

# MALACHI 2 vs 1

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<sup>1</sup> And now, **O priests**, this commandment is for you.

<sup>2</sup> If you will not hear, and if you will not take it to heart / chapter 1, just said: *O priests who despise My name...* now, Malachi writes to those who claim to represent the LORD: *If you will not listen, and if you will not take it to heart -- NASB; if your ears will not function, and your heart is too hard -- KEITH Version,*

to give glory / to honor... My name, says the LORD of hosts,

then I will send a **curse** upon you, and I will **curse** your **blessings** / the Lord will pronounce a curse, He will assign and bind to its destruction... what had been an opportunity for blessing:

yes, I have **curse**d them already, because you do **not** take it to heart.

<sup>3</sup> Behold, I will **[1]** corrupt your seed / cause your children to degenerate,

and **[2]** spread dung upon your faces / make you look like crap,

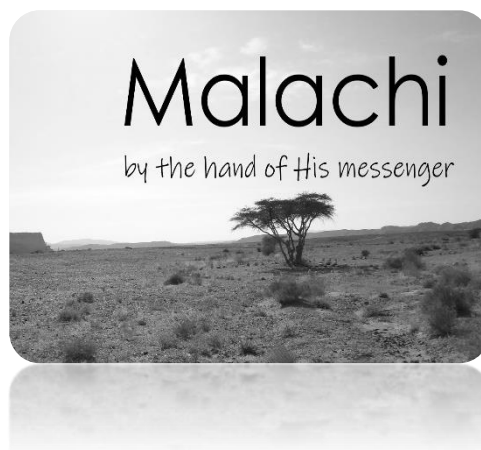
the **dung of your solemn feasts** / the crap of your celebrations -- their endless, vulgar, shity manmade traditions are in focus. We should pause to remember: the LORD is talking about their party-time crap... **not** His **7 high days** = set times... belonging to the LORD... 7 appointments He intends to keep; the LORD is faithful, **those 7 days we read about in Leviticus 23** are **NOT** what the LORD is talking about; the 4 first Days of the LORD are completed, only the **3 last days** equal in status to the first days – Passover and Pentecost await completion... they are still *shadows of things to come*;

and **[3]** one will take you away with it.

<sup>4</sup> And you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant might continue with *faithful Levi*, says the LORD of hosts / Levi, and his students, the Levites... were teachers of the law... who kept and did the commandments and applied the law without favoritism or partiality... unlike the thieves and robbers in policy-making positions now days who openly promote nepotism -- the Lord would have the same **3-part word of promise** for them in our generation... as we find in these 2 verses: He will corrupt their seed; spread dung on their faces; and send somebody to lock them up!

<sup>5</sup> My covenant of life and peace was with him; and I gave them / 10 commands... as an object of fear, wherein he feared Me, and stood in awe of My Name / Levi greatly feared and revered the LORD, and did what the Lord said; and thereby sought the wellbeing of others: Levi was honored with life and peace.

<sup>6</sup> The law of truth / true instruction... was in his mouth,



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**and iniquity** / inequity, guilt and libel toward God, and injustice toward others...

was **not** found on his lips:

**he walked with Me in peace and equity** / Levi kept the word of the Lord and did what all of Adam's race are invited to do... to walk with the LORD... to learn His ways, to hear His thoughts, to take to heart His words, said a little differently: to freely and without coercion... become more like Him,

**and did turn many away from iniquity** / from inequality; and in justice.

<sup>7</sup> For the priest's lips should **keep** / **guard to protect**... knowledge,

and we are the priests of our families; prophet Hosea speaking for the Lord said: *for the Lord God has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land....*

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you will be no priest to Me: seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will forget your children.... For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God, more than burnt offerings -- Hosea 4, 6.*

Dr. Dallas Willard reminded us, **knowledge** starting with the Lord's **10 commandments**... written by Him... is the information that enables us to act... in a way that feeling, opinion, or mere power and brute force do not give. In any subject matter, the responsibility to teach falls on those who have the corresponding knowledge. If you know the house is burning down, you must not withhold that knowledge; you must let the people know, so they can act appropriately.

In Proverbs, we learn... **the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge**... *fools despise wisdom and instruction -- Proverbs 1*; and we know, it is the fool, who has said in his heart there is no God,

Malachi says:

**For the priest's lips should guard knowledge...**

**and the people should seek instruction from his mouth:**

**for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.**

<sup>8</sup> **But you departed from the way** / that is true;

**you caused many to stumble at the law;**

**you corrupted the covenant of Levi,**

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says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore I made you contemptible / despised... and abase before all the nations,

according as you have not kept / guarded to protect... My ways,

but have been partial in the law / picking and choosing what law to keep and what to ignore; we could say: they did not take the high road, they took the lowest road, the easiest road... and showed favoritism as they dispensed justice... like now days: things don't change much, do they?

<sup>10</sup> Do we not all have one Father?

Has not one God created us?

Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

<sup>11</sup> Judah dealt treacherously, and an abomination was committed in Israel / the northern 12 tribes were carried away to Assyria years earlier... and they were gone; had Judah played a role in it?

and in Jerusalem;

for Judah profaned the holiness of the LORD / the simple sanctuary... which He loved,

and has married the daughter of a strange god / remember: Joseph took a wife who was Egyptian, and Israel in his old age, blessed those 2 sons of Joseph; so perhaps, this verse isn't talking about having wives from foreign countries. After all, we just heard the Lord declare: *For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting... My name will be great among the Gentiles / among the nations...* and that does not displease the Lord. So, what is the LORD God talking about in this verse?

