

Title Slide

Who's Weary?



I have a question for you all today...

And before you jump to raising your hand and telling me you're weary...

TR: I first want to jump back in time...



Who's Weary?

The people of ISRAEL?

- We've been in Malachi the past few weeks, and I just want to share with you some of the weariness that the post-exilic people of Israel may have been feeling when they receive the Lord's message through Malachi...
 - About 100 years after the first wave of people returning to the land after their exile to Babylon
 - Rebuilt Temple, freedom of religious practice, but still under Persian Rule
 - The people initially had high hopes as they returned... Temple Rebuilt, Walls Rebuilt, Messiah Coming, Glory of God and His Shalom to fill the Earth, Every Nation to come under His

**Rule and Reign, and All will be made Right...BUT
ALAS...nothing like that...**

- **The Temple is something that the people are somewhat mournful of, for it is not magnificent like the one Solomon made, and the tangible presence of the Lord is not there like it was in the days of Moses and the tabernacle and as in the days of Solomon**
- **Judah, in which lies Jerusalem, is just a Runt little insignificant province in a vast empire...who needs to pay their taxes and dues like everyone else...**
- **No King from David's line, and no longer an independent nation...**
- **The Persian empire actually had helped fund the rebuilding of the temple and it's maintenance, but by the time of Malachi, that was no longer the case**
- **The people are dealing with financial and economic hardship**
- **Also with drought, pestilence and crop failure**
- **And ongoing harassment from their neighboring provinces**

- **And so the People are giving lip-service to God, doing the bare min. to check the boxes of proper worship...their hearts are no longer in it**
- **There is corruption in the temple with the**

priests

- **And the people have allowed themselves to get embittered and hardened in their weariness from the trials and tribulations that surround them...and seemingly NO Hope in sight**
- **There is faithlessness in their relationships...as the people choose to divorce because of economic and social reasons rather than moral ones**
- **They're not giving their best anymore in worship or giving**
- **They're intermarrying with others outside the covenant people, and consequently being drawn away to other gods**
- **It's in this context that the Last word of the Lord is given before there is silence for 400 years...before John the Baptist enters the scene...preparing the way for Jesus**

TR: Perhaps some of you today FEEL like Israel...

Who's Weary?

The people of ISRAEL?

Perhaps YOU today?

- Perhaps your expectations for what God was going to do in your life have gone unmet
- And things just haven't been going your way
- Everyone seems to be against you
- Your work has dried up and you hate going
- Your finances are struggling, still
- Corruption seemingly abounds in every sector of society

- **Going through the Religious motions is your normal routine, but it doesn't do anything for you**
- **You give just the bare minimum**
- **You're becoming envious of the world and what others have...the ones that aren't even religious at all, but they seem to have everything they want and seem happy too**
- **You've given up whatever last spark you had of that God-given hope you started out with when you first became a Christian**
- **You wonder if God is even out there**

TR: WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Who's Weary?

The people of ISRAEL?

Perhaps YOU today?

How about God?

- Well, the People of Israel, in their weariness chose to become embittered and hardened, they gave in and sinned against God in their weariness
- Who's the weary one we're looking at this morning? God was the weary one.
- How could God be the weary one, you might ask? He's God!

TR: That's exactly what the people of Israel asked, and this was God's clear and direct answer...

Malachi 2:17

“You have wearied the Lord with your words. But you say, ‘How have we wearied him?’ By saying, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delights in them.’ Or by asking, ‘Where is the God of justice?’”

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- The people are arrogantly questioning, sort of snobbishly, God's just character...
- They're accusing God of blessing and delighting in all the worldly wicked, while implying that they the righteous, who are doing all the right religious things, suffer
- Where is the God of Justice? Is there a God? Is he just?

- **Have you ever done this before, in your weariness and tiredness, sinned against God by accusing him of not being Good or Just anymore?**
- **Or perhaps you've been on the receiving end of it before?**
 - **as a parent with your kids, maybe you've been wearied by their whining accusations, claims of "You're not being fair!"**
 - **Or as a teacher with your students...**
 - **A manager with your employees...**
 - **Somehow, you're in a role where you're being accused of not being fair in your judgments...**
 - **And you know what, there's probably truth to those...**
 - **BUT NOT WITH GOD...**
 - **His judgments are always good and right...**

TR: And so The Lord is not wearied by just any words from His people...He is wearied by arrogant, sinful, whining words...

Isaiah 43:24

“...But you have burdened me with your sins;
you have wearied me with your iniquities.”

READ SLIDE...

- Asaph, one of the Psalmists, almost did the same thing...

TR: Look with me at what he wrote in Psalm 73...

Psalm 73:1-3

“Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.”

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Psalm 73:21-26

“When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.”

READ SLIDE...

Psalm 73:21-26

“Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

READ SLIDE....

