UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

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

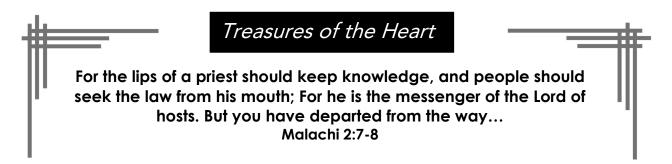


Background Information

Malachi now turns his attention to the covenants of God: the covenant with Levi, the covenant with Israel and the covenant of marriage. God first addresses the priests, they were chosen to "give glory to the Lord" by displaying His holiness with their behavior. God entrusted the tribe of Levi with the priesthood to teach and obey His law; but they corrupted the covenant and disobeyed His Word. God's judgment came by cursing their blessings: instead of blessing the world, Israel would bring trouble instead.

God's covenant with Israel was broken by her unfaithfulness to Him, and His covenant of marriage was being defiled as the men were divorcing their wives and marrying foreign women. God would no longer accept the sacrifices of those who stubbornly refused to obey His Word though they put on the pious platitudes of godliness.

When Malachi began preaching to the Israelites, he found that the people had cold hearts that had become indifferent and apathetic. When he confronted them with their sin, they asked a series of questions which reveal volumes about their spiritual condition.





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 2:1-9

1 "And now, O priests, this commandment is for you. 2 If you will not hear, and if you will not take [it] to heart, to give glory to My name, "Says the LORD of hosts, "I will send a curse upon you, And I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have cursed them already, because you do not take [it] to heart. 3 "Behold, I will rebuke your descendants and spread refuse on your faces, The refuse of your solemn feasts; And [one] will take you away with it. 4 Then you shall know that I have sent this commandment to you, That My covenant with Levi may continue," says the LORD of hosts. 5 "My covenant was with him, [one] of life and peace, And I gave them to him [that he might] fear [Me]; so he feared Me And was reverent before My name. 6 The law of truth was in his mouth, and injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, and turned many away from iniquity. 7 "For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and [people] should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. 8 But you have departed from the way; You have caused many to stumble at the law. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi," says the LORD of hosts. 9 "Therefore I also have made you contemptible and base Before all the people, because you have not kept My ways But have shown partiality in the law."

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 2:10-12

10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously with one another By profaning the covenant of the fathers? 11 Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, For Judah has profaned The LORD's holy [institution] which He loves: He has married the daughter of a foreign god. 12 May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob the man who does this, being awake and aware, Yet who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

Malachi 2:13-17

13 And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive [it] with goodwill from your hands. 14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. 15 But did He not make [them] one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," says the LORD of hosts. "therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

17 You have wearied the LORD with your words; Yet you say, "In what way have we wearied [Him]?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil [Is] good in the sight of the LORD, And He delights in them," Or, "Where [is] the God of justice?"

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 2:1-9		
Malachi 2:10-12		
Malachi 2:13-17		

A:

ow 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 2:1-9	 	 	
Malachi 2:10-12			
Malachi 2:13-17			

Challenge: Use the chapter. Summarize	e cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of e your findings in your own words.
What Did G	od Say?
	al what He wants us to understand Who He is and know His ways. See if you ca
discover God's sovereig	n rule behind the scenes – and how He expects His people to act. Simply stat mmunicate about Himself.
mat eed is trying to ee	
W hat words or phra	ases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.
• • nat words or print	According to Podicod. Repeated words help as discover the main point.
Define three words:	does it supply any added meaning to the text?



Cetting 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 2:1-9
Malachi 2:10-12
Malachi 2:13-17
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...

We expect God to be faithful to keep His Word. Why do we think we have the privilege of not keeping our promises?

Warren Wiersbe



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Message Notes