

Malachi 3:6-4:6 – 3 September 2026

“Not A Factory But A Family: Ep 2 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

Last time, we addressed 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

- 1. How Have We Seen Your Love? You're Restored Forever (1:1-5)**
- 2. How Have We Despised You? By Bringing God Less Than Our Best (1:6-2:9)**
- 3. How Have We Wearied You? By Profaning the Sanctuary with Internal Betrayal (2:10-3:5)**

Today, we address the final 2 of 5 problems Israel is steeped in and their solutions

4th Question From Israel – ‘How have we robbed God?’ – God’s Answer – ‘By not bringing My tithe & your offerings’ (Chap 3:6-12)

Read 3:6-8

- 1. What is the path to return to the Lord?**
 - a. Become a giver instead of a taker**
- 2. There are 2 types of takers**
 - a. The dependance child that needs to be a taker – they have no choice**

- b. The adult that acts like a child in being a taker and becomes a thief
- 3. Now the most practical way to know if you're a giver is with money

Read 3:9-12

- 1. The tithe always goes to the central sanctuary
 - a. Now it's your church (Read I Tim 5:17-18)
 - b. Turn to I Cor 9:7-14
- 2. The tithe exists before the Law, during the Law & in the New Testament (Matt 23:23)
 - a. In the church the tithe hasn't been removed, it's been fulfilled by Jesus & we live by a higher law (Read II Cor 9:6-8—a cheerful giver)
- 3. Notice the blessing to giving in vs 11
 - a. God will always supply need (Read Phil 4:19)
 - b. Having God's blessing & favor is more valuable than keeping 100% of my money
- 4. The blessing of God will then be evident to others

5th Question From Israel – ‘How have we spoken against You?’ – God’s Answer – ‘By arrogant words’ (Chap 3:13-4:6)

Read 3:13-15

1. To say that it has no value to serve God is indeed arrogant
 - a. By virtue of being created by Him – we owe Him
 - b. By virtue of being a sinner – we need Him
 - c. By virtue of being His child – we depend on Him
2. These arrogant men think they’ve escaped from the punishment that they deserve for their pride - wrong

Read 3:16-18

1. It never escapes God’s mind, those that live in pride and those that humbly fear God
2. God will remember His promise to deliver those that humbly love Him

- a. In fact, that's how the NT opens up – with the account of Zechariah and Elizabeth
 - b. Zechariah means *Yahweh has remembered*
 - c. Elizabeth means *God of my oath*
3. God will indeed remember His oath

Read 4:1

1. This will be the end of the arrogant
2. The Day of the Lord is coming
 - a. A day of fire and judgement to will burn up the arrogant ones

Read 4:2-3

1. The Day of the Lord is coming when those that fear the Lord will rejoice that the arrogant are gone
 - a. The righteous here actually play a part in defeating the arrogant
2. 'The sun of righteousness' is feminine
 - a. This doesn't mean that this can't also refer to Jesus the Son (see Luke 13:34)

- b. It just means the day of righteousness will begin
- c. This certainly happens when Jesus starts the Kingdom

Read 4:4

- 1. In these closing remarks before 400 years of silence from the Lord, He goes back to the beginning of the nation – remember the Law
 - a. Remember where it all began
- 2. Psm 19:7 – The Law of the Lord is perfecting converting the soul

Read 4:5-6

- 1. Gabriel says this is fulfilled in John the Baptist (Luk 1:16-17)
- 2. Jesus tells us that this fulfilled in John the Baptist (Read Matt 11:13-14, 17:10-13)
- 3. John denied being Elijah in John 1:21 b/c he simply came in the ‘spirit & power of Elijah’

4. But it must also happen again ‘before the day of the Lord’
 - a. Rev 11 describes two witnesses & it seems likely that Elijah is one of them

Conclusion

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

From last time

- 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”

Now from this time

4. Have you robbed God in tithes and offerings?

- a. Be a giver in all things to bless God & others

5. Have you Spoken Against God by Arrogant Words?

- b. Trust Him that He'll do what He said He would
- c. Humbly depend on God to keep His oath