

Malachi 1.1-5

“Love that will not Let Us Go”

Necessity of CORRECT BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION “buffet my body”

TWO CHARACTERISTICS of American Society > Boredom and Sarcasm

Boredom > seen in VORACIOUS Entertainment Appetite

What is Awesome, Thrilling, Captivating soon is Old, Stale, BOOORING

Even Janet Jackson’s WARDROBE MALFUNCTION cannot Hold our Attention

Sarcasm > Endless QUESTIONING, Doubting, Attacking of any Authority  
Who are You? / Who said so? / Why should I? / Who’s gonna make me?

Nothing NEW Under the Sun > Flashback to 450 BC

Insignificant Province of Persian Emp. – Judah – filled w/ Bored & Sarcastic Jews

3 Words of Intro: 1. People had DRAMATIC History but DULL PRESENT  
to Malachi

a) Temple was REBUILT > by Gov. Zerababel; Malachi follows Haggai and  
Zechariah > this was a Puny Temple mere Shadow of Solomon’s Temple

b) Jews were under CIVIL Ruler > “Governor”; before death of Nehemiah, was  
LAST civil ruler > No More King over Israel > Glory Departed

About Thousand years since > Mt. Sinai SHOOK and Thunder Roared  
as MOSES RECEIVED LAW OF GOD ON TABLETS OF STONE

500 years since DAVID and Mighty Men > Slayed 10,000’s

Several hundred years since ELIJAH was TAKEN UP to Heaven

100 years earlier EZEKIEL had Prophesied about God’s Temple – 43.4

“The glory of the LORD entered the temple”

BUT to Malachi’s hearers – it was ICHABOD > “glory had departed”

Don McLean “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost took the last train to the coast”

I WONDER - AS A GUEST HERE - IS THERE // Kazaks and Jews

Ex - Ablai Khan, Zoltaksan, Boganbybatir-- more than street names that are  
difficult to pronounce > FORGOTTEN HEROES >

Between those heroes and TODAY > Painful Memories and Realities

- a - LOST LAND > OVER RUN by Foreign Power
- b – Many People LOST their LANGUAGE
- c – Society Adrift / LOST MEANING > BROKEN MORAL COMPASS

1. People had DRAMATIC History but DULL PRESENT
2. Yesterday's PROMISES demands Today's OBEDIENCE

#### HARD TO ACCEPT IN A THROW AWAY SOCIETY

- Finish Plastic Bottle of Coca-Cola THROW IT AWAY!
- Stop Loving your Old Spouse THROW THEM AWAY!
- God does not seem Near, Fair, Exciting THROW HIM AWAY!

Basis Malachi's Oracle > Binding Promise Israel had made with God >  
Oath in Blood > COVENANT

Ethical Issues // Nehemiah 1. Mixed Marriages > believers with unbelievers  
2. Failure to Tithe 3. No Concern to Keep the Sabbath  
4. Corrupt Priests 5. Social Problems– sorcery, extortion, perjury, adultery, injustice

3. GOD IS THE SAME yesterday, today, and forever

Malachi called to Minister in BORING DAYS > Uneventful Waiting Period  
God?? IF THERE IS A GOD > seems Cold, Uncaring, Distant, Weak

TEENAGE FAITH > brazenly asks “Why?” “What for?” “Why should I?”  
NOT INNOCENCE OF CHILDHOOD > because Mommy & Daddy SAID  
Church in KZ > Moving into Teenage Years? > is it Ready?

Rejoice to Hear Great Numbers ENTER Front Doors of some Churches  
Rarely Hear about Numbers who EXIT the Back Door

Malachi's Portrait of God is Magnificent -

God loves His People – 1.2 / God the Father and Master of Israel – 1.6  
God our Creator – 2.10 / The God of Justice – 2.17  
God does not Change – 3.6 / God is Honest – 3.13

CLOSE OF OLD TESTAMENT > See 2 Clear Themes

1. FaithLESSNESS of Israel
2. FaithFULNESS of the God who Covenanted with Israel

THOMAS MOORE “Malachi is the transition-link between the two great epochs of redemption – the last note of that magnificent oratorio of revelation, whose wailings of sorrow and breathings of hope were soon to give place to the richer song, which should not only be of Moses, but also of the Lamb; and tell not only of Eden and Sinai, but also of Calvary and Heaven.”

