at God's activity with Edom and see His special love for themselves

2nd Question From Israel – ‘How have we despised You?’ God’s Answer – ‘By bringing Me less than your best’ (Chap 1:6-2:9)

Read 1:6-8

- 1. They were bringing God the leftovers or just whatever they had
 - a. Should bring the unspotted & the best
- 2. It's dishonors God to offer less than our best
 - a. Honoring God takes thought to make Him the priority, to make God our *first* thought
 - b. In any given situation, make God our first thought

Read 1:9-11

1. We are to show by all that we do that God is awesome and worthy of great honor
2. Anything less is a disgrace
3. Does our Christianity show how awesome God is? It should

Read 1:12-14

1. They think it's tiresome to bring God the best - but God sees this as deception
 - a. They want people to see they still 'come to church every Sunday' but their heart's not in it
 - b. To have a form of godliness and yet not put in the effort is deceptive and despised by God

Read 2:1-4

1. The crime is not serving from the heart (ie 1:6-14)
 - a. Not giving the best, motivated by love
2. The punishment is not getting agricultural production

- a. He will curse them, they're cursed already
 - i. Turn to Lev 26:13-20 esp 19-20
- b. They're back in the land & yet still cursed
b/c of their continued disobedience since their return

Read 2:5-7

- 1. Levitical tribe including the Priests should be teaching righteousness that leads to life & how to have peace w/ God
 - a. Instead, their deceptive heart taught the wrong stuff
- 2. Just as the Levites were for Israel, we're God's representatives on earth, do right

Read 2:8-9

- 1. They despised God thru the handling of their special duties; therefore, God will despise them
- 2. "They caused many people to stumble"
 - a. Whether we like it or not, there are always people that will be helped or harmed by our representation of God thru our lives

3rd Question From Israel – ‘How have we wearied You?’ God’s Answer – ‘By profaning the sanctuary with internal betrayal’ (Chap 2:10-3:5)

Read 2:10

1. We’re all ultimately the same, born into humanity
2. Therefore, the Golden Rule applies; do to others what you want done to yourself
3. Instead, they are “dealing treacherously”
 - a. This is to covertly pillage or steal
 - b. Their relationships are just to get what they can get out of them

Read 2:11-12

1. Though they came to the Temple regularly, they spiritually gave away their heart in marriage
2. This is dealing treacherously w/ God - stealing

Read 2:13-16

1. Our marriages are to role-model Jesus, the husband, and the Church, the wife
 - a. What do marriages produce – a union of perpetual life

2. Marriages are the easiest place to bring people into perpetual life thru Jesus by having kids & raising them to come to know Jesus
 - a. This is why God took Adam & Eve & made them one
3. God hates divorce
 - a. A heart that always says, “but aren’t there exceptions that we can get divorced” is profane
 - b. A heart that says, “I want to know the best possible plan for my marriage” is seeking God

Read 2:17

1. Not only do they covertly steal from all their relationships, but they think it’s ok & that God doesn’t care to intervene

Read 3:1

1. Matt, Mark & Luke all say this ‘messenger’ is fulfilled in John the Baptist
 - a. Isa 40 says John will fill in the valleys & bring down the mountains (humble are lifted & haughty are humbled)

2. So, what is God going to do about the profanity happening at the Temple?
 - a. Jesus ‘the messenger of the covenant’ will come as a would king with a forerunner (John)
 - b. He will come quickly to them – get ready

Read 3:2-5

1. Like many prophecies of Jesus, this runs right from 1st coming to 2nd coming with no notice
2. At Jesus’ 2nd coming, He’ll come to separate the pure from impure, the holy from the profane
 - a. Smelters separate the metal from the dross
 - b. Fuller’s soap separates the garment from the dirt
3. “Then the offering will be pleasing”
 - a. God only receives our offerings when they’re given with clean hands and a pure heart
4. Notice every person judged is a thief of some kind

Conclusion

Is your Christian life functioning as a factory or as a family?

1. Have you wondered if God loves you?

- a. Our land is that He's given us eternal life
- b. Rejoice that we've been chosen into the family

2. Have you gotten lazy & shown spite for the things of God?

- a. Our work is to evangelize & make disciples
- b. Let's honor God in all we do b/c our actions show the world His value

3. Have you gotten rough in your relationships?

- a. Let us be faithful to build bridges not burn them
- b. Let us be a resilient people seeking fruit that only comes as we "hang in there"

We'll get the final two points next time