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# *Malachi*

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## **I. God's Complaint against Israel's Rejection (1:1—2:17)**

Introduction (1:1)

### A. A Renewed Appreciation for God's Love (1:2-5)

1. God has declared His love for His people (1:1-2a).
  - a. God declares His love—"I have loved you!" (1:1-2a)
  - b. People doubt God's love—"How have you loved us?" (1:2a)
2. God has demonstrated His love for His people (1:2b-4).
  - a. By Setting Us Apart to a Position of Favor (1:2b-4)
    - (1) "I have loved Jacob"—Demonstrations of Love
    - (2) "Esau have I hated"—Degrees of Love
  - b. By Surrounding Us with a Multitude of Blessings (1:3b)
    - (1) Stated: "I have turned his (Esau's) mountains into a wasteland."
    - (2) Implied: "I have turned your (Israel's) mountains into a garden."
  - c. By Saving Us from the Power of the Enemy (1:4)
    - (1) The Enemy's Plan to Regain Lost Ground (1:4a)—"We will rebuild the ruins."
    - (2) God's Plan to Resist the Efforts of the Enemy (1:4b)—"They may build, but I will demolish."
3. God has displayed His love for His people (1:5).
  - a. Witnessing the Love of God (1:5a)—"You will see it with your own eyes."

- b. Worshiping the God of Love (1:5b)—“You will say, ‘Great is the Lord.’”
- B. Worship that Honors God (1:6-14)
1. God is not honored by relationships without reverence (1:6a).
    - a. God as our Father—Worthy of Respect
    - b. God as our Master—Worthy of Fear
  2. God is not honored by obeisance without obedience (1:6b-9).
    - a. Going through the Motions (1:6b -7)
    - b. Giving God Second Best (1:8 – 9)
  3. God is not honored by ritual without repentance (1:10-13).
    - a. Worship is useless that does not come from the heart (1:10).
    - b. Worship is useless that does not show a burden for the world (1:11).
    - c. Worship is useless that does not evidence a true humility (1:12).
    - d. Worship is useless that does not demonstrate joyful service (1:13a).
    - e. Worship is useless that does not conform to Scriptural teachings (1:13b).
  4. God is not honored by promises without performance (1:14).
    - a. The Failure of the People (1:14a)
    - b. The Fear of the Lord (1:14b)
- C. The Role of the Believer as Priest (2:1-9)
1. The believer-priest is to be the pattern of a heart after God (2:1-2).
    - a. The Problem—No Heart for God (2:1-2a)

- b. The Punishment—No Blessings from God (2:2b)
- 2. The believer-priest is to be the promoter of peace with God (2:3-6).
  - a. The Condemnation of the Ungodly Priesthood (2:3-4)
    - (1) Rebuke of their Descendants (2:3a)
    - (2) Removal from their Duties (2:3b)
    - (3) Reminder of their Discipline (2:4)
  - b. The Contrast of the True Levitical Priesthood (2:5-6)
    - (1) A Covenant of Life and Peace (2:5a)
    - (2) A Call for Reverence and Awe (2:5b)
    - (3) A Commitment of Words and Works (2:6)
- 3. The believer-priest is to be the proclaimer of the truth of God (2:7-9)
  - a. The Duty of Displaying God's Truth (2:7)
  - b. The Danger of Distorting God's Truth (2:8-9)
- D. Lasting Loyalty to God (2:10-17)
  - 1. God is pleased with our undivided loyalty in worship (2:10-12).
    - a. Disloyalty to God affects the whole community of believers (2:10).
    - b. Disloyalty to God stems from compromise in the community of believers (2:11).
    - c. Disloyalty to God results in isolation from the community of believers (2:12).
  - 2. God is pleased with our undying loyalty in marriage (2:13-16).
    - a. The Perversion of the Marriage Bond (2:13-14)
    - b. The Purpose of the Marriage Bond (2:15)
    - c. The Priority of the Marriage Bond (2:16a)

- d. The Protection of the Marriage Bond (2:16b)
- 3. God is pleased with our undeviating loyalty in attitudes (2:17).
  - a. A Correct View of God's Loyalty (2:17a)
  - b. A Correct View of God's Justice (2:17b)

## **II. God's Call for Israel's Repentance (3:1—4:6)**

### **A. The Coming of the Messiah (3:1-5)**

- 1. The Certainty of the Messiah's Coming—His Personal Presence (3:1)
  - a. The Forerunner of the Messiah (3:1a)
  - b. The Arrival of the Messiah (3:1b)
    - (1) "The Lord you are seeking will come to his temple"
    - (2) "The messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come"
- 2. The Characteristics of the Messiah's Coming—His Purified People (3:2-4)
  - a. The Impurity of God's People (3:2a)
    - (1) "Who can endure the day of his coming?"
    - (2) "Who can stand when he appears?"
  - b. The Refinement of God's People (3:2b-3a)
    - (1) First Illustration: A Refiner's Fire
    - (2) Second Illustration: A Launderer's Soap
  - c. The Acceptance of God's People (3:3b-4)
- 3. The Consequences of Christ's Coming—His Perfect Punishment (3:5)
  - a. A Warning of Christ's Judgment (3:5a)

- b. A Witness of Humankind's Sins (3:5b)
- B. A Call to Repentance (3:6-18)
  - 1. Repentance means returning to a place of open obedience (3:6-7).
    - a. The Changeless God (3:6)
    - b. The Changing People (3:7)
  - 2. Repentance means returning to a place of generous giving (3:8-12).
    - a. The Curse for Robbing God (3:8-9)
    - b. A Call for Responsible Giving (3:10-12)
  - 3. Repentance means returning to a place of sacrificial service (3:13-15).
    - a. The Problem of Service that is Centered on Self (3:13-14)
    - b. The Problem of Service that is Compared to Sinners (3:15)
  - 4. Repentance means returning to a place of perfect peace (3:16-18).
    - a. God recognizes the repentant heart (3:16a).
    - b. God remembers the repentant heart (3:16b).
    - c. God rescues the repentant heart (3:17-18).
- C. The Day of the Lord (4:1-6)
  - 1. The Day of the Lord and the Coming of Judgment (4:1)
    - a. There will be no relief for the unbeliever—"It will burn like a furnace" (4:1a)
    - b. There will be no escape for the unbeliever—"Every evildoer will be stubble" (4:1b)

- c. There will be no posterity for the unbeliever—“Not a root or a branch will be left to them” (4:1c)
2. The Day of the Lord and the Coming of Christ (4:2-4)
- a. The Joy of Being in the Presence of Christ—“The sun of righteousness will rise” (4:2a)
  - b. The Joy of Sharing in the Freedom of Christ—“You will go out and leap like calves” (4:2b)
  - c. The Joy of Benefiting from the Victory of Christ—“You will trample down the wicked” (4:3)
  - d. The Joy of Living in Obedience to Christ—“Remember the law of my servant Moses” (4:4)
3. The Day of the Lord and the Coming of Elijah (4:5-6)
- a. The Promise of Elijah’s Coming—“Behold, I will send you the prophet Elijah” (4:5)
  - b. The Purpose of Elijah’s Coming (4:6)
    - (1) To Prepare the Lost—“He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children . . .” (4:6a)
    - (2) To Prevent the Curse—“Lest I come and strike the land with a curse” (4:6b)