

**Malachi 1**

<sup>1</sup> The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

**Israel Beloved of God**

L ★ 2 "I have loved you," says the LORD.

"Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?'  
Was not Esau Jacob's brother?"  
Says the LORD.

"Yet Jacob I have loved:

<sup>3</sup> But Esau I have hated.

And laid waste his mountains and his heritage  
For the jackals of the wilderness."

<sup>4</sup> Even though Edom has said,

"We have been impoverished,  
But we will return and build the desolate places,"

Thus says the LORD of hosts:

"They may build, but I will throw down;

They shall be called the Territory of Wickedness.

And the people against whom the LORD will have indignation forever.

<sup>5</sup> Your eyes shall see,

And you shall say,

'The LORD is magnified beyond the border of Israel.'

**Polluted Offerings**

★ 6 "A son honors *his* father,  
And a servant *his* master.  
If then I am the Father,  
Where is My honor?  
★★ And if I *am* a Master,  
Where is My reverence?"

Note: God hated Esau meaning Esau's descendants who practiced false god worship. God chose Jacob for intimate fellowship, whereas He did not choose Esau for intimate fellowship. Esau renouncing his inheritance promise from God for a bowl of soup showed the bad condition of his heart.

1:1 Name Malachi means "the LORD's messenger." Malachi was a member of the Great Synagogue that collected and preserved the Scriptures (date 433-424 B.C.). Malachi addressed the withholding of tithes 3:8-10, c.f. Nehemiah 13:10-14. Just as Christ criticizes the condition of the churches in Revelation, God criticizes the condition of Israel as a nation. Israel during Malachi's time had deteriorated to where the people continued to sin worse than before; when their judgment led to Assyrian and Babylonian deportations. Malachi states two points: 1) God will judge Israel for their continuing sin, and 2) Jews will repent in the future and then The Messiah will save them in the Second Coming.

MALACHI

Says the LORD of hosts  
To you priests who despise My name.  
Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?'  
<sup>7</sup> "You offer defiled food on My altar,  
But say,

'In what way have we defiled You?'  
By saying,

'The table of the LORD is contemptible.'  
<sup>8</sup> And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice,  
*Is it not evil?*  
And when you offer the lame and sick,  
*Is it not evil?*  
Offer it then to your governor!  
Would he be pleased with you?  
Would he accept you favorably?"

Says the LORD of hosts,  
<sup>9</sup> "But now entreat God's favor,  
That He may be gracious to us.  
*While* this is being *done* by your hands,  
Will He accept you favorably?"  
Says the LORD of hosts.  
<sup>10</sup> "Who *is there* even among you who would shut the doors,  
So that you would not kindle fire *on* My altar in vain?  
I have no pleasure in you."  
Says the LORD of hosts,

"Nor will I accept an offering from your hands.  
<sup>11</sup> For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down,  
My name shall be great among the Gentiles:  
In every place incense *shall be* offered to My name,  
And a pure offering;  
For My name shall be great among the nations."  
Says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>12</sup> "But you profane it,  
In that you say,

'The table of the LORD is defiled;  
And its fruit, its food, *is* contemptible.'  
<sup>13</sup> You also say,

'Oh, what a weariness!'  
And you sneer at it,"  
Says the LORD of hosts.

"And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick;  
Thus you bring an offering!  
Should I accept this from your hand?"  
Says the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> "But cursed *be* the deceiver  
Who has in his flock a male,  
And takes a vow,  
But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished—

## MALACHI

For I *am* a great King.”  
Says the LORD of hosts,

“And My name *is to be* feared among the nations.

### Malachi 2

#### Corrupt Priests

- ★★ <sup>1</sup> “And now, O priests, this commandment is for you.  
<sup>2</sup> If you will not hear,  
And if you will not take *it* to heart,  
To give glory to My name.”  
Says the LORD of hosts,  
  
