Malachi

1 This is the burden 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 Jacob I have loved,
3 but Esau I have hated, and I have made his
mountains a wasteland and left his inheritance
to the desert jackals.†"
4 Though Edom may say, "We have been
devastated, but we will rebuild the ruins," this is
what the LORD of Hosts says: "They may build,
but I will demolish. They will be called the Land
of Wickedness, and a people with whom the
LORD is indignant forever.
5 You will see this with your own eyes, and
you yourselves will say, 'The LORD is
great—even beyond the borders of Israel.' "
6 "A son honors his father, and a servant his
master. But if I am a father, where is my honor?
And if I am a master, where is your fear of me?"
says the LORD of Hosts to you priests who
despise my name.
"But you ask, 'How have we despised your
name?'
7 By presenting defiled food on my altar.

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* **1:1 1:1** *Malachi* means *my messenger*. † **1:3 1:3** Or *to the serpents of the wilderness* or *to the dragons of the wilderness*

But you ask, 'How have we defiled you‡?'
By saying that the table of the LORD is
contemptible.
8 When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is
it not wrong? And when you present the lame
and sick ones, is it not wrong? Try offering them
to your governor! Would he be pleased with you
or show you favor?" asks the LORD of Hosts.
9 "But ask now for God's favor. Will he be
gracious? Since this has come from your hands,
will he show you favor?" asks the LORD of Hosts.
10 "Oh, that one of you would shut the temple
doors, so that you would no longer kindle
useless fires on my altar! I take no pleasure in
you," says the LORD of Hosts, "and I will accept
no offering from your hands.
11 For my name will be great among the
nations, from where the sun rises to where it
sets. In every place, incense and pure offerings
will be presented in my name, because my name
will be great among the nations," says the LORD
of Hosts.
12 "But you profane it when you say, 'The table
of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food
is contemptible.'
13 You also say: 'Oh, what a nuisance!' And you
turn up your nose at it," says the LORD of Hosts.
"You bring offerings that are stolen, lame, or
sick! Should I accept these from your hands?"
asks the LORD.
14 "But cursed is the deceiver who has an
acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it,

‡ **1:7 1:7** LXX *defiled it*

but sacrifices a defective animal to the Lord. For
I am a great King," says the LORD of Hosts, "and
my name is to be feared among the nations.

2

1 "And now this decree is for you, O priests:
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 a curse among you, and I will
curse your blessings. Yes, I have already begun
to curse them, because you are not taking it to
heart.
3 Behold, I will rebuke your descendants,* and
I will spread dung on your faces, the waste from
your feasts, and you will be carried off with it.
4 Then you will know that I have sent you this
commandment so that my covenant with Levi
may continue," says the LORD of Hosts.
5 "My covenant with him was one of life and
peace, which I gave to him; it called for
reverence, and he revered me and stood in awe
of my name.
6 True instruction was in his mouth, and
nothing false was found on his lips. He walked
with me in peace and uprightness, and he
turned many from iniquity.
7 For the lips of a priest should preserve
knowledge, and people should seek instruction
from his mouth, because he is the messenger of
the LORD of Hosts.
8 But you have departed from the way, and
your instruction has caused many to stumble.

* **2:3 2:3** Or *I will blight your grain*

You have violated the covenant of Levi," says the
LORD of Hosts.
9 "So I in turn have made you despised and
humiliated before all the people, because you
have not kept my ways, but have shown
partiality in matters of the law."

10 Do we not all have one Father? Did not one
God create us? Why then do we break faith with
one another so as to profane the covenant of our
fathers?

11 Judah has broken faith; an abomination has
been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For
Judah has profaned the LORD's beloved
sanctuary by marrying the daughter of a foreign
god.

12 As for the man who does this, may the LORD
cut off from the tents of Jacob everyone who is
awake and aware—even if he brings an offering
to the LORD of Hosts.

13 And this is another thing you do: You cover
the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping
and groaning, because he no longer regards
your offerings or receives them gladly from
your hands.

