

MALACHI

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KFIR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY - SESSION 1
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

- We know nothing about Malachi except for the fact that his name means Messenger
- Last voice - leads to 400 years of quiet - the silence is broken by John the Baptist
- 47 out of 55 verses are spoken in the first person - highest percentage of any OT book. In a sense this is God signing off.
- The audience at this time is the Ephesian congregation that Revelation refers to.
- 7 Challenges and he presupposes their answers - the subject is their lukewarmness
- 100 Years after their initial return after the days of Zechariah and Haggai. Probably written during the time of Nehemiah

Here's what we can glean:

So - with the temple was rebuilt, sacrifice and feasts had resumed but the dramatic promises of the prophets like Haggai and Zechariah were still far from fulfillment. This left the nation discouraged and disappointed in what they thought were unfulfilled promises.

A revelation, Yahweh's word to Israel by Malachi.
2 "I have loved you," says Yahweh.

COMMENT

Morgan translates this as *"I have loved you, I do love you, I will love you," says the Lord.*

"I have loved you," says the LORD: Malachi would bring a lot of specific correction for Israel, but before God corrected them, He assured them of His love.

"Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' "Wasn't Esau Jacob's brother?" Says Yahweh, "Yet I loved Jacob; **3** but Esau I hated, and made his mountains a desolation, and gave his heritage to the jackals of the wilderness." **4** Whereas Edom says, "We are beaten down, but we will return and build the waste places;" Yahweh of Armies says, "They shall build, but I will throw down; and men will call them 'The Wicked Land,' even the people against whom Yahweh shows wrath forever."

5 Your eyes will see, and you will say, "Yahweh is great - even beyond the border of Israel!"

COMMENT

*. My love is in your election - Israel is around and Esau is destroyed - Obadiah promised judgment against the land and people of Edom. Apparently by Malachi's time it had happened.

* "A woman once said to Mr. Spurgeon, 'I cannot understand why God should say that He hated Esau.' 'That,' Spurgeon replied, 'is not my difficulty, madam. My trouble is to understand how God could love Jacob'" (William Newell in his commentary on Romans).

* If God loves me Why doesn't he (fill in the blank)
Herein is the love of God that He gave us His son as a propitiation for our sin!

6 "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, then where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is the respect due me? Says Yahweh of Armies to you, priests, who despise my name. You say, 'How have we despised your name?' **7** You offer polluted bread on my altar. You say, 'How have we polluted you?' In that you say, 'Yahweh's table is contemptible.' **8** When you offer the blind for sacrifice, isn't that evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, isn't that evil? Present it now to your governor! Will he be pleased with you? Or will he accept your person?" says Yahweh of Armies.

COMMENTS

This challenge in vs 6 runs through 2:9

He begins with the priests (leadership) ... the trickle down / they lost their sense of honor

They are giving second best / sense of entitlement / it now has become a JOB

When you are in love with someone you never offer second best

9 "Now, please entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With this, will he accept any of you?" says Yahweh of Armies.

10 "Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you," says Yahweh of Armies, "neither will I accept an offering at your hand. **11** For from the rising of the sun even to its going down, my name is great among the nations (Gentiles), and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering: for my name is great among the nations," says Yahweh of Armies.

COMMENTS

Do I get time off - no more serving with the heart - I need to be paid - overtime - I need to get reimbursed ... ENTITLEMENT~

We are often concerned with church growth, evangelism, and planting churches. Yet in some cases the best thing we could do for the cause of the LORD is to **shut the doors** on many churches.ii. "I am more afraid of profanity of the sanctuary than I am of the profanity of the street." (Morgan)

My name should be great among the Gentiles - looking forward - the Church

12 "But you profane it, in that you say, 'Yahweh's table is polluted, and its fruit, even its food, is contemptible.' **13** You say also, 'Behold, what a weariness it is!' and you have sniffed at it", says Yahweh of Armies; "and you have brought that which was taken by violence, the lame, and the sick; thus you bring the offering. Should I accept this at your hand?" says Yahweh.

14 "But the deceiver is cursed, who has in his flock a male, and vows, and sacrifices to the Lord a defective thing; for I am a great King," says Yahweh of Armies, "and my name is awesome among the nations."

COMMENTS

Weariness and sniffed at it
Roadkill for an offering?