



# MALACHI

*A Call For Pure Devotion*



**In what situations are you tempted to  
treat God's covenant lightly?**

# Why Study Malachi?

- **Relevant** ~ Covers topics we need to hear:
  - Call for authentic devotion to the Lord
  - Reminder about God's love, glory, & worthiness
  - Confront hypocrisy & offers cleansing
- **2025 Initiatives** ~ Our church has set priorities this year
  - He is worthy of our love, our life, & our all
  - Cultivate deeper love for Jesus
- **Timing** ~ Short book that fits our schedule

# Malachi: Theme

“They [Israel] were all too ready to make ethical compromises and to dilute the strenuous demands of proper worship. In response to the cynicism and religious malaise of his contemporaries, Malachi’s prophecy comes as a wake-up call to renewed covenant fidelity.”

(ESV Study Bible: *Introduction to Malachi*)



Malachi 2:1–9

Unfaithful Leaders and Priests

Malachi 2:10–16

Unfaithful Average Yosefs

Malachi 2:17

Unfaithful Morals



**Malachi 2:1–9**

**Unfaithful Leaders and Priests**

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# Malachi 2

1 “And now, O priests, this command is for you. 2 If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the Lord of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart.

# Curse

qālal / קָלַל

to be slight, diminished, or despised. God  
God promises to strip away blessing and  
replace it with emptiness.



**Verse 2 warns that blessings can turn into curses when God is not honored. What might that look like in our lives today?**

# Malachi 2

3 Behold, I will rebuke your offspring,[a] and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it.[b] 4 So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the Lord of hosts.

# **Defiled**

**gā'al / לַטֵּא**

pollute or treat as unclean. Worship without obedience defiles rather than honors God.

# Malachi 2

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# **Covenant**

## **berît / בְּרִית**

a binding agreement. The priesthood, marriage, and morality was supposed to reflect God's holiness, but they had broken covenant faithfulness.



# Malachi 2

5 My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name. 6 True instruction[c] was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity.

The background of the slide features a light grey, textured surface with various dark grey ink splatters and blotches. A thin, dark silhouette of a barbed wire fence runs diagonally across the upper portion of the image.

**Verse 6 describes a true priest as one whose words and life match. Who in your life models this kind of integrity?**

# Malachi 2

7 For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people[d] should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. 8 But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts,

# **Messenger**

**mal'āk / מַלְאָךְ**

one who carries a message, often angelic,  
but here human. Priests were God's human  
messengers.



**In what ways are you God's  
messenger?**



# Malachi 2

9 and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”

# Partiality

**nāśā' pānîm / נָשָׂא פָּנִים**

to lift up the face, showing favoritism. The priests twisted teaching for personal gain.

Malachi 2:1–9

Unfaithful Leaders and Priests

**Malachi 2:10–16**

**Unfaithful Average Yosefs**

Malachi 2:17

Unfaithful Morals

# Malachi 2

10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? 11 Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the Lord, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god.

# **Faithless**

## **bāgad / תגב**

to act treacherously, betray, deal deceitfully.  
This is covenant betrayal, not just casual sin.





**Verse 10 says betrayal of others is ultimately betrayal of God. How do our relationships with people reflect our relationship with Him?**

# Malachi 2

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# Foreigner

gēr / גֵּר

sojourner, resident alien. The law protected foreigners, but marrying foreign idolaters compromised covenant worship (Deut. 7:3–4). Stuart emphasizes this was about faith, not ethnicity.

# Malachi 2

12 May the Lord cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant[e] of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the Lord of hosts!

# Malachi 2

13 And this second thing you do. You cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. 14 But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.



**God refuses to accept offerings when people live faithlessly (v.13). What are some ways we might try to “worship” while ignoring sin in our lives?**

# Malachi 2

15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union?[f] And what was the one God[g] seeking?[h] Godly offspring. So guard yourselves[i] in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

# Malachi 2

16 “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her,[j] says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers[k] his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

# **Divorce**

## **šālah / נִלְשָׁ**

to send away, dismiss. Divorce was permitted under Mosaic law only because of hardness of heart (Deut. 24:1; Matt. 19:8).

**Verse 16 says divorce covers one's garment with violence. What do you think God is teaching us about the seriousness of breaking promises, not just in marriage but in all areas of life?**

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Unfaithful Leaders and Priests

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# 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?”



**Practically, why is it dangerous to call  
evil “good” or good “evil”?**



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