

Malachi 1:1 - 2:9

God's Perspective

Lesson 20

Malachi is the last book in the Old Testament and is also last in the Hebrew Scriptures of the prophets. It is fitting that God chose to close out this period of Israel's history with the words of His prophet. Ezra the priest, Nehemiah governor and lay leader, and Malachi the prophet were all contemporaries of one another as well as God's men sent to the exiles who had returned to Jerusalem.

God's Love - Malachi 1:1-5

1. In a series of questions, God reveals His perspective vs. the people's perspective on their relationship. Using Malachi 1:1:
 - What is this message called?

 - Who is doing the speaking?

 - To whom is he speaking?

 - Who is the messenger?

2. Then, using Malachi 1:2:
 - What is the Lord's opening statement?

 - How do the people respond to this statement?

 - What does the Lord say to their question?

Background

3. Who were Jacob and Esau? (Genesis 25:19-26)

4. What does the text highlight in Genesis 25:27-34 about each son?

Esau	Jacob

5. What nations descended from these two sons?

- Esau (Genesis 36:1) = _____
- Jacob (Genesis 35:10) = _____

6. Using Malachi 1:4, notice the "we", "I", and "they" statements. What do these statements tell you about this nation's relationship with the Lord?

7. The Lord said He will crush Edom. When that takes place and Israel sees it "with your own eyes" what will Israel finally realize? (Malachi 1:5)

Priests Dishonor the Lord - Malachi 1:6-14

8. In the second series of questions the Lord begins by describing two relationships, son to father and servant to master. Using Malachi 1:6:

- What word does He use to describe those relationships?
- The Lord states He is Israel's father and master, and then in two questions what does He ask?
- What title is used for the Lord?
- To whom specifically is the Lord directing His comments?
- Why?

9. They in turn ask how they are doing this. How does the Lord answer their question? (vs. 7a)

10. They ask again "*how we are doing that*", to which the Lord answers that they say the Lord's Table is contemptible and then lists the ways they are showing contempt. Using Malachi 1:8:
 - What does the Lord say they are offering to Him?

 - What question does He ask them regarding these offering?

11. Then He said, "*Try offering them to your governor!*" What was the Lord saying to these priests?

12. When the priests were offering sacrifices, what were they also asking of the Lord? (vs. 9)

13. As this point in the dialogue, the Lord shares His feeling about what worship and the sacrificial system had become. What does He wish for and why? (vs. 10)

14. Even though this is going on at the House of the Lord in Jerusalem, what does the Lord say will take place outside of Israel? (vs. 11)

15. He describes the attitude of the priests in Jerusalem. Using Malachi 1:12 & 13, what does He say about:
 - The Lord's Table?

 - Its food?

 - The priests' attitudes?

 - Their sacrificial animals?

16. "Should I accept them from your hands", says the Lord? Then He vows a curse upon such a one who would dare to bring a defiled sacrifice to Him. Using Malachi 1:14:

- What does He call this person?

- Why?

- When a person does that, what do you think he/she is saying to the Lord?

- What does the Lord say about Himself?

Warning to the Priests - Malachi 2:1-9

17. The Lord continues His warning saying He will curse them and their blessings if they do not do what? (vs. 1 & 2)

18. What else does the Lord say He will do because of their behavior? (vs. 3)

19. These are harsh words from the Lord but it seems the only way he can get them to pay attention. Using Malachi 2:4:

- What does He hope they will recognize?

- Why does He say He wants this?

20. What was significant about Levi? (Numbers 3:11-13)

21. Why the tribe of Levi, or Levites? (Exodus 32:1, 7, 19, 20, 25-29)

22. The Lord made a covenant with the Levites. Using Malachi 2:5:
 - What did the Lord call it?

 - What does the Lord say this covenant required of the Levites?

23. How is one who is truly following this covenant described? (vs. 6)

24. Who may the Lord have been referring to? (Numbers 25:10-13)

25. Why did the Lord set aside the priests? (vs. 7)

26. Why is the Lord so angry with these priests? (vs. 8)

27. Therefore, the Lord pronounced His judgment upon them. What does the Lord say He has caused and why? (vs. 9)