- And Asaph, in his own weariness, almost slipped and started sinfully accusing God
- But then the Lord caught him and reminded him...why envy those who seemingly have everything in the world...do they have me?
- What else do you desire in this world more than me?

- **Is the Lord your portion today?**
- **Well, the Lord graciously did have an answer for His people and their weariness and injustice, despite their sinful whining and wearying Him...**
- **And I believe it's an answer for us today as well, in whatever weariness we find ourselves in...**

TR: Behold, The Answer!

A landscape photograph showing a body of water in the foreground, with mountains in the background. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and purple, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the top half of the image, containing the text.

Behold, The Answer!

He's COMING!

- He's Coming!
- The Messiah whom the people have been seeking since their return and rebuilding of the temple, the one whom they've seemingly given up hope on IS COMING!

TR: Listen to the Lord's words in chapter 3, verse 1...

Malachi 3:1

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.”

READ SLIDE...

- Today we can read that verse and the following few verses in an “Already but Not Yet” sense.
- What do I mean by that?
- I mean that God did send his messenger ahead of Him ALREADY....400 yrs after Malachi...John the Baptist...who prepared the way for the LORD...

- who did come **ALREADY...JESUS...**and He ushered in His Kingdom, in part, but **NOT YET** in its fullness
- The messenger of a **NEW COVENANT** has come, Jesus, and He established it by His own blood, which **ATONES** for our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness
- For all those who trust Him as their personal **LORD** and Savior, we enter that kingdom **ALREADY** in a sense, but **NOT YET** in its physical fullness and glory
- And so we as His People this side of Christ, rejoice that He has **ALREADY** come, but we eagerly anticipate His **COMING AGAIN** of the **LORD OF HOSTS**, of **ANGELS ARMIES!**
- Whereas in Malachi's Day...God's people **DIDN'T** have the **ALREADY**. They just had the **PROMISED NOT YET** of the first coming, which they didn't even know would be in two parts, and I don't think they anticipated the Lord's next words either in His answer...

TR: Look with me at verse 2...

Malachi 3:2-4

“But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord...”

READ SLIDE...

Malachi 3:2-4

“...Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.”

READ SLIDE...

Behold, The Answer!

He's COMING!

But who can ENDURE it? There will be...

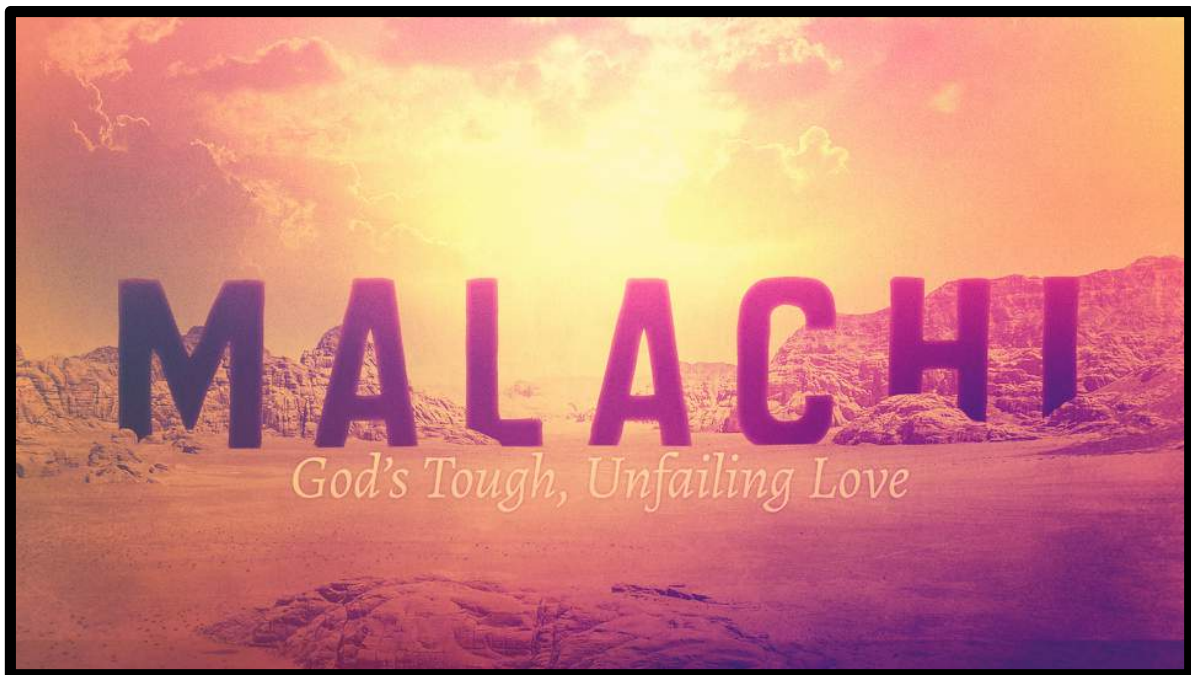
- **Intense purification of His people—
purging the evil IN us**