“I will send a curse upon you,  
And I will curse your blessings.  
Yes, I have cursed them already,  
Because you do not take *it* to heart.  
<sup>3</sup> “Behold, I will rebuke your descendants  
And spread refuse on your faces,  
The refuse of your solemn feasts;  
And *one* will take you away with it.  
<sup>4</sup> Then you shall know that I have sent this commandment to you,  
That My covenant with Levi may continue.”  
Says the LORD of hosts.  
<sup>5</sup> “My covenant was with him, *one* of life and peace,  
And I gave them to him *that he might* fear Me;  
So he feared Me  
And was reverent before My name.  
★★ <sup>6</sup> The law of truth was in his mouth,  
And injustice was not found on his lips.  
He walked with Me in peace and equity,  
And turned many away from iniquity.  
★★ <sup>7</sup> “For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge,  
And *people* should seek the law from his mouth;  
For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.  
<sup>8</sup> But you have departed from the way;  
You have caused many to stumble at the law.  
You have corrupted the covenant of Levi.”  
Says the LORD of hosts.  
<sup>9</sup> “Therefore I also have made you contemptible and base  
Before all the people,  
Because you have not kept My ways  
But have shown partiality in the law.”

2:1-2 If you do not give glory to God’s name, a curse will come upon you.

★ **Treachery of Infidelity**

<sup>10</sup> **Have we not all one Father?  
Has not one God created us?**

Why do we deal treacherously with one another  
By profaning the covenant of the fathers?

<sup>11</sup> Judah has dealt treacherously,  
And an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem,  
**For Judah has profaned**

**The LORD's holy *institution* which He loves:  
He has married the daughter of a foreign god.**

<sup>12</sup> **May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob  
The man who does this, being awake and aware,**  
Yet who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

<sup>13</sup> And this is the second thing you do:  
You cover the altar of the LORD with tears,  
With weeping and crying;  
So He does not regard the offering anymore,  
Nor receive *it* with goodwill from your hands.

<sup>14</sup> Yet you say, "For what reason?"  
**Because the LORD has been witness  
Between you and the wife of your youth,  
With whom you have dealt treacherously:  
Yet she is your companion  
And your wife by covenant.**

<sup>15</sup> **But did He not make *them* one,  
Having a remnant of the Spirit?  
And why one?**

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**He seeks godly offspring.**

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**Therefore take heed to your spirit,  
And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.**

<sup>16</sup> **"For the LORD God of Israel says**

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**That He hates divorce.**

For it covers one's garment with violence,"  
Says the LORD of hosts.

"Therefore take heed to your spirit,  
That you do not deal treacherously."

<sup>17</sup> You have wearied the LORD with your words;  
Yet you say,

"In what way have we wearied *Him*?"  
In that you say,

"Everyone who does evil  
*Is* good in the sight of the LORD,  
And He delights in them,"  
Or, "Where *is* the God of justice?"

2:11  
2:15

Marriage— holy institution.

God wants you to marry a woman that worships Him because God wants godly children.

This is why He insisted on Israelites marrying another Israelite. If someone married a woman that worshipped a false god, then the children would follow and continue in false god worship.

## Malachi 3

★★ **The Coming Messenger**

†★★ **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,  
 Even the Messenger of the covenant,  
 In whom you delight.  
 Behold, He is coming."  
 Says the LORD of hosts.

† **2** "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 launderers' soap.

† **3** He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver:  
 He will purify the sons of Levi,  
 And purge them as gold and silver,  
 That they may offer to the LORD  
 An offering in righteousness.

**4** "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem  
 Will be pleasant to the LORD,  
 As in the days of old,  
 As in former years.

★★ **5** And I will come near you for judgment:  
 I will be a swift witness

★★ Against sorcerers,

★★ Against adulterers,

Against perjurers,

Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans,

And against those who turn away an alien—

Because they do not fear Me."

Says the LORD of hosts.

**6** "For I *am* the LORD, I do not change;

Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

3:1 John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus. Malachi announces the Coming of the Messiah in the last Book of the Old Testament.

3:1-3 Is talking about Jesus the Messiah.

3:5 Sorcerers.

3:6 Israel's existence was due only to the LORD's unchanging character and unswerving commitment to His covenant promise with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

MALACHI

<sup>7</sup> Yet from the days of your fathers  
You have gone away from My ordinances  
And have not kept *them*.

R Return to Me, and I will return to you.”  
Says the LORD of hosts.

“But you said,

‘In what way shall we return?’

★★ **Do Not Rob God**

<sup>8</sup> “Will a man rob God?  
Yet you have robbed Me!  
But you say,

‘In what way have we robbed You?’  
In tithes and offerings.

★★ <sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse,  
For you have robbed Me,  
Even this whole nation.

<sup>10</sup> Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,  
That there may be food in My house,

★★ And try Me now in this.”  
Says the LORD of hosts.