1. Surprise of God’s Love 2. Selectivity of G’s L 3. Sign of God’s Love

### 1. Surprise of God’s Love

Old Malachi has a -

MODERN THEME > Man can bring God DOWN > We JUDGE God

TEENAGE FAITH > brazenly asks “Why?” “What for?” “Why should I?”

RECURRING WORD in this Oracle > How?” > 7 Examples

1.2 "I have loved you," says the LORD. "But you ask, `How have you loved us?"

1.6 "It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. "But you ask, `How have we shown contempt for your name?"

1.7 "You place defiled food on my altar. "But you ask, `How have we defiled you?"

2.17 You have wearied the LORD with your words. "How have we wearied him?"

3.7 Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, `How are we to return?"

3.8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, `How do we rob you?"

3.13 "You have said harsh things against me," says the LORD. "Yet you ask, `What have we said against you?"

RELIGIOUS PEOPLE > Not Outright Rejection > but Obnoxious Rebellion  
“having a form of godliness but denying its power” 2 Timothy 3.5

BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE > GOD OWES US AN ANSWER!

SURPRISING RESPONSE > Only God Could Respond this Way > LOVE!

GRACE > Undeserved Loved > Unwanted Love > Unstoppable Love

God SAYS "I love you" by Revelation

v. 1 "An oracle: The word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi."

GOD LOVED THEM SO MUCH HE SENT PROPHET MALACHI

Do not Know much about Malachi > No other Biblical ref. > Bold Witness

GOD HIMSELF > Central Figure and Chief Spokesman of this Oracle  
Of the 55 verses > 47 of them are a Direct Address from God

After this Message Israel would enter 400 silent years > No Revelation

Prophet Amos: "The days are coming," declares the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine through the land-- not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD. Men will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it."  
Amos 8.11-12

Billion People STAGGER & SEARCH in our World TODAY  
Have NOT YET HEARD the Good News of Jesus Christ

God SHOWS "I love you" in Redemption

v. 2 "I have loved you," says the LORD > Mercy of His Covenant

What CONCERNS God MOST of All > Our RELATIONSHIP with Him

Peter > Guilty, Ashamed, Defeated > Denied Jesus three Times

Jesus: "Peter, do you love me? Do you love me? Do you truly love me?"

NOT JUST NEW TESTAMENT LOVE > way back in Garden of Eden

Adam > Guilty, Ashamed, wearing fig leaves, feeble attempt to be restored  
God: "Where are you Adam?" I love you, I made you in my own image,  
I can cleanse and clothe you

God Loves, Forgives, Restores, Renews, and God keeps on Loving  
"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4.19

LAW is given to those who FIRST RECEIVED GRACE

## 2. Selectivity of God's Love

the 7 HOW Questions > IMPLY WE DETERMINE what is Fair, Right, Just!

VERSE THAT MOST THINK PARTICULARLY UNFAIR -

v. 2 "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" the LORD says. "Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated"

Genesis 25.23 The LORD said to (a pregnant woman named Rebekah), "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger."

Romans 9 > Apostle Paul's Divine Commentary - "Rebekah's children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad--in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls--she was told, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. 9.10-16

WAS JACOB LOVED FOR HIS VIRTUE? did he deserve God's Love?

Bargained for Birthright and Betrayed his Blind father for the Blessing

Esau said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob? He has deceived me these two times: He took my birthright, and now he's taken my blessing!" Gen 27.36

Prophet Obadiah > preached against descendents of Esau > Nation of Edom

Edom had NO BROTHERLY LOVE for Israel

1.6,8 "how Esau will be ransacked, his hidden treasures pillaged!... In that day," declares the LORD, "will I not destroy the wise men of Edom?"