- **BEHOLD, He's Coming!**
- **BUT who can ENDURE It? Who will be able to STAND when he appears? The implied answer is NONE.**
- **What the people would expect and want is vindication from their oppressors and righteous judgment on all the wicked of the world...**
- **But what the Lord says, is that the Intense Purification of the world and making everything right is FIRST going to start with YOU, His people—purging the evil IN them...**

**TR: And by the sounds of it, it's going to be very
Intense...but not a complete destruction...but thorough
cleansing...a TOUGH LOVE, like what we've been talking
about through out Malachi...**



- A Refiner's Fire gets up to 1,800 degree F in order to melt silver and begin the purifying process, taking out all the impurities...and the process continues until the refiner can look down into the purified metal and see His own face plainly reflected back at him...
- Fullers' Soap... no gentle scrubbing...fuller was someone who literally trampled out the dirt/oils out of the cloth/wool. It was a beating process combined with the alkaline salt (natural lye) that they used as what we would call soap...



- And I believe there is an **ALREADY** aspect to this Intense Purification for Us today...
- It was the Sons of Levi who are mentioned will undergo this intense purification so that they can offer pure worship again to the Lord in their offerings and sacrifices,
- but just like Trevor mentioned before about the Levites (who were the priests and pastors for God's people back then), we all who are in Christ now are considered...(1 Peter 2:5-9)

- ...A Royal priesthood, chosen, called, and saved by God to serve Him all our remaining days, offering up sacrifices of Praise and even being living sacrifices ourselves, our whole lives and works given up to God in worship and thanks...
- ...sacrifices no longer offered to Atonement for our sins, but now offered to Adore the one who became the ultimate sacrifice and forgave us all our sins....
- And we have been called to become a Holy Priesthood...becoming more and more like our ultimate High Priest, Jesus, who continually intercedes for us before the Father...
- We, in Christ, have been justified by grace alone through faith alone, and thus stand positionally Holy in Christ, but there is now a sanctifying work that God is wanting to do in our lives through the Holy Spirit, purging all the evil from within us and making us ready, His Church, His bride, ready for His triumphant return...

TR: And it is on THAT DAY that Final purification and Ultimate Judgment will come...

Malachi 3:5

“Then I will draw near to you for judgement. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.”

READ SLIDE...

Behold, The Answer!

He's COMING!

But who can ENDURE it? There will be...

- **Intense purification of His people—
purging the evil IN us**
- **Final purification and Ultimate
Judgment—purging the evil AMONG us**

—For those Not justified and cleansed by the blood of the Lamb, Those who don't believe, who don't fear the Lord, there will be a purifying and purging of the evil **AMONG** us...

- No one gets away with anything. The Lord will ultimately judge all things, and His justice will come in it's fullness...
- ...but He is patient (as 2 Peter 3 tells us), not wanting any to perish in that final purging.
- Our God is tough, tough on the sin that so easily

entangles us, tough on us when we, by nature and then by choice, choose to reject Him and entangle ourselves into sin...

- He is Loving in His patience with us, and He is loving to clearly call the sin out in our lives and CARE-Front us about it...**

TR: We need that tough love...

Proverbs 27:6

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”

READ SLIDE...

- If this is true, then how much more faithful are the caring convicting cuts of our Heavenly Father who loves us as His Children...

TR: And if we are His Children, then we ought not grow weary of His purifying work in our lives, through the Holy Spirit and various trials and suffering that we go through... sometimes, His loving discipline in our lives...

Hebrews 12:5b-11

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.’ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?”

READ SLIDE...

Hebrews 12:5b-11

“If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?”

READ SLIDE...

Hebrews 12:5b-11

“For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

READ SLIDE...

- Not ALL trials, hardships, and suffering is the Lord's discipline in our Lives...
- It could be consequences from our own sin, from others' sins, from the Enemy who seeks to destroy us, from living in a broken world...there are biblical examples of all these things...
- But when calamity strikes us, we need to pray and

**ask God, is this your purifying work in my life,
sanctifying me and growing me more and more into
the likeness of your Son. Is this your tough, unfailing
love?**

TR: If so, let us not grow weary of it...



Let us NOT grow weary of God's Tough, Unfailing Love IN our lives. It is GOOD, because He is GOOD, and it's for our ultimate GOOD. So, **PRESS IN and Humbly Receive it!**

- For it is good, because He is good, and it's for our ultimate good, and His ultimate glory.
- I want to read for you a word picture of what this looks like...It comes from a book titled "I ; the root of sin exposed" by Steve Gallagher (founder of Pure Life Ministries)...READ STORY...
- When hearing the Lord clearly convicting you of sin, Press In and Humbly receive God's Tough, Unfailing Love in your life. Let's Pray.