

UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

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



Malachi

Faith In His Love

Obeys God
Malachi 2:1-17
Lesson 22

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.

Treasures of the Heart

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. But you have departed from the way...

Malachi 2:7-8



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."

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 _____

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 2:1-9 _____

Malachi 2:10-12 _____

Malachi 2:13-17 _____

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 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



