

MALACHI
(THE GOSPEL, THE MESSAGE)

- I.** *I LOVE YOU AND HAVE A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR YOU (1:2-5)*

- II.** *YOU DO NOT HAVE LOVE FOR ME, INSTEAD, HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF MY GLORY (1:6-13)*

- III.** *THE WAGES OF SIN IS LIVING UNDER A CURSE (1:14-2:9)*

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He Loves
He Curses/Cuts Off
He Purifies
He Returns
He Spares
He Heals

MALACHI
(THE GOSPEL, THE MESSAGE)

An oracle: 1:1
The word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.

I. I LOVE YOU AND HAVE A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR YOU

- A) "I have loved you," says the LORD. 1:2
B) "But you ask, 'How have you loved us?'"
C) "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" the LORD says. "Yet I have **loved** Jacob,

EXPLANATION

but Esau I have **hated**, and I have turned his mountains into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals." 1:3

Edom may say, 1:4
"Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins."

But this is what the **LORD Almighty** says:

"They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the LORD.

You will see it with your own eyes and say, 'Great is the LORD-- even beyond the borders of Israel!' 1:5

II. YOU DO NOT HAVE LOVE FOR ME, INSTEAD, HAVE SINNED AND FALLEN SHORT OF MY GLORY

"A son **honors** his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the **honor** due me? If I am a master, where is the **respect** due me?" says the **LORD Almighty**. 1:6

- A) "It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name.
B) "But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?' " 1:7
A) "You place defiled food on my altar.
B) "But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?' "
C) By saying that the LORD's table is contemptible.

INSINCERE WORSHIP BREEDS IMPURE SACRIFICES AND TAKING THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN

When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the **LORD Almighty**. "Now implore God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?"-- says the **LORD Almighty**. 1:8
1:9

"Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! 1:10

THE OFFERER'S HEART IS THE PROBLEM WITH THE OFFERING

I am not pleased with you," says the **LORD Almighty**, "and I will accept no offering from your hands.

My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense 1:11
and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations,"
says the **LORD Almighty**.

"But you profane it by saying 1:12
of the Lord's table, 'It is defiled,' and
of its food, 'It is contemptible.'

And you say, 'What a burden!' 1:13
and you sniff at it contemptuously," says the **LORD Almighty**.

"When you bring injured, crippled or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?" says the LORD.

III. THE WAGES OF SIN IS LIVING UNDER A CURSE

REGARDING PEOPLE OF THE NATION - THAT DO NOT GIVE THEIR ALL

"Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king," says the **LORD Almighty**, "and my name is to be feared among the nations. 1:14

REGARDING SPIRITUAL LEADERS OF THE NATION

"And now this admonition is for you, O priests. 2 If you do not **listen**, and if you do not **set your heart to honor** my name," says the **LORD Almighty**, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings." 2:1,2

Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor me.

"Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will spread on your faces the **offal** from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it. 2:3

THE CURRENT CONDITION OF THE PRIESTS

And you will know that I have sent you this admonition so that my **covenant** with Levi may continue," says the **LORD Almighty**. 2:4

"My **covenant** was with him, a **covenant** of life and peace, and I gave them to him; 2:5

- this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. 2:6
- True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin. 2:6

"For 2:7

- the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and
- from his mouth men should seek instruction
-- because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty.

THE PRIESTS ACTUALLY BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST GOD

But 2:8

- you have turned from the way and
- by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the **covenant** with Levi,"
says the **LORD Almighty**.

"So 2:9

I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because

- you have not followed my ways
- but have shown partiality in matters of the law."

IV. THE CURSE IS BROKEN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND NEIGHBOR - UNABLE TO BE RESTORED

BREAKING FAITH / COVENANT WITH GOD

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? 2:10
Why do we profane the covenant of our fathers by breaking faith with one another?

Judah has broken faith. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has 2:11
desecrated the sanctuary the LORD loves, by marrying the daughter of a foreign god. As for the man who does 2:12
this, whoever he may be, may the LORD cut him off from the tents of Jacob-- even though he brings offerings to the **LORD Almighty**.

BREAKING FAITH / COVENANT WITH NEIGHBOR

A) Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 2:13

B) You ask, "Why?" 2:14

C) It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

Has ????? not made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. 2:15
And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring.

So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. "I hate divorce," says 2:16
the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the **LORD Almighty**. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.

V. THE LORD OFFERS HIS PURIFICATION OF OUR HEART IN PLACE OF HIS JUDGEMENT

A) You have wearied the LORD with your words. 2:17

B) "How have we wearied him?" you ask.

C) By saying,

"All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them" or
"Where is the God of justice?"

THE GOD OF JUSTICE WILL INDEED COME

"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. 3:1

Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the **covenant**, whom you desire, will come," says the **LORD Almighty**.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? 3:2

LORD TURNS TO THOSE HE LOVES - HE PURIFIES THE OFFERING BY PURIFYING THE OFFERER

For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.

He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver;

he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. 3:3

Then

the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. 3:4

LORD TURNS FROM THE UNGODLY

"So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and 3:5
perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the **LORD Almighty**.

VI. RETURN BACK TO ME - PRESENT YOUR WHOLE SELF AS A PURIFIED LIVING SACRIFICE

THE GOSPEL

"I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. 3:6
Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. 3:7

- A) Return to me, and I will return to you," says the **LORD Almighty**.
 B) "But you ask, 'How are we to return?'
 A) "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. 3:8
 B) "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "
 C) In tithes and offerings.

THOU SHALL NOT STEAL

You are under a curse-- the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me. 3:9

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," 3:10
says the **LORD Almighty**, "and

see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says 3:11
the **LORD Almighty**.

"Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the **LORD Almighty**. 3:12

VII. RECEIVE THE LORD'S PROMISED RESTORATION, PROTECTION, FAVOR, HEALING, ... AND LOVE

- A) "You have said harsh things against me," says the LORD. 3:13
 B) "Yet you ask, 'What have we said against you?'
 C) "You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like 3:14
mourners before the **LORD Almighty**? But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and 3:15
even those who challenge God escape."

THERE IS VALUE TO FEARING AND SERVING THE LORD; RIGHTEOUSNESS DOES MATTER

Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. 3:16

A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.

COMING JUDGEMENT

"They will be mine," says the **LORD Almighty**, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. □ 3:17
will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him.

And you will again 3:18

see the distinction

between the righteous and the wicked,
between those who serve God and those who do not.

LORD TURNS FROM - UNRIGHTEOUS

"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be 4:1
stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the **LORD Almighty**. "Not a
root or a branch will be left to them.

LORD TURNS TO - RIGHTEOUS

But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. 4:2
And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down 4:3
the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things,"
says the **LORD Almighty**.

"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. 4:4

"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. 4:5

He will 4:6

HIS CREATION TURNS THEIR HEARTS TO HIM...

turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers;
...OR HE TURNS HIS HEART FROM THEM
 or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

