

{39} Malachi

King James 1769 Version

King James Paraphrase {updated 2/15/15*}

Chapter 1

(1) The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.
 (2) I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob,
 (3) And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.
 (4) Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever.
 (5) And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel.
 (6) A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master: if then I *be* a father, where is mine honour? and if I *be* a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?
 (7) Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.

Chapter 1

(1) The vision of the word of the LORD {Jehovah} to Israel by Malachi {messenger}^a.
 (2) I have loved you, says the LORD {Jehovah}. Yet you say, How have You loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? says the LORD {Jehovah}: yet I loved Jacob,
 (3) And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.
 (4) Whereas Edom said, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; this is what the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts says, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD {Jehovah} has indignation forever.
 (5) And your eyes shall see, and you shall say, The LORD {Jehovah} will be magnified from the border of Israel.
 (6) A son honors *his* father, and a servant his master: if then I *am* a father, where is My honor? and if I *am* a master, where is My fear^b? says the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts^c to you, O priests, who despise My Name. And you say, How have we despised Your Name?
 (7) You offer polluted bread upon My altar; and you say, How have we polluted You? In that you say, The table of the LORD {Jehovah} is contemptible^d.

1:1a - Malachi {מלאכי} - messenger, ambassador

Based on Malachi 3:10 which talks about the temple, Malachi prophesied sometime after the temple was rebuilt following the Babylonian captivity and before Israel was conquered the Greeks.

1:6b - fear - reverence, great respect

1:6c - Lord of hosts [multitudes, armies] - Hebrew: Sabaoth {צבאות}

1:7d - they offered their offerings to the Lord in a disrespectful attitude, they considered their offerings to the Lord a waste of their money and resources.

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(8) And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, *is it not evil?* and if ye offer the lame and sick, *is it not evil?* offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

(9) And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts.

(10) Who *is there* even among you that would shut the doors *for nought?* neither do ye kindle *fire* on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

(11) For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name *shall be* great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense *shall be* offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name *shall be* great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

(12) But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD *is* polluted; and the fruit thereof, *even his meat, is* contemptible.

(13) Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness *is it!* and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought *that which was* torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

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(8) And if you offer the blind for sacrifice, *is it not evil?* and if you offer the lame and sick, *is it not evil?*^e offer it now to your governor; will he be pleased with you, or accept your person? says the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts.

(9) And now, I ask you, call upon God that He will be gracious to us: this has been by your means: will He regard your persons?^f says the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts.

(10) Who *is there* even among you who would shut the doors *for nothing?* neither do you kindle *fire* on My altar for nothing. I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

(11) Because from the rising of the sun even to the going down of the same My Name *shall be* great among the nations; and in every place incense *shall be* offered to My Name, and a pure offering: because My Name *shall be* great among the ungodly nations^g, says the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts.

(12) But you have profaned it, in that you say, The table of the LORD {Jehovah} *is* polluted; and its fruit, *even His meat, is* contemptible.

(13) You also said, Look, what a weariness *it is!* and you have snuffed at it, says the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts; and you brought *that which was* torn, and the lame, and the sick; this is what you brought for an offering: should I accept this of your hand? says the LORD {Jehovah}.

1:8e - the Lord expects us to offer our very best with thanksgiving to Him. Anything less than our best is unacceptable. The Israelites were offering sacrifices that were crippled and of no value in the market place.

1:9f - regard for persons - your position in society does not impress the Lord Who is your Creator and the Creator of all things.

1:11g - heathen - ungodly, worshipers of idols, those who are opposed to God - even they will one day have to acknowledge that He is the Creator of all things and He deserves praise

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(14) But cursed *be* the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I *am* a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name *is* dreadful among the heathen.

Chapter 2

(1) And now, O ye priests, this commandment *is* for you.

(2) If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay *it* to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay *it* to heart.

(3) Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, *even* the dung of your solemn feasts; and *one* shall take you away with it.

(4) And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

(5) My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him *for* the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name.

(6) The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity.

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(14) But cursed *is* the deceiver, who has in his flock a male, and vows, and sacrifices to the Lord a corrupt thing: because I *am* a great King, says the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts, and My Name brings fear among the ungodly nations.

Chapter 2

(1) And now, O you priests, this commandment *is* for you.

(2) If you will not hear, and if you will not lay *it* to heart, to give glory to My Name, says the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yes, I have cursed them already, because you do not lay *it* to heart.

(3) Look, I will corrupt your seed, and spread manure upon your faces, *even* the manure of your solemn feasts; and *one* shall take you away with it.

(4) And you shall know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant might be with Levi^a, says the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts.

(5) My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him *for* the fear with which he feared Me, and was afraid before My Name.

(6) The law of truth was in his mouth, and evil was not found in his lips: he walked with Me in peace and equity, and turned many away from evil.

2:4a - the tribe of Levi [descendants of Jacob's son Levi] was to supply the priests for the Lord's temple

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(7) For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

(8) But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

(9) Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law.

(10) Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

(11) Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.

(12) The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts.

(7) Because the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: because he is the messenger of the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts.

(8) But you have departed out of the way; you have caused many to stumble at the law; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts.

(9) Therefore I have also made you contemptible and base before all the people, because you have not kept My ways, but have been partial in the law^b.

(10) Have we not all one father? has not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously each man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

(11) Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; because Judah has profaned the holiness of the LORD {Jehovah} which he loved, and has married the daughter of a strange god^c.

(12) The LORD {Jehovah} will cut off the man who does this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and he who offers an offering to the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts.

2:9b - partial in the law - they have been unfair and have shown preference to their friends and those of higher social status when judgments of the law are made.

2:11c - believers are never allowed to intermarry with unbelievers who worship other gods

- many of the tribe of Judah [Judah refers to the descendants of Jacob's son Judah]
- the tribe of Judah along with the tribe of Benjamin was carried into exile into Babylon as discipline because of their disobedience to the Lord's commands.