

MALACHI – 1:1-5

Introduction – God’s Love and Hate

1. Purpose of Studying Malachi

- a. To better understand Israel’s position in time past under the covenants
- b. Topics are germane to our study of Romans 9-11 (*Esau, remnant, God’s promises*)
- c. Malachi is a prophetic bridge between the promises to Israel and their fulfillment
- d. To learn God’s faithfulness toward Israel despite their failure - Jer 31:3

2. What to Expect

- a. Details – 4 chapters, 55 verses, 1781 words. Between 6-8 weeks of study.
 - i. Mal 1:1 is all we know about the author; it means “my messenger”
 - ii. The messenger will show up as Malachi, Levites, John, and Jesus
- b. Dispensational Context - It is written after Israel’s return from captivity
 - i. The temple is built, Mal 1:6, 3:10; they have a governor – Mal 1:8
 - ii. God is focused on issues of the earth: nation, temple, law, Israel
 - iii. It is a preface to John the Baptist’s ministry and the last days – 3:1, 4:1
- c. Audience – To Israel, the priests of Israel, the remnant of Israel
- d. Purpose – Rebuke the nation, to prophesy about the messenger of the LORD

3. Simple Outline

- a. 1 – The LORD’s charge against Israel (his burden)
- b. 2 – The curse upon Israel
- c. 3:1-6 – The coming judgment
- d. 3:7-15 – A plea to return to the LORD
- e. 3:16-4:6 – The faithful remnant in the Day of the Lord

4. Malachi 1:1-2

- a. “burden” – The words to Israel are burdensome, also God is longsuffering
- b. “I have loved you” – Although they didn’t deserve it – Isa 65:1-3, Rom 11:28
- c. “Wherein...?” – They don’t remember! Hag 2:5, 2:18-19; Psa 78, Psa 135-136
- d. “I loved Jacob” – The nation, because of the promises – Deu 10:15, 7:7-8, 4:33+

5. Malachi 1:3-5

- a. God is a consuming fire, a jealous god – Deu 4:23-24; Exo 34:14
- b. The love of God demands holiness – Amos 3:2; Prov 3:11, 13:24; Rev 3:19
- c. Love the sinner, hate the sin is unbiblical – Psa 5:5, 10:3; John 3:16 vs. John 3:36
- d. “hated Esau” – The nation, explained in Obadiah. God had no hate in Gen 25:23
- e. “I laid... waste” – God judged Edom, but it is not finished yet – Mal 1:4
- f. “call them” – The people of God’s curse – Isa 34:5
- g. Israel “shall see” how God displays his love by keeping his promises.

God is...

1. Love – 1 John 4:8
2. Holiness – Psa 99:9
3. Goodness – Psa 73:1
4. Righteousness – Psa 129:4, Jer 23:6
5. Merciful – Psa 103:8
6. Gracious – Psa 103:8
7. Jealous – Exo 34:14
8. Truth – Rom 3:4, John 14:6
9. A consuming fire – Deu 4:24
10. Fury and vengeance – Nahum 1:2
11. Longsuffering – Rom 2:4
12. Forgiving – Dan 9:9
13. Faithful – 2 Thess 3:3
14. Just – 1 John 1:9
15. Unchanging (immutable) – Mal 3:6

Things God Hates

1. God hates idolatry – Deu 12:31, Deu 16:22
2. God hates those that hate him – Deu 7:10
3. God hates workers of iniquity – Psa 5:5
4. God hates the wicked and those that love violence – Psa 11:5
5. God hates evil – Psa 97:10
6. God hates men who follow the words of strange women – Prov 22:14
7. God hates a proud look – Prov 6:17
8. God hates a tongue that lies – Prov 6:17
9. God hates the hands that shed innocent bloodshed – Prov 6:17
10. God hates the heart that devises wicked imaginations – Prov 6:18
11. God hates feet that are swift in running to mischief – Prov 6:18
12. God hates false witnesses – Prov 6:19
13. God hates those who sow discord among the brethren – Prov 6:19
14. God hates the froward – Prov 3:32, Prov 11:20
15. God hates a false balance – Prov 11:1
16. God hates the sacrifices of wicked people – Prov 15:8
17. God hates the covetous – Psa 10:3
18. God hates the way of wicked people – Prov 15:9
19. God hates those who justify the wicked and condemn the just – Prov 17:15
20. God hated Israel – Psa 78:59; (Though he did not hate them to destroy them)