14 Yet you ask, "Why?"

It is because the LORD has been a witness
between you and the wife of your youth, against
whom you have broken faith, though she is your
companion and your wife by covenant.

15 Has not the LORD made them one, having a
portion of the spirit? And why one? Because he
seeks godly offspring. So guard yourselves in

your spirit and do not break faith with the wife
of your youth.

16 “For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God
of Israel. “He who divorces his wife covers his
garment with violence,”† says the LORD of Hosts.
So guard yourselves in your spirit and do not
break faith.

17 You have wearied the LORD with your
words; yet you ask, “How have we wearied him?”

By saying, “All who do evil are good in the
sight of the LORD, and in them he delights,” or,
“Where is the God of justice?”

3

1 “Behold, I will send my messenger, who will
prepare the way before me. Then the Lord
whom you seek will suddenly come to his
temple—the messenger of the covenant, in
whom you delight—see, he is coming,” says the
LORD of Hosts.

2 But who can endure the day of his coming?
And who can stand when he appears? For he
will be like a refiner’s fire, like a launderer’s
soap.

3 And he will sit as a refiner and purifier of
silver; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine
them like gold and silver. Then they will present
offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

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† **2:16 2:16** Or *“For the man who hates his wife and divorces her,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “covers his garment with violence,”*

4 Then the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem
will please the LORD, as in days of old and years
gone by.

5 "Then I will draw near to you for judgment.
And I will be a swift witness against sorcerers
and adulterers and perjurers, against
oppressors of the widowed and fatherless, and
against those who defraud laborers of their
wages and deny justice to the foreigner but do
not fear me," says the LORD of Hosts.
6 "Because I, the LORD, do not change, you
descendants of Jacob have not been destroyed.
7 Yet from the days of your fathers, you have
turned away from my statutes and have not kept
them. Return to me, and I will return to you,"
says the LORD of Hosts.
"But you ask, 'How can we return?'
8 Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!
But you ask, 'How do we rob you?'
In tithes and offerings.
9 You are cursed with a curse, yet you—the
whole nation—are still robbing me.
10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so
that there may be food in my house. Test me in
this," says the LORD of Hosts. "See if I will not
open the windows of heaven and pour out for
you blessing without measure.*
11 I will rebuke the devourer† for you, so that
it will not destroy the fruits of your land, and

* **3:10 3:10** Literally *blessing for which there will be no room*
† **3:11 3:11** *The devourer* is probably a name for a crop-destroying pest.

the vine in your field will not fail to produce
fruit," 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
spoken against you?'
14 You have said, 'It is futile to serve God.
What have we gained by keeping his
requirements and walking mournfully before
the LORD of Hosts?
15 So now we call the arrogant blessed. Not
only do evildoers prosper, they even test God
and escape.' "
16 At that time those who feared the LORD
spoke with one another, and the LORD listened
and heard them. So a scroll of remembrance
was written before him regarding those who
feared the LORD and honored his name.
17 "They will be mine," says the LORD of Hosts,
"on the day when I prepare my treasured
possession. And I will spare them as a man
spares his own son who serves him.
18 So you will again distinguish between the
righteous and the wicked, between those who
serve God and those who do not."
19 "For behold, the day is coming, burning like
a furnace, when all the arrogant and every
evildoer will be stubble; the coming day will set
them ablaze," says the LORD of Hosts. "Not a
root or branch will be left to them."
20 "But for you who fear my name, the sun of
righteousness will rise with healing in its wings,

and you will go out and leap like calves from the stall.
21 Then you will trample the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day I am preparing," says the LORD of Hosts.

22 "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances I commanded him for all Israel at Horeb.‡
23 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome§ Day of the LORD.
24 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse."

‡ **3:22 3:22** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai § **3:23 3:23** Or *dreadful*; LXX *glorious*

Masoretic English Tanakh

The Tanakh (Law, Prophets, and Writings) of the Holy Bible in English, conformed to the Masoretic Text.

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