

Malachi 2.17-3.5

Don't Ask God for This!

BIBLE – God's Word/man's word / HEAR – Malachi & his Maker

Visit Grandma – Listen / Forget / Authority and Sufficiency HUGE Claim

I am the Lord / My Word is your LIFE / LOST w/out Me

Over 1000 yrs Married @ Sinai > Israel claims Spousal ABUSE

Much of History > Colonized, Carried to Exile, Conquered by Enemies Prophets like

Prosecuting Attorney > taken to Court & Charged

Malachi LAST Prophet > 400 yrs Silence > John Baptist > JESUS

Loveless Argument: Sarcastic Complaints of People > PATTERN

1.2 "I have loved you" 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 U place defiled food on my altar. But U ask *How* have we defiled U?

1. God is Wearied

CRY! 17 "Where is the God of justice?" = God you are Unjust!

Living God Answers Prayer > Invited to Ask > ANYTHING in His Name

Many Good Things to ask For > One Thing would be VERY FOOLISH

Focus PASSAGE > Justice of God > basis of the JUDGMENT OF GOD

2.17 U have wearied the LORD w UR words. ***How have we wearied him***

a By Sinful Actions v 5 "I will draw near to you for judgment" Reasons:

"against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely" > UNFAITHFUL to Spouse, to God, to Truth > Abuse People & Events for Personal Gain

2.14 you have broken faith with...the wife of your marriage covenant

GOD "against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages"

Corruption SIN Against God & Man > Unpaid, Underpaid, Wait 4 Wages

"the widow & the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner"

MOSES: "the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt." Deuteronomy 10.17-19

PROPHETS have God's VIEW OF SIN > HE HATES ALL OF IT!

Sins in Bedroom & Sins in Boardroom / Moral Evil & Social Injustice

Stuff we see in DAILY NEWSPAPERS > Normal, Everyday, Behavior

BUT THESE ARE UNIQUE PEOPLE > Covenant People

1.2 "I have loved you," says the LORD...Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD says. "Yet I have loved Jacob"

2.5 "My covenant was with him was one of life and peace... it was a covenant of fear, and he feared me"

2.12 THESE PEOPLE "bring an offerings to the LORD of hosts"

2.13 THEY "flood the LORD's altar with tears... THEY weep and wail"

GOD spoke to Them thru Prophet Amos "You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins" Amos 3.2

They wanted it Both Ways > Live like HELL as prepare for HEAVEN

UGANDAN Preacher Open Air in NAIROBI, KENYA

"Who wants to go to hell?" RAISE YOUR HANDS > None Raised! Duh!

"Who wants to live life dedicated to Jesus Christ?" NO HANDS RAISED!

Covenant = Blessing? OBEY! / Cursing? DISOBEY!

b. By Scornful Arrogance 2.17 "You have wearied the Lord with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"

NOT Wrong to Wonder, or EVEN to ASK God WHY? > Great Injustices

Nigeria – Sudan – Ukraine – Russia - Iran

Abraham wondered about City of Sodom: "What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing--to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Genesis 18.24,25

Jeremiah wondered: "You are always righteous, O LORD, when I bring a case before you. Yet I would speak with you about your justice: Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease?" Jeremiah 12.1

HABAKKUK WONDERED “How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong?... justice never prevails... justice is perverted” 1.2-4

Jesus wondered > in Garden of Gethsemane > Anticipating the Cross: "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Matthew 26.39

Difference: ASKING or ACCUSING, or even ATTACKING

Jesus: Everything in His being Recoiled agnst Cross “Your Will be Done”

Humble ABRAHAM > “Far be it from you to do such a thing” Gen 18.25

Jerem: “You are always righteous, O LORD, when I bring a case before you” 12.1

Tragic Indifference Malachi’s Listeners: 3.5 THEY “do not fear me,"says the LORD Almighty”

SHOCKINGLY DISPLAYED 1.14 “bring injured, crippled or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices”

JAMES BOICE “Accusing God of injustice is horribly arrogant. It demands that the only wise, holy, omniscient, sovereign God of the universe come down to our level and defend Himself before our petty human standards of justice. God was managing the universe quite well long before we were even born...God does all this perfectly well without our help. Yet when something does not go the way we like, we immediately accuse God of injustice and call Him to an accounting.”

