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Malachi

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Malachi

Chapter 1

¹The oracle of the word of Yahweh to Israel by the hand of Malachi.

²"I have loved you," says Yahweh. But you say, "How have you loved us?" "Was not Esau the brother of Jacob?" declares Yahweh. "Yet I have loved Jacob, ³but Esau I have hated. I have made his mountains an abandoned devastation, and I left his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness." ⁴If Edom says, "We are beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins," Thus Yahweh of hosts will say, "They may build, but I will tear down. Others will call them 'The country of wickedness' and 'The people toward whom Yahweh is indignant forever.' ⁵Your own eyes will see this, and you will say, 'Yahweh is great beyond the borders of Israel.'"

⁶"A son honors his father, and a servant honors his master. If I, then, am a father, where is my honor? If I am a master, where is the reverence for me?" says Yahweh of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. "But you say, 'How have we despised your name?' ⁷By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, 'How have we polluted you?' By saying that the table of Yahweh may be despised. ⁸When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not evil? When you offer the lame and sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor! Will he accept you or will he lift up your face?" says Yahweh of hosts. ⁹Now entreat the face of God, that he may be gracious to us. But Yahweh of hosts says that with such an offering in your hand, would he lift up any of your faces? ¹⁰"Oh, if only there were one among you who would shut the temple gates, so that you might not light fires on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you," says Yahweh of hosts, "and I will not accept any offering from your hand. ¹¹For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations and in every place incense and pure offerings will be offered to my name. For my name will be great among the nations," says Yahweh of hosts. ¹²"But you are profaning it when you say the table of the Lord is polluted, and that its fruit, its food, is to be despised. ¹³You also say, 'How tiresome this is,' and you snort at it," says Yahweh of hosts. "You bring what has been taken by a wild animal or is lame or sick; and this you bring as your offering. Should I accept this from your hand?" says Yahweh. ¹⁴"May the deceiver be cursed who has a male animal in his flock and vows to give it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is flawed! For I am a great king," says Yahweh of hosts, "and my name will be feared among the nations."

Chapter 2

¹Now, O priests, this command is for you. ²"If you will not listen, and if you will not lay it on your heart to give honor to my name," says Yahweh of hosts, "then I will send a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have cursed them, because you are not laying my command on your heart. ³See, I am about to rebuke your descendants, and I will spread dung on your faces, the dung from your festivals, and he will take you away with it. ^{[1][2]} ⁴So you will know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant may continue to be with Levi," says Yahweh of hosts. ⁵"My covenant with him was life and peace, and I gave them to him; it was a covenant of fear, and he feared me, and he stood in awe of my name. ⁶True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness and he turned many away from iniquity. ⁷For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of Yahweh of hosts. ⁸But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi," says Yahweh of hosts. ⁹"So I also have made you despised and humiliated before all the people, inasmuch as you have not kept my ways, but have instead shown partiality in matters of the law."

¹⁰Is there not one father for us all? Has not one God created us? Why are we faithless each man against his brother, profaning the covenant of our fathers? ¹¹Judah has been faithless. An abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of Yahweh which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. ¹²May Yahweh cut off from the tents of Jacob the man who does this, the one who is awake and the one who answers, even if he is bringing an offering to Yahweh of hosts.^[3] ¹³And this second thing you do: You cover the altar of Yahweh with tears, with weeping and groaning, because he still does not turn toward the offering or accept it with favor from your hand. ¹⁴But you say, "Why does he not?" Because Yahweh was a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have been faithless, even though she was your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵Did he not make them one, with a portion of his spirit? And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth. ¹⁶"For I hate divorce," says Yahweh, the God of Israel, "and the one who covers his garment with violence," says Yahweh of hosts. "So guard yourselves in your spirit and do not be faithless."

¹⁷You have wearied Yahweh with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the eyes of Yahweh, and he delights in them," or "Where is the God of justice?"

2:3 ^[1]

2:3 ^[2]

2:12 ^[3]

Chapter 3

¹"Behold, I am about to send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he will come," says Yahweh of hosts.