Let's look at the temple: that building of brick and stone was something King David thought was a good idea; and though the LORD protested, He allowed David's son to build the temple to replace the tabernacle housing the Ark of the Covenant carried through the wilderness. You know, the Lord values freedom; He allows us to have our way often. Look how that good idea from 3,000 years ago... has become a deadly flash point in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Perhaps, this verse speaks of the House of Judah's faithlessness... had they brought back from Babylon more traditions and customs to attach to an ever- institutionalized temple... thereby crushing internal faith... while calcifying external pharisaical performance?

Prophet Isaiah spoke about those people who wrongly presume on their blessing from Emmanuel, who take counsel together... making alliances and agreements and military pacts and trade associations...with everyone but the LORD... simply because: God is with us... and so, we must be brilliant! -- Isaiah 8.

**Judah profaned the sanctuary**, which the LORD loved... and has married the daughter of a strange god / which the LORD hates; and **aren't we the dwelling place of God in the spirit** – Ephesians 2.

<sup>12</sup> **The LORD will cut off the one who does this** / the one who thinks they have some special, chosen status and thinks they can make associations and alliances... and jump in bed with whomever they want... while ignoring the LORD.

Personally, I remember reading many years ago: *Your words were found, and I did eat them, and Your word became for me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your Name O Lord God of hosts.* Jeremiah 15:16... very powerful words of promise that spoke to me profoundly; words I have carried with me all my days. But beside that, it is interesting, I remember reading: *The word of the Lord also came to me saying, "You will not take a wife for yourself nor have sons or daughters in this place* -- Jeremiah 16:1-2. And as the Lord led me on my journey of faith, He has made it so very clear why those words were likewise seared in my mind; even today, while going through Malachi, I am so thankful the LORD has called me by His Name,

**Judah profaned the sanctuary**... the Lord will cut off the one who does this...

**the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob** / whatever your pedigree,

**and the one who offers an offering to the LORD of hosts** / whatever your religious preference and performance; the Lord God can't be bribed... He won't be bought off like a fool.

<sup>13</sup> **And this you have done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out** / with lots of drama; and after the tears, then what?

**because He no longer regards the stolen, and sickly, and blemished... offering,**

**or receives it with good will** / with favor... **from your hand.**

<sup>14</sup> **Yet you say, [6] For what reason?**

**Because the LORD has been a witness between you... and the wife of your youth** / remember: the messenger is addressing **Judah**... those who were to be the faithful **praise of God**; like that of a literal marriage between a man and a woman: all the more Ezekiel tells us: 2 women came out of Egypt, the Lord God had 2 wives in their youth... who bore Him children -- Ezekiel 23,

**against whom you have dealt treacherously** / against whom they were unfaithful:

**yet she is your companion, and the wife of your covenant** / God expects us to be well-integrated with faithful commitments in our alliances and associations; in all our professional and amicable marriages.

<sup>15</sup> **And did He not make them one?**

**Yet where is one who has a remnant of the spirit?**

**That he might seek a godly seed.**

**So, take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth** / in other words: **Judah** straighten out your thinking... stop bleeping around with everyone... and learn what it means to be faithful.

**<sup>16</sup> For the LORD, the God of **Israel** says, I hate divorce / I hate putting away:**

**for one covers violence** / in Hebrew: **hamas**, what the angry world was full of when the Lord destroyed it in the days of Noah. You know, most people in the Church have a hard time realizing **God destroyed the whole world that had gone crazy wild... and saved only 8 people – 4 men and 4 women**. This phrase talks about what the angry world will be full of immediately before Messiah comes again -- and by the way things look on the TV News... we must be getting pretty close... because there is a lot of hamas going on today... violence, like a ticking time bomb... in every country... on every street corner.

**for the Lord God hates... the one who clothes himself with violence, says the LORD of hosts: So, take heed to your spirit, that you deal not treacherously.**

**<sup>17</sup> You have wearied the LORD with your words.**

**Yet you say, <sup>[7]</sup> How have we wearied Him?**

And notice the answer comes without hesitation.

**When you say, <sup>[8]</sup> Everyone who does evil... is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them** / they presumed to know the ways of the LORD... forgetting that like a Father, *He is compassionate, slow to anger, and quick to mercy*; His longsuffering is often to His own hurt... His seeming slow response is evidence of His great love; the crucifixion of His beloved Son is evidence that He finds no delight in sin and what is evil.

Moses already warned them 1000 years earlier about their inaccurate, very faulty thinking when he said: ***Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart; you will serve your enemies whom the Lord will send, until He has destroyed you – Deuteronomy 28:47.*** Dr. Dallas Willard of USC once said, we know God is powerful, and if His power is anything like electricity, then He is dangerous... and we better learn how to approach Him correctly.

**Or you say,**

**<sup>[9]</sup> Where is the God of judgment?** Those who ask: do they really want to know? When He appears, it will all be over, and eternity will be a very long time. Where is He? Where His word says we can find Him: Seated on the Throne; listening for the faintest voice to call Him.

**This is My Father's World**