NOTHING NEW > OLD as the GARDEN OF EDEN

Devil: God does not want you to eat fruit from tree of knowledge of good and evil because > Afraid you will become just like Him > He’ll be Redundant God wants to keep you from BEING FREE, HAVING FUN!

When they EAT > God asks Man why? “the woman YOU GAVE ME!”

God asks Woman why? “the Serpent that YOU PLACED HERE!”

Martin Luther’s Paraphrase > “You, Lord, have Sinned!”

NOT SURPRISING TO READ > THEY WEARIED THE LORD

2. Man is Worried

a. Desire Fulfilled v. 1 “Lord whom you seek... messenger of covenant ...you delight” > GOD gives them a DOSE of their SARCASM

v. 1 God: YOUR WISH WILL BE GRANTED > You will get Justice

Double dose: “My Messenger” coming > “Malachi” means Messenger

BUT NOT A REFERENCE TO MALACHI

“the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming”

YOU WANT JUSTICE?! > GOD OF JUSTICE HIMSELF IS COMING!!

b. Dross Fired v. 2 “But who can endure the day of his coming?”

2 Images of Cleansing v. 2 he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap

TODAY > Grand Bazaars/Istanbul > Workers with Silver same Process

Melt Ore in small Portable Furnaces, Ore Melts, Dross Rises, Removed

Continues Until Workmen sees Face reflected in Molten Metal like Mirror

Sovereign JUDGE > applies HEAT of AFFLICTION and DISCIPLINE

v. 3 “ he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord”

Malachi: BRACE YOURSELVES > v. 2 “who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?”

LIKE SOLDIERS IN BATTLE > Who Can Stand their Ground?

When you see GOD in all His GLORY > FULNESS of His HOLINESS

The LAST thing you WANT from HIM is JUSTICE

Apostle John: “watched as (the LAMB) opened the 6th seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black ...Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Rev 6.12-17

3. Man Made Worthy

Word Hope 3.5 Not Smote them/ Send to Hell / SWIFT WITNESS

3.5 “I will be a swift witness against...against...who do NOT fear me!”

SURELY GOD COULD > and JUSTLY HE SHOULD Condemn All

GOD HAS PENALIZING Judgment AND a PURIFYING Judgment

Jeremiah wrote in Book of Lamentations: “Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love”

Lamentations 3.32

JOYCE BALDWIN “In the end no man will avoid confrontation with God, and it is of His goodness that warning of that event is given.”

a Messenger 1 I send my messenger & he will prepare the way B4 me

Promised by Isaiah: Faithful in Israel > Eager Messiah: “prepare the way”

“A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Isaiah 40.3-5

Prophecy quoted by all 4 Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

ALL APPLY to John the Baptizer > Prepared way for Jesus the Messiah

Matthew links Isaiah and Malachi 3.1: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Matthew 11.10

Before King comes Heralds SENT OUT to Prepare Way before Him

Similar Prophecy 4.5 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes”

IF the Messenger was not enough to get their Knee’s Knocking in Fear...

b. Master v. 1 Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

TEMPLE? This PUNY SHADOW of Solomon’s Great Temple?

Place where we dispose of our “blind, crippled, and sick” animals?

WILL GOD HIMSELF REALLY COME TO THIS TEMPLE?

Scoffed at Ezekiel “The glory of the LORD entered the temple” 43.4

When Preparations Complete: Messenger Prepared Way: “when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman” Galatians 4.4

Nothing less than a PROPHECY OF COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

HUNDREDS More in the Old Testament

The One Coming is Nothing less than GOD IN HUMAN FLESH

Isaiah: “make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God...
the glory of the LORD will be revealed” 40.3-5

John Baptizer “I have seen & I testify that this is the Son of God” J 1.34

Stood in Jordan River for Baptism: Matt 3.17 - Voice from Heaven: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Timetable? Coming of Lord? // Like WALKING to Top of Mauna Kea!

