Malachi

1 An oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel
through Malachi.
2 “I have loved you,” says the LORD. “But you
ask, ‘How have you loved us?’ Was not Esau
Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I loved
Jacob,
3 but I hated Esau. I made his mountains a
desolation and gave his inheritance to the
jackals of the wilderness.”
4 Though Edom says, “We have been beaten
down, but we will rebuild the ruins,” this is what
the LORD of hosts says: “They may build, but I
will tear down. They will be called ‘the territory
of wickedness’ and ‘the people with whom the
LORD is angry forever.’
5 Your own eyes will see it, and you will say,
‘Great is the LORD beyond the borders of Israel!’
6 A son honors his father, and a servant his
master. If I am a father, where is my honor? If I
am a master, where is the fear due me?” says the
LORD of hosts. “You priests despise my name,
yet you ask, ‘How have we despised your name?’
7 You offer defiled food on my altar. Yet you
ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’ By saying, ‘The
LORD’s table is contemptible.’
8 When you offer a blind animal for sacrifice,
is it not evil? When you offer a lame or sick
animal, is it not evil? Present it to your

governor! Will he be pleased with you or
receive you with favor?" says the LORD of hosts.
9 "Now seek God's favor, that he may be
gracious to us. This has come from your hands.
Will he receive any of you with favor?" says the
LORD of hosts.
10 "If only one of you would shut the doors, so
that you would not kindle fire on my altar in
vain! I take no pleasure in you," says the LORD
of hosts, "and I will not accept an offering from
your hands.
11 For from the rising of the sun to its setting,
my name is great among the nations. In every
place incense is offered to my name, and a pure
offering, for my name is great among the
nations," says the LORD of hosts.
12 "But you profane it by saying, 'The Lord's
table is defiled, and its produce, its food, is
contemptible.'
13 You say, 'What a burden!' and you sniff at
it," says the LORD of hosts. "You bring what is
stolen, lame, or sick, and present it as an
offering. Should I accept it from your hands?"
says the LORD.
14 "Cursed is the deceiver who has a male in
his flock and makes a vow, but sacrifices a
defective animal to the Lord. For I am a great
King," says the LORD of hosts, "and my name is
feared among the nations.

2

1 Now, priests, this commandment is for you.

2 If you do not listen, and if you do not take it
to heart to honor my name," says the LORD of
hosts, "I will send the curse upon you and curse
your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed
them, because you do not take it to heart.
3 I am about to rebuke your seed and spread
dung on your faces—the dung of your
festivals—and you will be carried away with it.
4 Then you will know that I sent you this
commandment so that my covenant with Levi
might continue," says the LORD of hosts.
5 "My covenant with him was life and peace. I
gave them to him so that he would fear me. He
feared me and stood in awe of my name.
6 True instruction was in his mouth, and no
unrighteousness was found on his lips. He
walked with me in peace and uprightness and
turned many from iniquity.
7 For a priest's lips should guard knowledge,
and people should seek instruction from his
mouth, because he is the messenger of the LORD
of hosts.
8 But you have turned from the way. You have
caused many to stumble through your
instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of
Levi," says the LORD of hosts.
9 "So I have made you despised and lowly
before all the people, because you do not keep
my ways but show partiality in your
instruction."
10 Do we not all have one father? Has not one
God created us? Why do we act faithlessly
toward one another, profaning the covenant of

our ancestors?
11 Judah has acted faithlessly, and an
abomination has been committed in Israel and
Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the holiness
of the LORD, which he loves, and has married
the daughter of a foreign god.
12 As for the man who does this, may the LORD
cut off from the tents of Jacob the one who
wakes and the one who answers, even the one
who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts.
13 This is the second thing you do: You cover
the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and
groaning, because he no longer regards the
offering or accepts it with favor from your
hands.
14 Yet you ask, "Why?" Because the LORD has
been a witness between you and the wife of
your youth. You have acted faithlessly toward
her, though she is your companion and your
wife by covenant.
15 Did he not make one, though a remnant of
spirit was his? And what was the one seeking?
Offspring for God. So guard yourselves in your
spirit, and let none of you act faithlessly toward
the wife of your youth.
16 "For he hates divorce," says the LORD, the
God of Israel, "and the one who covers his
garment with violence," says the LORD of hosts.
"So guard yourselves in your spirit and do not
act faithlessly."
17 You have wearied the LORD with your
words. Yet you ask, "How have we wearied
him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is

good in the LORD's eyes, and he delights in them," or, "Where is the God of justice?"

3

1 "I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple, and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—look, he is coming," says the LORD of hosts.
2 "But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap.
3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.
4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and in ancient years.
5 I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, adulterers, those who swear falsely, those who defraud workers of their wages, those who oppress the widow and the fatherless, and those who turn the foreigner aside and do not fear me," says the LORD of hosts.
6 "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, sons of Jacob, have not been consumed.
7 Since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,"

says the LORD of hosts. “But you ask, ‘How shall
we return?’
8 Will a person rob God? Yet you are robbing
me. But you ask, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In
tithes and offerings.
9 You are cursed with the curse, yet you are
robbing me—the whole nation of you.
10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse so
that there may be food in my house. Test me in
this,” says the LORD of hosts, “and see if I will
not open the windows of heaven for you and
pour out blessing for you beyond measure.
11 I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it
will not destroy the produce of your ground, and
your vine in the field will not lose its fruit before
it is ripe,” says the LORD of hosts.
12 “Then all the nations will call you blessed,
for you will be a land of delight,” says the LORD
of hosts.
13 “Your words against me have been harsh,”
says the LORD. “Yet you ask, ‘What have we said
against you?’
14 You have said, ‘It is useless to serve God.
What have we gained by keeping his charge and
walking in mourning before the LORD of hosts?
15 Now we call the arrogant blessed. Those
who do evil prosper; they even put God to the
test and escape.’ ”
16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke with
one another. The LORD paid attention and
listened, and a book of remembrance was
written before him for those who fear the LORD
and esteem his name.

17 “They will be mine,” says the LORD of hosts,
“my treasured possession on the day I act. I will
spare them as a man spares his son who serves
him.
18 Then you will again see the difference
between the righteous and the wicked, between
one who serves God and one who does not serve
him.

4

1 For look, the day is coming, burning like a
furnace. All the arrogant and all who do evil
will be stubble. The coming day will set them
ablaze,” says the LORD of hosts, “leaving them
neither root nor branch.
2 But for you who fear my name, the sun of
righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.
You will go out and leap like calves from the
stall.
3 You will trample the wicked, for they will be
ashes under the soles of your feet on the day I
act,” says the LORD of hosts.
4 “Remember the law of Moses my servant, the
statutes and ordinances I commanded him at
Horeb for all Israel.
5 I am sending you Elijah the prophet before
the great and fearsome day of the LORD comes.
6 He will turn the hearts of fathers to their
children and the hearts of children to their
fathers, lest I come and strike the land with utter
destruction.”

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