“If I will not open for you the windows of heaven  
And pour out for you *such* blessing  
That *there will* not be *room* enough to *receive it*.

<sup>11</sup> “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,  
So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground,  
Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field.”  
Says the LORD of hosts;

<sup>12</sup> And all nations will call you blessed,  
For you will be a delightful land.”  
Says the LORD of hosts.

3:7 Israel needs to Repent. Return to God and repent of their sins. An example of Israel's unwillingness to Repent is their refusal to give God His tithes and offerings. This is a powerful example of their spiritual defection. Malachi presents a powerful challenge to Repent. The last message of the Old Testament with Malachi as the prophet is Repentance. Here, Israel is unwilling to admit their sins and refuses to recognize the need for Repentance and offerings.

3:8-12 Tithes and offerings fund the theocracy sustained by the Levites and support the national religious festivals and the poor. By not paying taxes, and so robbing God, Israel then had robbed themselves; for God had withheld His blessing from them. Believers need to pay their taxes to God. In the New Testament for freewill giving, see 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8-9; Matt 22:21; Rom 13: 1-7.

By robbing God, the believer steals from God what is rightfully His by divine law. God challenges people to put Him to the test [only place in Scripture where God allows you to test Him]. If you honor God by reversing your robbery and therefore show true Repentance by bringing to God what He requires then He will shower you with excessive abundance (Prov. 11:24-25). When tithes are not paid, priests have to give up their ministry and do other work to support themselves. During Malachi's time they had to return to farming.

The nation's religious life suffers, the poor and the strangers suffer, and by not paying your tithes you disobey God who is the King.

The People Complain Harshly

<sup>13</sup> "Your words have been harsh against Me,"  
Says the LORD,

"Yet you say,

'What have we spoken against You?'  
<sup>14</sup> You have said,

'It is useless to serve God;  
What profit *is it* that we have kept His ordinance,  
And that we have walked as mourners  
Before the LORD of hosts?

<sup>15</sup> So now we call the proud blessed,  
For those who do wickedness are raised up;  
They even tempt God and go free.'"

★★ **A Book of Remembrance**

<sup>16</sup> Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another,  
And the LORD listened and heard *them*;

★★ So a book of remembrance was written before Him  
For those who fear the LORD  
And who meditate on His name.

<sup>17</sup> "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts.

"On the day that I make them My jewels,  
And I will spare them  
As a man spares his own son who serves him."

★★ <sup>18</sup> Then you shall again discern  
★★ Between the righteous and the wicked,  
Between one who serves God  
And one who does not serve Him.

Note: ★ In Nehemiah 13:10 because the people neglected to tithe, the people failed to support the Levites. Consequently they had to abandon their responsibilities in the house of God and perform field labor in order to survive.

3:13 The sinful priests and people not only disobeyed God, but openly spoke against Him by complaining that obedience to God's law brought no rewards and that the proud and wicked prosper. They also went on complain that all religious activity is useless.

3:18 Righteous = One who serves God.  
Wicked = One who does not serve God.

Book of Remembrance— When you talk about God, all your words are put in the Book of Remembrance. God will remember all your words regarding Him.

## Malachi 4

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**The Great Day of God**

Day

<sup>1</sup> **"For behold, the day is coming,**  
**Burning like an oven,**  
**And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble.**  
**And the day which is coming shall burn them up."**  
 Says the LORD of hosts,

"That will leave them neither root nor branch.

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<sup>2</sup> **But to you who fear My name**  
**The Sun of Righteousness shall arise**  
**With healing in His wings:**  
 And you shall go out  
 And grow fat like stall-fed calves.

<sup>3</sup> **You shall trample the wicked,**  
 For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet  
**On the day that I do *this*."**  
 Says the LORD of hosts.

★★

<sup>4</sup> **"Remember the Law of Moses, My servant,**  
**Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel,**  
**With the statutes and judgments.**  
<sup>5</sup> **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet**  
**Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.**

<sup>6</sup> And he will turn  
 The hearts of the fathers to the children,  
 And the hearts of the children to their fathers,  
 Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

4:4-5 God tells us in His closing statement of the Old Testament to not forget the Law of Moses. The last words of the LORD in the Old Testament address the Second Coming of Christ and His last command is "Remember the Law of Moses." Jesus says later in the New Testament, "I did not come to destroy the Law, but to fulfill it."