

MALACHI 1 vs 1

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Malachi (the Septuagint suggests: an office, not an individual's name) this messenger lived around 450 - 400BC; speaking primarily to the small **House of Judah** the southern kingdom, 2 of the 12 tribes of father Israel... the few who later returned to the land still being governed by Persia -- modern day Iran. Even the most devout Jewish people started to doubt the promises God gave to His people. He had not come to His rebuilt temple, there had been no display of majesty or power exalting them among the nations such as sung about in **Psalms 68**. Their worship degenerated into a lifeless performance preferring their Babylonian Talmud traditions over their prophets each with a piece of God's word to declare: from Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Hosea to Zechariah and this one... they all spoke their piece clearly, Dr. Freeman said: the book reflects a dismal scene of creeping spiritual decay.



¹ **The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi** / the name means: *my messenger*; Isaiah 8 says, **to both** the houses of Israel – there are 2 distinct houses; sadly, the gentile church people and the Jewish people... cannot seem to rightly divide this truth.

This book foreshadows the Laodicean church and the Jewish people at the end of the time of the Gentiles; people not sure what to believe... thinking they were faithful, rich and in need of nothing... not knowing they were faithless, poor, naked and blind... and the LORD was standing outside knocking at their door. Line up the simple truths of the Covenant of God – the 10 words, *and no more*... given to His people; against both the gentile church and the Jewish people today... and you will clearly see their errors and discrepancies.

The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi / as he addresses no less than 23 contentious questions, as the people flippantly, acerbically... even childishly and caustically sass their God.

² **I have loved you, says the LORD.**

[1] Yet you say, Wherein have You loved us?

Was not Esau Jacob's brother?

declared the LORD: yet I loved Jacob / this name means: *scoundrel, cheater*; long before he was given the new name meaning: *governed by God*; the Lord uses this name Jacob throughout the OT to remind us He does not always work with perfectly moral people,

³ **And I hated Esau, and laid waste his mountains** / his high places...

and his heritage for the beasts of the wilderness.

⁴ **Though Edom says, we are impoverished** / we are needy,

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but we will return and build the desolate places / they're going to rebuild, bigger and taller – in defiance to God; their condition sounds deplorable having been punished by God, so, their idealistic effort seems noble, doesn't it? But like impudent children, they do not return to Him. Apparently, the LORD sees things differently;

thus says the LORD of hosts,

They will build,

but I will throw down;

and they will call them,

The territory of wickedness / the region of those doing wrong, not right,

the people against whom the LORD has indignation / wrath... **forever.** And you may ask, why is the LORD so angry with them? Prophet Obadiah has the answer: we learn whoever these people are, they were ancient brothers or cousins who stood aloof... who treacherously watched as they were carried away into captivity; who gloated over their calamity, who hindered refugees who were trying to flee... who undoubtedly thought, NOW, they would possess their brothers or cousins inheritance: but the LORD God who sees the bigger picture... He affirms His promises to His people.

⁵ **And your eyes will see, and you will say,**

The LORD is magnified from the border of **Israel.**

⁶ **A son honors his father, and a servant his master:**

if then I am a Father, where is My honor?

and if I am a Master, where is My fear?

says the LORD of hosts,

to you, **O priests,**

who despise My name.

And you say, [2] How have we despised Your name? / the dignified holy moly leaders... expressing their injured innocence join the caustic chorus of complaining children.

⁷ **You offer polluted bread** / defiled food... **on My altar;**

and you say, [3] How have we defiled You? / more of their injured sniveling.

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That the table of the LORD is despised... is how you do it.

⁸ when you offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil?

And when you offer what is lame and sick, is it not evil? / instead of offering the best, the firstfruits; the priests offered the worst, which means they could keep and eat the best for themselves.

Offer it now to your governor;

Will he be pleased with you, and receive you kindly?

says the LORD of hosts.

⁹ And now, will you ask God's favor, that He is gracious to us?

