

MALACHI

Introduction:

1. They Question God's Love for Them (Malachi 1:2a)

A) God proves His love for Israel via a contrast with His treatment of Edom (Malachi 1:1-5)

> God's love for Israel is revealed in choosing them (Mal. 1:2-3)

> God's love for Israel is seen more vividly against the backdrop of His treatment of Edom (Mal. 1:4-5)

God's promises for Israel guarantee their place in the land

Edom has no such promise (Mal. 1:4)

2. They seek to appease God not worship Him

A rhetorical question (Malachi 1:6a)

A) The People are not giving God the honor and reverence that is due Him

> How? Look at the gifts they are offering Him (Malachi 1:8, 13-14)

They wouldn't offer such gifts to their governor ... why would they offer them to God?

B) Even the priests have forsaken their place of honor as God's representatives (Mal. 2:1)

They were supposed to be a blessing to the people and minister as God's appointed servants (Malachi 2:7)

But the priests have forsaken the commandments of God (Malachi 2:2)

But the priests have forsaken justice (Mal. 2:8-9)

3. They refuse to acknowledge God's sovereignty in their homes

A) They choose to marry pagans (Malachi 2:10-12)

> Notice the connection ... these women will turn the hearts of God's people away to other gods

B) They choose to divorce the wife of their youth (Malachi 2:13-16)

> Faithfulness to God is revealed in faithfulness to marriage covenant

4. They refuse to acknowledge God's sovereignty in their land

A) Listen to these "people of God"

> They have turned God's Law upside down (Malachi 2:17)

> Remember the blessings / curses related to keeping the covenant? (Lev. 26)

Remember Asaph's struggle in Psalm 73 – it "seemed like" the ungodly prosper

B) God announces His remedy for the injustice among His people (Malachi 3:1-6)

> There will never be national justice / righteousness on this earth until the King of Kings comes

5. They seek independence from God

A) They are "robbing God" of what is rightfully His (Malachi 3:7-9)

> A good reminder to us that all we possess is God's

B) God calls His people to bring their tithes and offerings to Him and trust Him to care for their needs (Malachi 3:10-12)

> This is the foundation for life lived with God ... we obey Him and He takes care of us

6. The Day of the Lord is coming

A) In light of the Day of the Lord, serving God makes great sense (Malachi 3:13-15)

> If this life is all there is then there really is only one motto that makes sense ... Let's eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die.

> But since there is a day of reckoning, it is NEVER useless to serve God

B) God predicts the destinies of both the wicked and the righteous

> The wicked (Malachi 4:1)

> The righteous (Malachi 4:2-3)

C) Although the Old Testament has come to a close – the Law and the prophets, the story isn't over

> The prophecy of Elijah's coming (Malachi 4:5-6)

The words of the angel to Zacharias (Luke 1:1-17)