

Bible Reading Class - The Book of Malachi
October 19, 2023 - Chapters 1 and 2
Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1. The prophet Malachi is the last of the _____ Prophets and the book is the last of the _____ Testament; the book mentions the need to _____ the Law of Moses (4:4) and predicts the “_____ of the...day of the _____” following the appearance of “_____ the prophet” (4:5).
2. The book was written during the time of Israel’s _____; it’s likely that this book was written during the time of the work _____ between _____ and _____ B. C.
3. The background of the **Book of Malachi** is detailed in the books of _____ and _____; the Jews had returned from captivity under the leadership of _____ with a command to _____ the temple.
4. Around _____ B. C., with the encouragement of _____ and _____, the people completed the rebuilding of the temple; _____ led a second group back to Jerusalem; later _____ moved (**along with others**) to Jerusalem and became the _____ of Judah; He oversaw the rebuilding of the _____ of Jerusalem.
5. Malachi prophesized after the _____ around Jerusalem had been completed; the book was written for at least three reasons:
 - 1) It was intended to correct the _____ which had emerged among the _____ Jews, the corruption within the _____, the offering of polluted _____, the _____ of their wives to marry the women who were not _____, and the failing to give _____ as God had instructed.
 - 2) It warned the Jews of the _____ day of God’s _____.
 - 3) It promised the coming of a “_____,” identified as _____, who would prepare the way for the coming of the _____.
6. The book covers the following _____ sins of the people:
 - 1) doubting God’s _____ (1:2-5),

- 2) tolerating a polluted _____ (1:6-14; 2:1-9),
- 3) breaking their marriage _____ (2:10-16),
- 4) denying God's _____ (2:17; 3:1-6),
- 5) disobeying God by withholding _____ and _____ (3:7-12), and
- 6) questioning God's system of _____ and _____ (3:13-18; 4:1-3).

Chapter 1

1. The **Book of Malachi** opens with the prophet identifying himself, the writer of the book, **Malachi**; the Hebrew word for Malachi means "My _____." He had been sent by God to deliver the " _____ " of the Lord; this refers to God's _____ (revelation).

2. The _____ sin of the people, the prophet addresses, is their failure to appreciate God's _____ for them; God says, "I have _____ you (Israel); but the people inquired, "In what way have You _____ us?"

3. The prophet Jeremiah informs us that God had affirmed His _____ for His people (cf. **Jer. 31:3**); He told them that He loved them with an _____ love and with _____; they doubted God's love because of the many _____ (problems) that they were experiencing. These things were the results of God's _____ (chastening) them because of their sins - they forgot God _____ those whom He loves.

4. God responds to their doubt by giving _____ of His love; He refers to His selection of _____ to be His chosen people. He asked them, "was not _____ Jacob's brother?" The answer is _____! Then God continues by saying, "Yet Jacob I have _____; but I have _____ Esau " (v. 2). God is simply saying that He loved Esau _____ than He loved Jacob.

5. In this passage, God is not speaking of the two _____, but of the two _____ - _____ and _____ (v. 4); before the birth of the two brothers, as they struggled in the womb of their mother Rebekah, God selected the _____ son over the _____ son (**Gen. 25:23**). In **Romans 9:8-13**, Paul uses this passage as proof that God does not select according to the _____, but according to His own _____ (will).

6. In **Exodus 19:5, 6**, God made a _____ with Israel, and they became God's _____ people; even though God had _____ Israel for their sins, He always _____ them over other nations. _____ had sinned, and like Israel, they had been _____; however, unlike Israel, they had not been _____ from their distressed by God. The land they had once occupied had become _____ providing evidence that God loved them _____ (**hated them**).

7. God says the following about Edom, I "**laid waste his _____ and his _____ for the jackals of the wilderness**" (v. 3); Edom had been attacked by _____ and God had not allowed them to _____; the people were saying, "**We have been _____, but we will _____ and _____ the desolate places**"; but God says that He will _____ their plan.

8. This difference between how God had _____ Israel and how He had _____ Esau (**Edom**) should have _____ the Jews that God did _____ them; in **verse 5**, the prophet was hoping that Israel would learn and _____ that God truly did love them.

9. **Verse 6** introduces God's _____ sin of the people, directed especially toward the _____; it declares that they failed to _____ God; the people were not fulfilling their _____ in relationship to God. To make the point, God uses two _____: **first**, a _____ honors his _____ and **secondly**, a _____ honors his _____. God inquires, "**Where is My _____?**"

10. The people's actions, especially the priests, dishonored the _____ of God; but they ask, "**In what way have we _____ Your _____?**"

11. God answers them by providing evidence by stating, "**You offer _____ food on My altar**"; the priests cried out, "**In what way have we _____ You?**" God's table and His altar are used interchangeably; thus, when the people offered "**_____ food**" on God's altar, they despised His table and therefore despised Him.

