

THE BOOK OF MALACHI

CHAPTER ONE

¹The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. ²I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, **Wherein hast thou loved us?** Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, ³And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. ⁴Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever. ⁵And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel. ⁶A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master: if then I *be* a father, where *is* mine honour? and if I *be* a master, where *is* my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, **Wherein have we despised thy name?** ⁷Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, **Wherein have we polluted thee?** In that ye say, The table of the LORD *is* contemptible. ⁸And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, *is it* not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, *is it* not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts. ⁹And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts. ¹⁰Who *is there* even among you that would shut the doors *for nought?* neither do ye kindle *fire* on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand. ¹¹For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name *shall be* great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense *shall be* offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name *shall be* great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts. ¹²But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD *is* polluted; and the fruit thereof, *even his meat, is* contemptible. ¹³Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness *is it!* and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought *that which was* torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD. ¹⁴But cursed *be* the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I *am* a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name *is* dreadful among the heathen.

CHAPTER TWO

¹And now, O ye priests, this commandment *is* for you. ²If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay *it* to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay *it* to heart. ³Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, *even the dung of your solemn feasts;* and *one shall take you away with it.* ⁴And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the LORD of hosts. ⁵My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him *for the fear wherewith he feared me,* and was afraid before my name. ⁶The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. ⁷For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he *is* the messenger of the LORD of hosts. ⁸But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts. ⁹Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law. ¹⁰Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers? ¹¹Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god. ¹²The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts. ¹³And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth *it* with good will at your hand. ¹⁴Yet ye say, **Wherefore?** Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet *is* she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. ¹⁵And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. ¹⁶For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for *one* covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously. ¹⁷Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, **Wherein have we wearied him?** When ye say, Every one that doeth evil *is* good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, **Where is the God of judgment?**

CHAPTER THREE

¹Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. ²But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he *is* like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: ³And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. ⁴Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years. ⁵And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in *his* wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger *from his right,* and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. ⁶For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. ⁷Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept *them.* Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, **Wherein shall we return?** ⁸Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, **Wherein have we robbed thee?** In tithes and offerings. ⁹Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even this whole nation.* ¹⁰Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.* ¹¹And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. ¹²And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts. ¹³Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, **What have we spoken so much against thee?** ¹⁴Ye have said, *It is* vain to serve God: and **what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?** ¹⁵And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, *they that tempt God* are even delivered. ¹⁶Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it,* and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. ¹⁷And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. ¹⁸Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

CHAPTER FOUR

¹For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. ²But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. ³And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do *this,* saith the LORD of hosts. ⁴Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, *with the statutes and judgments.* ⁵Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: ⁶And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Hecklers Of The Holy

**And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till *there was no remedy.*
(2 Chronicles 36:15-16)**

MALACHI'S DAY	OUR DAY
The exiles trickle back from their captivity in several stages	Doctrinal truth and Apostolic practice brings the church out of the Dark Ages, "line upon line"
In less than a century the people have backslidden and descended into mere ritual	In less than a century after the awakening of 1900, Pentecostalism has become just another religion
Many of them have sunk into worse sin than that which took them into captivity	False doctrine, ritualism and immorality abound, worse than that which commenced the Dark Ages
It has been 2000 years since God made His covenant with Abraham	It has been 2000 years since Jesus died on Calvary to open up a "New Covenant in His blood"
Many of God's promises to Israel had not been fulfilled in their ultimate sense	Though the church has been blessed, God's ultimate purposes are yet to be accomplished
The long anticipated Messiah has not arrived so the people are complacent	The long anticipated Messiah has not returned so His people are complacent once again!
God's true messenger preaches judgment and a call to repentance	God's true messengers still preach His judgment and a call to repentance!

(QUESTIONS FROM THE NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

FIRST BURDEN: GOD LOVES YOU

Question: *How have you loved us? (1:2)*

SECOND BURDEN: YOU HAVE DESPISED THE LORD

Questions: *How have we ever despised your name? (1:6)*
How have we defiled the sacrifices? (1:7)

THIRD BURDEN: GOD CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR WORSHIP

Question: *Why has the Lord abandoned us? (2:14)*

FOURTH BURDEN: YOUR COMPLACENCY IS A WEARINESS TO GOD

Questions: *How have we wearied him? (2:17)*
Where is the God of justice? (2:17)

FIFTH BURDEN: PLEASE RETURN TO THE LORD

Questions: *How can we return when we have never gone away? (3:7)*
When did we ever cheat you? (3:8)

SIXTH BURDEN: YOUR COMPLAINTS GRIEVE GOD'S HEART

Questions: *How have we spoken against you? (3:13)*
What's the use of obeying God? (3:14)