

UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

... the just shall live by his faith Habakkuk 2:4



Malachi

Faith In His Love

Believes God
Malachi 1:1-14
Lesson 21

Background Information

When the promised kingdom did not come immediately, the Jews began to question God's love, His justice and the way He was treating His people. When people forget God's love, it affects their attitude, which in turn reflects in their behavior. The people began to question the reality of their own sin, and the faithfulness of God. Their hearts have become cold and hard, causing God to send His prophet to exhort them to return to Him.

The priests had become indifferent, to the rules of worship and the people followed their example. Where did this neglectful attitude come from? It came from hearts that questioned God's love. Their apathy resulted not only toward God, but also reflected in their relations with other people.

Haggai and Malachi both focus on worship, centered on the rebuilt temple. Haggai exhorted the people on how they should act in the temple. Malachi's emphasis is on the attitude of those worshiping. Malachi parallels the book of Leviticus. Leviticus tells us how to worship, Malachi focuses on the heart of the worshipper. The prophecy of Malachi is God's response to the "loveless" condition in the hearts of the people.

The last book of the Old Testament takes us right up to the edge of a great chasm, with the bickering voices or the hard-hearted people on one side, and the stern warning of God on the other. Only the Lord Himself could provide a way out of the impasse. Malachi closes looking forward to the one who would prepare the way for the Messiah, after what we now know was some four hundred years of silence from their God. Only the promised Messiah could bridge that widening chasm between the people and their God.

Treasures of the Heart

A son honors his father, and a servant respects his master. If I am your father and master, where are the honor and respect I deserve?

Malachi 1:6 NLT



What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Malachi 1:1-5

1 The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

2 "I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' [Was] not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved; 3 But Esau I have hated, and laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness." 4 Even though Edom has said, "We have been impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places," Thus says the LORD of hosts: "They may build, but I will throw down; They shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, And the people against whom the LORD will have indignation forever. 5 Your eyes shall see, and you shall say, 'The LORD is magnified beyond the border of Israel.'



Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps and cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. **What does God want you to know about Himself?**

Malachi 1:6-8

6 "A son honors [his] father, And a servant [his] master. If then I am the Father, Where [is] My honor? And if I [am] a Master, where [is] My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts to you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' 7 "You offer defiled food on My altar, but say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' 8 And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, [Is it] not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, [Is it] not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.



A series of horizontal lines provided for writing or reflection, extending across the width of the page below the text.

Malachi 1:9-14

9 "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. [While] this is being [done] by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. 10 "Who [is there] even among you who would shut the doors, so that you would not kindle fire [on] My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," Says the LORD of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands. 11 For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name [shall be] great among the Gentiles; In every place incense [shall be] offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts. 12 "But you profane it, in that you say, 'The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, [is] contemptible.' 13 You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it," says the LORD of hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD. 14 "But cursed [be] the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, and takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished--For I [am] a great King," Says the LORD of hosts, "And My name [is to be] feared among the nations.



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What does it mean?



What lesson can I draw from my observations? Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?” Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

Malachi 1:1-5 _____

Malachi 1:6-8 _____

Malachi 1:9-14 _____

How can I apply it?



Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?” How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 *words* or less)

Malachi 1:1-5 _____

Malachi 1:6-8 _____

Malachi 1:9-14 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.

What **D**id **G**od **S**ay?

God's Words to us reveal what He wants us to understand Who He is and know His ways. **See if you can discover God's sovereign rule behind the scenes – and how He expects His people to act. Simply state what God is trying to communicate about Himself.**

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

Define three words: does it supply any added meaning to the text?



Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Malachi 1:1-5 _____

Malachi 1:6-8 _____

Malachi 1:9-14 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth...

Our love for God
lays the foundation for our obedience to God.

