

God Needs His Leaders to Love Him

Malachi 1:1-2:9

I. The **Love** of God for Israel (Malachi 1:1-6a)

1 The **burden(desire)** of the word of the LORD to Israel by **Malachi**.

A. God's Love is a **choice** He made(Malachi 1:2)

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**,

B. God's Love is explained by His **enemy** (Malachi 1:3)

3 And I **hated(enemy)** Esau, and **laid** his mountains and **his heritage waste** for the dragons of the wilderness.

C. The Lord will **fight** for those He loves (Malachi 1:4)

4 Whereas Edom saith, **We are impoverished(demolished)**, 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.

D. The **Blessings** of the Lord shows His Love(Malachi 1:5)

5 And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, **The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel**.

E. **Honor** Him(Malachi 1:6)

6a A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour?

II. The **Priests** are Rebuked for profanity(Malachi 1:6b-2:9)

A. The Religious Leaders are at odds with God(Malachi 1:6a)

6b 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?

B. They offer polluted bread - Bad **Sacrifice**(Malachi 1:7)

7 Ye offer **polluted(cast away)** bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is **contemptible(despised)**.

C. You wouldn't do that for your physical leaders(Malachi 1:8)

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(governmental leaders); will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

D. Beg God to make it right(Malachi 1:9)

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

E. Your sacrifice is Not a sweet Savor(Malachi 1:10)

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.

E. God's Promise(Malachi 1:11)

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.

F. God's table is polluted(Malachi 1:12-13a)

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(to blow) 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:

G. Should God accept junk(Malachi 1:13b-14)

13b should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

14 But cursed be the deceiver(fraud), 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.

Malachi 2:1-9

H. It's a Heart Thing(Malachi 1:1-2)

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.

I. I will corrupt your kids(Malachi 1:3-6)

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(amazed) 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**.

J. What a Priest should do(Malachi 1:7)

1. Keep Knowledge(Malachi 1:7a)

7a For the priest's lips should **keep knowledge**,

2. Seek the Law(Malachi 1:7b)

7b and they should **seek the law** at his mouth: for he *is* the **messenger** of the LORD of hosts.

K. Condemnation of the current Priests(Malachi 1:8-9)

1. They Departed out of the way(Malachi 1:8a)

8a But ye are **departed out of the way**;

2. The Caused many to stumble(Malachi 1:8b)

8b ye have caused **many to stumble** at the law;

3. Corrupted the Covenant(Malachi 1:8c-9)

8c ye have **corrupted(decayed) the covenant(confederacy)** of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

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