²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like the fire of the refiner and like the soap of the fullers. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi. He will refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to Yahweh. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to Yahweh, as in the days of old, and as in former years. ⁵"Then I will approach you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, the adulterers, those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who turn aside the foreigner, and against those who do not fear me," says Yahweh of hosts. ⁶"For I, Yahweh, have not changed; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, have not come to an end.

⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says Yahweh of hosts. "But you say, 'How will we return?' ⁸Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In tithes and offerings. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and test me now in this," says Yahweh of hosts, "if I do not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing for you, until there is no more need. ¹¹I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil. Your vines in the fields will not lose their fruit," says Yahweh of hosts. ¹²"All the nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight," says Yahweh of hosts.

¹³"Your words against me have been strong," says Yahweh. "But you say, 'What have we said among ourselves against you?' ¹⁴You have said, 'It is useless to serve God. What profit is it that we have kept his requirements or walked mournfully before Yahweh of hosts?' ¹⁵So now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper, but they even test God and escape."

¹⁶Then those who feared Yahweh spoke with one another. Yahweh paid attention and listened, and a book of remembrance was written before him about those who feared Yahweh and honored his name. ¹⁷"They will be mine," says Yahweh of hosts, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession, I will have compassion on

them, as a man has compassion on his own son who serves him. ¹⁸Then once again you will distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Chapter 4

¹For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, when all the arrogant and all the evildoers will become stubble. The day that is coming will burn them up, "says Yahweh of hosts, " so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. You will go out, and you will leap like calves from the stall. ³And you will trample down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I act, "says Yahweh of hosts.

⁴" Remember the law of my servant Moses that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel, the statutes and the rulings. ⁵Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and fearful day of Yahweh. ⁶He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I do not come and strike the land with complete destruction."

Contributors

unfoldingWord® Literal Text Contributors

Nicholas Alsop
Scott Bayer
Larry T Brooks, M.Div., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Matt Carlton
George "Drew" Curley, M.Div., PhD, Professor of Biblical Languages
Dan Dennison
Jamie Duguid
Paul M Fahnestock, M.Div. Reformed Theological Seminary, D.Min. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Michael Francis
Laura Glassel, MA in Bible Translation
Jesse Griffin, BA Biblical Studies, MA Biblical Languages
Jesse Harris
C. Harry Harriss, M.Div.
Alrick G. Headley, M.Div., Th.M.
Bram van den Heuvel, M.A.
John Huffman
D. Allen Hutchison, MA in Old Testament, MA in New Testament
Jack Messarra
Gene Mullen
Adam W. Nagelvoort, M.Div. Academic Ministries, Columbia International University
Timothy Neu, Ph.D. Biblical Studies
Kristy Nickell
Tom Nickell
Elizabeth Oakes, BA in Religious Studies, Linguistics
Perry Oakes, PhD in Old Testament, MA in Linguistics
James N. Pohlig, M.Div., MA in Linguistics, D. Litt. in Biblical Languages
Ward Pyles, M.Div., Western Baptist Theological Seminary
Susan Quigley, MA in Linguistics
Dean Ropp
Joel D. Ruark, M.A.Th., Th.M., Ph.D. in Old Testament, University of Stellenbosch
Larry Sallee, Th.M Dallas Theological Seminary, D.Min. Columbia Biblical Seminary
Peter Smircich, BA Philosophy
Doug Smith, M.T.S., M.Div., Th.M., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Leonard Smith
Suzanna Smith
Tim Span
Dave Statezni, BA Orig langs., M.Div. Fuller Theological Seminary
Maria Tijerina
David Trombold, M. Div.
Aaron Valdizan, M.Div., Th.M. in Old Testament, The Masters Seminary
James Vigen
Hendrik "Henry" de Vries
Thomas Warren, M.Div., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, D.Min, Reformed Theological Seminary
Angela Westmoreland, M.A. in Theological Studies (Biblical Language track)
Henry Whitney, BA Linguistics
Benjamin Wright, MA Applied Linguistics, Dallas International University
Grant Ailie, BA Biblical Studies, M.Div.