BY THE TIME OF MALACHI'S ORACLE > Prophecy is Fulfilled

v. 3 "I have turned his mountains into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals." Edom may say, "Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins." But this is what the LORD Almighty says: "They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the LORD."

PROTECTIVE LOVE of a JEALOUS GOD > defends His Covenant People

JESUS: "No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." Matthew 11.27

BIBLE expresses this PARTICULAR LOVE > COVENANT – 3 x's in Malachi

James BOICE "This striking comparison – between Jacob and Esau, Judah and Edom – is to remind the self-righteous, critical citizens of Jerusalem of the unmerited & electing love of God. They have had the audacity to question how He has loved them, utterly disregarding their unique status as His elect people. This is what God now brings to their willfully negligent attention. By birth Esau was as much a privileged child as Jacob... Yet God loved Jacob with a gracious love."

When they were IGNORANT > God sent PROPHETS to Teach Them

When they were SINFUL > God sent PRIESTS to Redeem Them

When they were LOST > God sent KINGS to Lead Them

Now they were SAFELY HOME from God's Discipline of Captivity

Dwelling in WALLED CITY with a REBUILT TEMPLE

ALL THIS Gracious Work of God to Create a HOLY PEOPLE  
CANNOT EXPLAIN > Sovereign Plan, Electing Choice of the Master Potter

Believe this is How God has Loved YOU in and thru Jesus Christ  
Our Final Prophet / Great High Priest / King of Kings  
We DARE NOT continue to ask "How have you loved me?"

### 3. Sign of God's Love

THESE JEWS powerless captives in the Massive Persian Empire  
Their God was one of Many TRIBAL DEITIES throughout the Realm

This God who made a Covenant of Love with this Puny Tribe CLAIMS -  
v. 5 "You will see it with your own eyes and say, `Great is the LORD--even  
beyond the borders of Israel!"

vs. 11 "My name will be great among the nations"  
 GOD WAS NOT JUST BLOWING SMOKE > SOLEMN PROMISE

1500 years earlier he told the Father of these Jews  
 "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12.3

Mark the Evangelist > links prophesy from Isaiah with Malachi 3.1

"The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God..." "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" -- "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

ESCHATOLOGICAL HOPE OF MALACHI > Hope of God's Coming Kingdom  
 > Finds FULFILLMENT in the pages of the NT GOSPELS

Blessing given to Abraham is Received through Jesus Christ

Villagers in Samaria got it: "now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."  
 John 4.42

Angry MOB searching for Paul and Silas in Thessalonica got it:  
 "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here... They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus."  
 Acts 17.6,7

Apostle Paul got it when he wrote to Colossians: "All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth." 1.6

Old Man named John on isle of Patmos saw it:  
 "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord & of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."  
 Revelation 11.15

Jesus says to US – on whom the fulfillment of the Ages HAS COME –  
 "Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.  
 For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."  
 Matthew 13.16,17

Last Week gathered with Men & Women from around World > who See THIS AMAZING REPORTS OF Men, Women, Boys, and Girls Coming to Jesus

Some see -

Closed Countries / they see Open Doors that No Man Can Close

Spiritual Strongholds / God's Word like a Hammer that breaks a rock in pieces

Entrenched Traditions / If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation

Extremist Terror / see people beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks

Government Opposition / they say "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God."

**GOD HAS SHATTERED GREATEST BARRIER > Our STUBBORN HEARTS**

AS FINAL CHAPTER of Gospel History is Written > NOT HAVE  
"Made in the USA" > stamped on the Cover

ONE SPIRIT FILLED BODY WILL SAY from every corner of Earth:  
"Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."  
Psalm 115

AMAZINGLY in Jesus Christ > WE BECOME THE SIGN  
Redeemed Sinners > Trophies of Saving Grace > New Creations of Praise

GOD SAYS: "You will see it with your own eyes and say, 'Great is the LORD-- even beyond the borders of Israel!'"

Charles Swindoll: THREE SURPRISES IN HEAVEN –

1. Who is There 2. Who is Not There 3. That You are There