

TOUGH LOVE

HARSH BUT GLORIOUS AWAKENINGS FOR A PEOPLE ON THE BRINK

———— A STUDY ON MALACHI ————



Part 3 – 1:1-5

1. Grace and Judgment

The story of Esau and Edom – vv. 2 & 3

God deals with us as individuals and as groups (nations/tribes) – Esau and Edom – Jacob and Israel – you and your family – me and you and the U.S.

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The individual takes precedent over the group – see Ezekiel 18

Ezekiel 18:2-4

“What do you people mean by quoting
this proverb about the land of Israel:

‘The parents eat sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on
edge’?

3 “As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. 4 For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child - both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.”

32 “For I take no pleasure in the death of
anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord.
Repent and live!”

Esau

- Surrounded by a family of faith
- Rejected his birthright within that family – chose the flesh over faith
- Rejected his family by who he married
- Lived his whole life under God's good and patient blessings – in proximity to the promises of faith

Esau

- Never repented and turned to God

Edom

- Enjoyed God's favor and blessing –
Gen. 36; Deut. 2
- Threatening to Israel – Numbers 20
 - Conquered by David – 2 Sam. 8
- Hardened hatred; mortal enemies –
Obad. 1

Obadiah 1

10 Because of the violence against your
brother Jacob,
you will be covered with shame;
you will be destroyed forever.

Grace and salvation is available to every individual – regardless of what his/her group, tribe or family history has been

See Rahab and Ruth

"A woman once said to Mr. Spurgeon, 'I cannot understand why God should say that He hated Esau.' 'That,' Spurgeon replied, 'is not my difficulty, madam. My trouble is to understand how God could love Jacob.'"

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The story of Esau and Edom – vv. 2 & 3

2. All Rebellions are Doomed - vv. 4 & 5

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Self-sufficiency/self-determination = the
ultimate rebellion

A commitment to self-determination
inevitably puts us at odds with God and
His purposes – it ultimately makes us
God's enemies.

We throw away His provision and
blessing – the birthright

Self-reliance vs. individual responsibility under God

Then we end up in outright rebellion
against Him

Repentance = our way out – salvation

Repentance is available to everyone and
is everyone's opportunity to find life

3:7

“Ever since the time of your ancestors
you have turned away from my decrees
and have not kept them. ‘Return to me,
and I will return to you,’ says the Lord
Almighty. ...”







17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"
And let the one who hears say, "Come!"
Let the one who is thirsty come; and let
the one who wishes take the free gift of
the water of life.

Rev. 22

The worthy aren't in heaven, only the
willing

5 You will see it with your own eyes and
say, 'Great is the Lord - even beyond the
borders of Israel!'

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