

Outline of Malachi

Themes:

- (1) A call to repentance and humble obedience
- (2) "The Day of the LORD" (3:23)
- (3) Elijah the forerunner

I. The LORD Has a Constant Love for Israel (1:1-5)

A. The LORD declared His love for Israel (2)

B. Israel questioned His love for them (2)

C. The LORD demonstrated His love for Israel in His election and blessing of Israel over Edom (2b-5)

II. The LORD Brought Five Charges Against Israel (1:6-3:18)

A. Charge One: the priests dishonor the LORD (1:6-2:9)

1. The priests despise the LORD's name (1:6)
2. They deny the charge (1:6)
3. Proof: They despise His name by defiling His altar (1:7-14)
 - a. They regard His altar as contemptible (7)
 - b. They offer defiled offerings (8)
 - c. They should entreat the LORD's forgiveness (9-11)
 - d. They sneer at the altar and its offerings (12-13)
 - e. They are cursed (14)
4. The LORD pronounced a curse on the priests (2:1-9)
 - a. He declared a curse on the priests (1-2)
 - b. He rebuked their descendants because they have broken the Levitical covenant (3-6)
 - c. He made them contemptible because they have departed from His ways (7-9)

B. Charge Two: Their men have broken their marriage vows (2:10-16)

1. They have married pagan wives (10-12)
2. They have caused their wives great sorrow (13)
3. They deny the charge (14a)
4. Proof: They have broken their marriage covenant (14b-16)
 - a. They broke the covenant of which the LORD was witness (14b)
 - b. They frustrated the LORD's purpose (15)
 - The LORD made them one
 - The LORD sought a "holy seed"
 - The LORD regards divorce as treachery
 - c. The LORD hates divorce (16)

- C. Charge Three: The people say the LORD is unjust (2:17-3:5)
 - 1. They weary the LORD with their words (2:17)
 - 2. The people deny the charge (17)
 - 3. Proof: They say the LORD delights in evil doers (17)
 - 4. Justice will be rendered in the Day of the LORD (3:1-5)
 - a. The Messianic Messenger will come (1)
 - b. He will purge the Levites (2-3)
 - c. He will bring just judgment to the people (4-5)

- D. Charge Four: The people rob the LORD (3:6-12)
 - 1. They have departed from the LORD's ordinances (6-7)
 - 2. They have robbed the LORD (8)
 - 3. The people deny the charge (8)
 - 4. Proof: They rob the LORD of tithes and offerings (8)
 - 5. Israel is cursed for robbing the LORD (9)
 - 6. Israel is promised a blessing for tithes and offerings (10-12)

- E. Charge Five: The people say serving the LORD is unprofitable (3:13-18)
 - 1. The people speak harsh words against the LORD (13)
 - 2. The people deny the charge (13)
 - 3. Proof: They say it is unprofitable to serve the LORD (14-15)
 - 4. The LORD promises great blessing to the faithful (16-18)
 - a. The faithful speak of His name and meditate on it (16)
 - b. A book of remembrance is written before the LORD (16)
 - c. The righteous are the LORD's jewels (17)
 - d. True righteousness will ultimately be recognized (18)

- III. The Coming Day of the LORD Will Rectify These Charges (4:1-6)
 - A. The proud and wicked will be judged (1)

 - B. The Messianic Sun of Righteousness will come (2-3)

 - C. The Law of Moses should be remembered (4)

 - D. Elijah will come as His forerunner (5-6)

 - E. A curse awaits the disobedient (6)