



Walking the Ancient Path

Malachi

History of Israel

God's
Covenant
With
Abraham

Israel

Israel

Assyria

Judah

Babylon

Exile

Return

Prophets of Israel

Amos
Hosea
Isaiah
Micah

Zephaniah
Jeremiah
Nahum
Habakkuk

Obadiah
Ezekiel

Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi


Joel (?)
Jonah
(Ninevah)



This is the
message that
the Lord gave to Israel
through the prophet
Malachi. 1:1

Who was Malachi?

- **“My Messenger”**
- **100 yrs after the return**
- **Unique technique**
- **Called for heart-felt obedience**



**Malachi calls us
to move beyond
the veneer of
faith to a genuine
relationship with
God.**

The Test of "What Have You Done For Me Lately?"


God Says:

**I Still
Love You**

1:2-5

People Say:

**Yeah . . .
Really?**



**“I have always loved
you,” says the Lord.
But you retort,
“Really? How have
you loved us?”**



1:2

**Just look
at the
record!**



Their Faulty Thinking:

- **God blesses those He loves.**
- **Things are hard ... I'm not blessed.**
- **Therefore God must not love me.**

Reasons for Hardship

- **The World is Broken (we broke it, God fixed it)**
- **The evil one is at work (because God is wanting all to turn)**
- **God uses hardship for discipline & growth**

The Test of Leftovers

God Says:

**You
Despise
Me**

1:6-2:9

People Say:

No Way

“A son honors his father, and a servant respects his master. If I am your father and master, where are the honor and respect I deserve? You have shown contempt for my name! “But you ask, ‘How have we ever shown contempt for your name?’”

1:6

**Giving
God the
leftovers**

Their Faulty Thinking:

- **God doesn't see**
- **God won't mind**

Contrast to David 2 Sam 24

²² “Take it, my lord the king, and use it as you wish,”
Araunah said to David . . . ²⁴ But the king replied, “No, I insist on buying it, for I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing.”

The Test of Connecting the Dots

God Says:

**Men,
you've
failed**

2:10-16

People Say:

**Why
don't you
answer?**

Judah has been unfaithful, and a detestable thing has been done in Israel and in Jerusalem. The men of Judah have defiled the Lord's beloved sanctuary by marrying women who worship idols . . . You cry out, "Why doesn't the Lord accept my worship?"

2:11, 14

**Worship
is more
than
Sunday**

Their Faulty Thinking:

- **God can be played**
- **Integrity is flexible**

Malachi 2:14

You cry out, “Why doesn’t the Lord accept my worship?” I’ll tell you why! Because the Lord witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows.

The Test of "Yeah, but . . ."

People Say:

**Where's
Your
justice?**

God Says:

**You
weary me
- wait**

2:17-3:5

You have wearied the Lord with your words. “How have we wearied him?” you ask. You have wearied him by saying that all who do evil are good in the Lord’s sight, and he is pleased with them. You have wearied him by asking, “Where is the God of justice?”

2:17

Justice is coming!

Justice Is Coming

- **John the Baptist**
- **Jesus, the Lord**

Malachi 3:1

“Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.

The Test of Denial

God Says:

**Return
to me**

3:6-12

People Say:

**No need.
We're
here.**

“Now return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.

“But you ask, ‘How can we return when we have never gone away?’

3:7

**The
Defense
of Denial**

“Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me!

“But you ask, ‘What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?’ ‘You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me.

3:8

**Heart
Problem**

The Test of Me Centeredness

People Say:

**You're
pointless**

God Says:

**You will
see the
contrast**

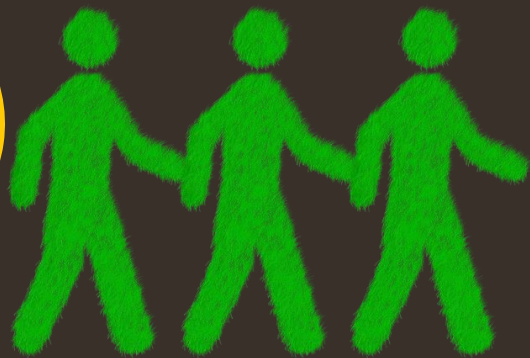
3:13-18

“You have said terrible things about me,” says the Lord.

“But you say, ‘What do you mean? What have we said against you?’ ‘You have said, ‘What’s the use of serving God? What have we gained by obeying his commands?’

3:13-14

**A One
Way
Love**



**Then you will again see the difference
between the righteous and the wicked,
between those who serve God and those
who do not.” 3:18**

A green hill with an orange outline at the bottom right of the page.



Malachi's Conclusion: Focus on the Day of The Lord

- **Evil Destroyed**
- **Healing through Sun of Righteousness**
- **Remember**
- **I'm sending Elijah!**



**What Have
You
Done For
Me Lately?**

The Test of Leftovers

**Connecting
the Dots**

**The Test of
"Yeah, but"**

**The Test
of Denial**

**Me
Centeredness**