12. They offered on God's altar the _____, the _____, and the _____; these were forbidden by God (**Lev. 22:18-25**); God asks the people, would the _____ be pleased with such offering? The answer is _____. If the governor wouldn't be pleased with such offerings, then why think that God would _____ them.

13. God makes a cry in **verse 10** that is similar to the cry of **Ezekiel 22:30**; the cry is, can _____ person be found that will _____ the practice of offering _____ and _____ offerings on my altar? God is saying, someone needs to “_____ **the gates**” and deny access to the altar when people brought _____ sacrifices.
14. It’s believed that **verse 11**, when talking about the _____ offering acceptable sacrifices to God is referring to the future when the _____ is established; at the present time, God’s people were _____ Him by offering _____ sacrifices.
15. In **verse 13**, the _____ complain that their _____ at the altar of offering sacrifices had become _____ to them; instead of their _____ being one of _____ growing out of _____ for God, they found their work a burdensome _____.
16. In **verse 14**, the prophet says “**cursed be the _____**” refers to the _____ (**dishonest**) person who _____ to God and then pays the _____ with a _____ animal; the vow is made voluntarily, and then instead of offering as God had instructed, they offered the _____, _____, and _____. Solomon says, “**Better not to _____ than to vow and not _____**” (**Eccl. 5:5**). The chapter ends when the prophet declaring that God _____ the best because He is the great _____ and His “_____ **is to be feared among the nations.**”

Chapter 2

1. **Verses 1-9** of this chapter continues with describing the sins of _____; the sins of the _____ of this section differ from what was described in the previous chapter; the prophet says to the _____, this message is for you whom I have made a _____ with, and you have _____ (**v. 1**).
2. In this section, God declares His _____ with the _____; they had dishonored the _____ office; in **verse 2**, they had failed to give _____ to God’s _____. As a result, if they didn’t _____ and live up to the _____ of the office, then God says that He was going to _____ them and their _____.
3. There’s agreement among most scholars that “_____” of **verse 3** doesn’t refer to _____ but “_____”; that is, God is going to take away their _____ to perform their

official _____. Furthermore, God is going to spread “ _____ ” (**dung/waste**) on their _____.

4. By not being able to perform their _____, the priests would suffer _____ because they received payment for their services from the sacrifices (**Ex. 32:26-29**).

5. In **verses 5-7**, Malachi describes what God’s _____ (**covenant**) consist of them doing the following:

- 1) to be blessed with _____ and _____,
- 2) to _____ (**respect**) God,
- 3) to _____ in awe of His name,
- 4) to _____ the truth so that _____ wasn’t found on their lips,
- 5) to _____ with God in peace and uprightness,
- 6) to _____ many away from iniquity, and
- 7) to preserve _____ so people could see instruction from them because they were _____ of God.

6. Malachi helps us to understand that the _____ duties included more than offering _____ and serving in the _____, but they had the responsibility to _____ God’s word to the people.

7. According to **verses 8-9**, the priests that Malachi addresses had not lived up to the _____ expected of God; instead of _____ people _____ to God, they had themselves _____ from God. Furthermore, they had caused many to stumble, had corrupted the _____ office, and had showed _____.

8. In **verse 10**, Malachi turns his attention to the _____ sin of the people, the failure of the people to _____ their marriage _____; the prophet approaches the subject of _____ by asking three questions: (1) “**have we not all one _____ [Patriarch - Abraham or Jacob]**”, (2) “**has not one God _____ us (all people)**”, and (3) “**why do we deal _____ [unfaithfully] with one another by profaning the covenant of the fathers?**” The last question was intended to make the people think about their sinful practices.

9. When a man divorces his wife, he was dealing treacherously with “ _____.”

10. Judah had _____ the Lord's institution of _____ by His people marrying _____, for this was prohibited by the Law (**Ex. 34:15; Deut. 7:3-4**).
11. **Verse 13** teaches that because of the people's _____, He was not going to accept their _____ regardless how much they cried _____ upon the _____; God was going to withhold _____ from them to show His _____ with their offerings.
12. Why did God have no _____ in their offerings? Because they had dealt _____ with their wives by divorcing them and marrying women whom God has instructed them not to marry.
13. **Verse 16** tells us that God _____ divorce for the reason implied in the text, that is, they were divorcing without _____, just because God allowed _____ (**cf. Deut. 24:1-4**); the words "I hate _____" express God's attitude toward divorce throughout the Bible; even though He allows _____, He still _____ it. He _____ it in the Old Testament because of the _____ of the people's hearts.
14. **Verse 17** introduces the _____ sin of the people of denying God's _____; the people had _____ God, yet they asked the question, "**In what way have we _____ Him?**" Malachi says to them that you have wearied God in that you did _____ and then ask where is God's _____? The people were living sinful lives and was wondering why God had not _____ them.