



## “Worship with Honor” (Malachi 1:6-9)

**INTRODUCTION:** The name *Malachi* means “messenger or missionary.” He was the last of the Old Testament prophets. This book was written after the Jewish remnant returned to Jerusalem from many years of captivity. The writing of the book of Malachi coincides with Daniel’s 70-week prophecy in that a partial completion of the prophecy (the first 7 weeks or 49 years) takes us to the time of Malachi’s writing (the remaining 62 weeks, or 434 years, would lead to the time of the cutting off of the Messiah). His message is an affront to the careless and negligent lifestyle of both the priesthood and the people to whom he was writing. In this book, God presents a controversy He has with His people eight different times (1:2, 6, 7; 2:14, 17; 3:7, 8, 13). Each controversy begins with a statement or question and is followed by an unrepentant and callous response by the people.

### I. DEVOTION OF A GOD WHO IS POWERFULLY COMPASSIONATE (1:1–5)

#### A. A DEVOTION THAT IS IMPASSIONED IN ITS DEPTHS

Esau, in Scripture, is a picture of the fleshly life. He is a picture of the first birth. He despises the spiritual things of God and chooses the temporal over the eternal.

Jacob, in Scripture, is a picture of the spiritual life. He is a picture of the second birth. He desires the eternal and not the temporal.

*Jeremiah 31:3, “The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”*

*John 13:1, “Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.”*

*Romans 5:8, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

*1 John 3:1, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”*

#### B. A DEVOTION THAT IS INCOMPARABLE IN ITS DESCRIPTION

*“There is nothing you can do to make God love you more! There is nothing you can do to make God love you less! His love is Unconditional, Impartial, Everlasting, Infinite, Perfect!”—Richard C. Halverson*

### II. DISAPPOINTMENT OF A GOD WHO IS PLACED IN CONTEMPT (1:6)

#### A. THEY DISHONORED GOD THROUGH A DEFILEMENT IN THEIR WORSHIP (MALACHI 1:7-8; LEVITICUS 22:17-25)

*John 4:24, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*

*Psalm 29:2, “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”*

*II Samuel 24:24, “And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.”*

#### B. THEY DISHONORED GOD THROUGH A DISTORTING OF THEIR WORDS (MALACHI 2:17, 3:13-14)

#### C. THEY DISHONORED GOD THROUGH DEFRAUDING IN THEIR WORKS (MALACHI 3:8-11)

*Leviticus 27:30-32, “<sup>30</sup> And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD. <sup>31</sup> And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. <sup>32</sup> And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.”*

*Genesis 14:20, “And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.”*

Tithing involves a practice, a place, and a promise (Malachi 3:10–11).

### III. DECLARATION OF A GOD WHO IS PATIENTLY CALLING (MALACHI 1:9)

#### A. GOD CALLS FOR REPENTANCE AND FAITH

*Acts 20:21, “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

#### B. GOD CALLS FOR A RESTORATION OF FELLOWSHIP (3:16-17, 4:2)

#### C. GOD CALLS FOR A REVIVAL OF THE FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

*Hebrews 2:9, “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”*