

Malachi: When Priests Go Bad

Introductory Statement 1:1

Oracle or Burden?

My Messenger: 1:1 Malachi
2:7 Priests
3:1 The one who prepares the way
(Elijah, John the Baptist)
3:1 Christ, Messenger of the covenant

I. A Declaration of Love 1:2-5

- A. I have loved you (perfect tense) See 3:6
- B. I have loved Jacob, but Esau have I hated
Genesis 29:30-33
Deuteronomy 21:15-17
Matthew 6:24 (Luke 16:13)
Matthew 10:37, Luke 14:26
- C. Great is the Lord in both wrath and love in all the nations

II. The Sins of God's Priests 1:6 - 2:9

A. Bad Sacrifices 1:6-14

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| 1. Contempt for God's Name 1:6 | (1) Contempt for God's Name 1:12 |
| 2. Offering defiled sacrifices 1:7,8 | (2) Offering defiled sacrifices 1:12,13
(contemptuously) |
| Sacrifices are unacceptable
to the Lord | Worshippers are cursed,
unacceptable to the Lord 1:14a |
| 3. My Name will be great among
the nations 1:11 | (3) My name is to be feared among
the nations 1:14b |

B. Bad Instruction 2:1-9

1. Judgment for bad priests 2:1-4
 - a. I will send a curse upon you
 - b. I will curse your blessings
 - c. I will rebuke your offspring
 - d. I will spread dung upon your faces
 - e. You will be taken away
 - f. You will know I did this so my covenant with Levi may stand

2. Intention of the Covenant with Levi 2:5-7
 - a. A covenant of life and peace, I blessed
 - b. A covenant of fear, he feared me
 - c. He stood in awe of my name
 - d. True instruction was in his mouth
(no wrong was found on his lips)
 - e. He walked with me in peace and uprightness
 - f. He turned many away from iniquity
 - g. The lips of a priest should guard knowledge
 - h. People should seek instruction from his mouth
 - i. The priest is the messenger of the Lord of hosts

3. The Bad Instruction of the Priests 2:8,9
 - a. You have turned aside from the way (bad example)
 - b. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction
 - c. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi
 - d. You do not keep my ways, but show partiality in your instruction
 - e. I will make you despised and abased before all the people

III. The Sins of God's People

A. Breaking Faith in Marriage 2:10-16

1. Ungodly marriages 2:10-12
2. Violence in divorce 2:13-16

B. Calling Evil Good and God Evil 2:7,13-15

1. God will be the judge of who is evil and who is good 3:1-5
 - a. The two messengers of the Lord 3:1
 - (1) The one who prepares the way
 - (2) The messenger of the covenant who comes in judgment
 - b. The Lord will purify his people 3:2-4
 - c. The Lord will punish the wicked 3:5
2. God calls his people to repentance 3:6-12
 - a. Repent because of my love 3:6,7
 - b. How to repent: stop robbing me 3:8,9
 - c. Bring the full tithe as a test 3:10
 - d. I will bless you 3:10-12
 - (1) I will open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings
 - (2) I will rebuke the devourer
 - (3) All nations will call you blessed

(B). Calling God Weak and Evildoers Strong 3:13-15

IV. God's Plans for the Righteous 3:16-4:5

- A. The Response of the Righteous 3:16
- B. God's Promises for the Righteous 3:16 - 4:3
 - 1. The book of remembrance
 - 2. His treasured possession
 - 3. Distinctly known as God's people
 - 4. Not harmed in judgment
 - 5. In the end: healing, joy, victory
- C. God's Instructions for the Righteous 4:4,5
 - 1. Obey the covenant
 - 2. Look for the coming of Elijah