So Clear, So Close > WALK Right to THE TOP of Highest Peak

Begin > Further than Looks > Steep Climb > Top? > ONLY First Foothill!

Another Deep Valley > Small Mtn > Valley > Bigger Mtn > Long Way!

For PROPHETS of OT // Kingdom looks SO CLOSE, SO NEAR!

OT > 1 Great Event > Day of the LORD > ONE Great and Terrible DAY

John Baptizer > OT Prophet > written about in the New Testament

In PRISON > DOUBTED > Is Jesus really the Messiah?

Expected Him to be Killing Romans – Not Curing and Converting Them!

JESUS answer 1st sermon in hometown > Synagogue in Nazareth

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners & recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

Finished & Sat "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" Lk 4.18

Here's Messiah: Lord's Anointed Come > Kingdom Reign of God Begun

"the Lord has come to His Temple"

Interesting what He quoted from Isaiah's prophecy of Messiah

AND what He DID NOT Quote > Next phrase in Isaiah: "to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor *and the day of vengeance of our God*" Isa 61.2

God's Unfolds His Promises > ONE DAY = TWO ERAS, EPOCHS

Each Marked by Coming (Advent) of Jesus Christ

1st Coming > Characterized by MERCY > Sermon in Nazareth >

DID NOT READ "the day of vengeance of our God" NOT YET COME

Defined His 1st COMING: "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" John 3.17

2nd Coming > DIFFERENT STORY > Characterized by JUDGMENT

COMING “on a white horse... With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire... He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him... Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.”

2000 yrs long, how much longer? ONLY GOD KNOWS!

Coming Soon!? i.e ALL IS READY, Work of Salvation is Accomplished

Robert Anderson, “The Silence of God” > “It is asked why in our time, if God is as omnipresent, omniscient, and caring for us as we imagine Him to be, He does not speak... Why is God silent? God has already spoken everything that can be spoken graciously. Jesus is the ultimate, final word of God’s grace. Not a syllable can be added. The only words that remain to be spoken are the final words of judgment. God is silent now because, when He speaks audibly again, His judgment will come.”

c. Men Made Righteous Opportunity for Grace > Purifying Redemption

MALACHI spoke against 1) Corrupt Priests and 2) Careless Worshippers

Purifying Judgment > RESTORE WORSHIP which PLEASES HIM

v. 4 “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years”

Looks Back: Glory of Old Covenant > King Solomon dedicates Temple

“Praise be to the LORD, God of Israel, who with his own hand has fulfilled what he promised with his own mouth to my father David” 1 Kings 8

LOOKS FORWARD > New Covenant Priesthood: “you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”
1 Peter 2.9

HOW IS MAN MADE WORTHY?

God NEVER Wearies Forgiving Repentant Sinners > Daily, Hourly

“The LORD is compassionate & gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him” Ps 103.8-13

WHY JESUS CAME - “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” Luke 19.10

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” 1 Timothy 1.15

FOOL Haughtily Demands JUSTICE from God

FAITHFUL Humbly Praise Him for His MERCY

Psalm 88 - O Lord, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before you. // **Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry!** // For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. // **I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength,** // like one set loose among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, // **like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.** // You have put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep. // **Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves.** // You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a horror to them. // **I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow.** // Every day I call upon you, O Lord; I spread out my hands to you. // **Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the departed rise up to praise you?** // Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon? // **Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?** // But I, O Lord, cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you. // **O Lord, why do you cast my soul away? Why do you hide your face from me?** // Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am helpless. // **Your wrath has swept over me; your dreadful assaults destroy me.** // They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in on me together. // **You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me; my companions have become darkness. Amen and Amen.**