This has been your means / your method:

and will He receive you kindly?

says the LORD of hosts.

¹⁰ Who is there among you who will shut the gates,

that you **not** uselessly kindle fire on My altar? / who will close the doors and turn out the lights; who will stop the thievery and corruption in the Lord's house?

I am **not** pleased with you, says the LORD of hosts,

I will **not** accept an offering from you.

¹¹ **For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting...**

My name will be great among the Gentiles / the nations;

and in every place incense will be offered to My name,

and a grain offering that is pure:

for My name will be great among the Gentiles / among the nations,

says the LORD of hosts / so in this verse, the Lord spells out his agenda clearly to his people... to get ready and welcome lots of people in lots of places; and don't you wonder when the Jewish people will make this happen, especially if they are the claimed recipients of this prophecy from Malachi?

I mean, some of them now days in our genius 21st century... still insist they need to make a building where they can offer endless sheep and goats in some bloody ritual. Did they forget what Hosea said? Or what [Isaiah 53 said](#)? Or what Jeremiah said? Or what Micah said? Or here, what Malachi just said ? Oh, that's right they ignore the OT prophets preferring their traditions – too bad, especially since [the blood of bulls and goats was powerless to take away sin](#) – [Hebrews 10](#). I guess they can be excused for not reading the New Testament; but can they be excused for being a little too late to the party, and to what Moses and all the prophets pointed to: the Chief cornerstone that they already rejected: Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Oh, the dreaded and dangerous game playing of smart people.

But back to Malachi:

and in every place incense will be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure:

for My name will be great among the Gentiles / wow! I wonder how that was received. Malachi sure sounds like the LORD truly does love the world... and He will have no shortage of people from every nation and tribe gladly offering praise and thanksgiving and other sweet-smelling sacrifices to His great Name.

¹² **But you have profaned it** / Isn't it interesting just how similar orthodox Judaism, the roman church and muslims are – to name only a few late-comers; as they ignore all the prophets who spoke God's word? Those religious leaders who loved the drama, while they dishonored His Name... and ignored His commands; while they mishandled their duties, and considered what was designated sacred as something that is merely ordinary and common; so, they were hirelings... they are the paid staff... they are hocus pocus workers; and not real shepherds who give their last breath for the people,

in that you say, [4] How is the table of the LORD... defiled?

And the fruit of it, how is its food despised?

¹³ **You said also, [5] Behold, what a weariness is it** / how tiresome this is! those 10 commands *and no more*; first given by God in Covenant to Moses and the people... tools given to equip those who teach the people the ways of God... though further embellished unnecessarily – read [Ezekiel 20:25](#); and [Hosea 8:12](#), inflated to a level of overstatement... as layers of manmade hocus pocus were added... and all this drama was so boringly cumbersome to remember... while its initial significance was being buried under mountains of religious sounding rubble.

and you have sniffed at it, says the LORD of hosts / they dismissed what they were assigned to do as insignificant and demeaning;

and you take what was stolen,

and bring an offering that is lame and sick:

Should I accept that from your hand? says the LORD.

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¹⁴ **But cursed** / 7 times in this little book, the LORD pronounces a curse... assigning and binding something to destruction... where there was an opportunity for blessing, when they returned to the Lord.

But cursed be the deceiver / the swindler...

who has a male in his flock, and vows it,

but / like a used car salesman, like an expert at bait and switch...

sacrifices a corrupt thing / a blemished animal... **to the LORD:**

for I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts,

and My name is dreadful / it is to be feared; the Lord is powerful, and as Dr. Dallas Willard said, If His power is anything like electricity, then He is dangerous; and we better learn how to approach Him correctly.

Moses already told the people the simple truth when he said, [O Israel, what does the Lord require: but to fear the Lord your God; to walk in all His ways, to love Him; to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I command you this day for your benefit](#) – to live long and prosper in the land – [Deut. 10:12](#)... a truth for the whole world.

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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