**The Book of Malachi**

**Malachi Chapter 1**

1The burden of the word of Yahweh to Israel by Malachi. 2“I have loved you,” says Yahweh.

But you say, “How have you loved us?”

“Wasn’t Esau Jacob’s brother?” says Yahweh. “Yet I loved Jacob, 3but I have hated Esau, and made his mountains a desolation, and gave his inheritance to the jackals of the wilderness.”

4Although Edom says, “We are beaten down but we will return and build the waste places,” this is what Yahweh of Armies says, “They will build, but I will throw down, and they will be called ‘The Wicked Land,’ and ‘the people against whom Yahweh shows wrath forever.’” 5Your eyes will see this, and you will say, “Yahweh is great, even beyond the border of Israel!”

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, O priests, who show contempt for my name.

But you say, ‘How have we shown contempt for your name?’

7You offer defiled food on my altar.

But you say, ‘How have we defiled you?’

By saying, ‘Yahweh’s table is contemptible.’

8“When you offer the blind for sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is that not evil? Present it now to your governor! Will he be pleased with you or accept you?” says Yahweh of Armies. 9“So now plead for God’s favor that he will be gracious to us. With such *an offering* from your hands, will he accept any of you?” says Yahweh of Armies. 10“Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors *of the Temple*, so that you would not kindle *a fire* on my altar in vain! I am not pleased with you,” says Yahweh of Armies, “and I will not accept an offering from your hands.

11“For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, my name *will be* great among the nations. And in every place there will be incense burned for my name, and offerings *made* that are pure, because my name will be great among the nations,” says Yahweh of Armies.

12“But you profane it by saying Yahweh’s table is defiled, and its product, its food, is contemptible. 13You also say, ‘Behold, what a weariness it is!’ and you snort at it,” says Yahweh of Armies, “and you have brought *sacrifices* that were taken by robbery, and the lame and the sick. You bring this as the offering! Should I accept this from your hand?” says Yahweh.

14“But cursed is the deceiver who has in his flock a male, and vows to give it, but sacrifices to the Lord a blemished thing. For I am a great king,” says Yahweh of Armies, “and my name will be feared among the nations.”

**Malachi Chapter 2**

1“And now, O priests, this command is for you. 2If you will not listen, and if you will not take it to heart to give glory to my name, says Yahweh of Armies, then I will send the curse against you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have cursed them already, because you do not lay it to heart.

3Behold, I will rebuke your arm[[1]](#footnote-10212) and will spread dung on your faces—the dung of your feasts—and you will be taken away with it. 4You will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says Yahweh of Armies. 5My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them so he would be reverent toward me; and he was reverent toward me, and stood in awe of my name. 6The law of truth was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many away from iniquity. 7For the priest’s lips should preserve knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth, for he is the messenger of Yahweh of Armies.

8But you have turned aside out of the *right* road. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says Yahweh of Armies. 9So in turn I have made you contemptible and belittled before all the people, because you have not kept my ways but have shown favoritism for *certain* people in *applying* the law.”

10Don’t we all have one father? Hasn’t one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously, each person against his brother, thus profaning the covenant of our fathers? 11Judah has dealt treacherously and committed an abomination in Israel and in Jerusalem, for Judah has defiled the holy place of Yahweh, which Yahweh loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. 12As for the person who does this, Yahweh will cut off from the tents of Jacob the one who wakes and the one who answers, and the one who offers an offering to Yahweh of Armies.

13And this is a second thing you do: you cover the altar of Yahweh with tears, with weeping, and with groaning because he no longer pays attention to the offering, nor receives it with favor from your hand.

14But you say, “Why?” *It is* because Yahweh has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and the wife of your covenant. 15But not one has done so who had a remnant of spirit. Why one? He sought a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. 16“For I hate divorce,” says Yahweh, the God of Israel, “and the one who covers his garment with violence!” says Yahweh of Armies. “Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”

17You have wearied Yahweh with your words.

Yet 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?”

**Malachi Chapter 3**

1“Behold, I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare a road before me and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his Temple. And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire, behold, he is coming! says Yahweh of Armies. 2But who can endure the day of his coming? And who can remain standing when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire, and like launderer’s soap; 3and he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them as gold and silver, and they will offer to Yahweh offerings in righteousness. 4Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to Yahweh as in the days of old and as in ancient years.

5I will come near to you for judgment, and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against the perjurers, and against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, and who deprive the foreigner of justice, and do not fear me, says Yahweh of Armies. 6“For I, Yahweh, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

7From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my ordinances and have not kept them. Return to me and I will return to you, says Yahweh of Armies.

But you say, ‘How are we to return?’

8Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me!

But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’

In tithes and offerings. 9You are cursed by the curse, for you are robbing me, even this whole nation. 10Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and test me now in this, says Yahweh of Armies, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room enough for. 11I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes and he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor will your vine in the field cast its fruit before its time, says Yahweh of Armies. 12All nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land, says Yahweh of Armies.

13“Your words have been strongly against me, says Yahweh.

Yet you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’

14You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God,’ and, ‘What profit is it that we have followed his instructions and that we have walked as if in mourning before Yahweh of Armies? 15Now we call the proud happy; yes, those who work wickedness prosper, yes, they tempt God and escape.’”

16Then those who feared Yahweh spoke with one another, and Yahweh listened, and heard, and a book[[2]](#footnote-18663) was written before him *in order* to remember those who feared Yahweh and who thought about his name. 17“They will be mine, says Yahweh of Armies, on the day that I make up my own treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him. 18Then once again you will see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between the one who serves God and the one who does not serve him.”

**Malachi Chapter 4**

1“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud and all evildoers will be stubble; and the day that is coming will burn them up, says Yahweh of Armies, that it will leave them neither root nor branch. 2But to you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will arise with healing in his wings. You will go out and leap like calves of the stall. 3You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I am preparing, says Yahweh of Armies. 4“Remember *and obey* the Law of Moses my servant, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded to him in Horeb for all Israel. 5Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible Day of Yahweh comes. 6He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and strike the earth with a curse.”

1. MT = “seed” [↑](#footnote-ref-10212)
2. a scroll [↑](#footnote-ref-18663)