

# The Book of MALACHI

## A Courtroom Drama

**Date:** 400 BC The last of three Post-Exilic prophets in the Old Testament.

100 years since Haggai & Zechariah- John the Baptist was the last prophet

1:1 The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi-

Like a FedEx or UPS driver knocking on the door and leaving a package.

That is how Malachi delivers his message- he doesn't stay to talk about himself.

47 of 55 verses are God's words

## GOD BRINGS SEVEN CHARGES WHICH THE PEOPLE DENY

Q&A A Statement - An Objection - A Reaction

### 1. 1:2 In what way have You loved us?"

The Old Testament begins in Genesis with Jacob and Esau.

The message of Obadiah the prophet was about Jacob and Esau.

The Old Testament ends in Malachi with Jacob and Esau.

Genesis 25:21-34 Jacob and Esau Vs 25 Esau "*came out red*" so they called him Esau  
Vs. 30 Esau sells his birthright for "red pottage" or "red Stew" *Therefore his name was called Edom.*

Vs. 34 "*Thus Esau despised his birthright.*"

The birthright was a spiritual heritage. Esau was saying, "I would rather have a bowl of soup than have a relationship with God."

Genesis 36:1 "*Now this is the genealogy of Esau, who is Edom.*"

Numbers 20:14-21 The King of Edom refused to let Israel pass through during the Exodus

Jeremiah 49:7-10 & 17-18 The Destruction of Edom

Psalms 137:7-9 Edomites were present and participating in the destruction of Jerusalem.

They were rejoicing and cheering on the destruction and the killing of babies.

**Esau - Edomites                      Jacob - Israelites**

Romans 9:13 Paul quotes Malachi 1:2&3

Luke 14:26 "*If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children,*

**IF ANYTHING ELSE IS MORE IMPORTANT - IF I AM NOT FIRST**

Matt 10:37 *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me.*

### 2 & 3. 1:6 In what way have we despised Your name?

#### 1:7 In what way have we defiled You?

##### 1. Infidelity in worship

1:8 & 13 You bring the blind, lame and sick sacrifices (Try offering that to your governor!)

1:10 Who among you has the courage to close the church door and let the altar fire go out?  
Rather than continue in unholy worship?

1:11 Even the Gentiles worship me – but you don't

"We do our daily routine, why aren't you happy with us?"

Acts 10 God calls Peter to the house of the Gentile Cornelius.

2:2 Because you do not take it to heart. You don't take worship seriously.

2:8 You have **departed from the way**. You **have corrupted the covenant of Levi**.

You have caused many to stumble. See 1 Peter 2:9 Priesthood of the Believers

2:9 Showing partiality in the law- (Saying: it's okay for some people to get away with sin)

Stephen the Martyr Acts 7:51-60 They attacked and destroyed the prophets.

## 2. Infidelity in marriage

2:11 They profaned the Lord's holy institution  
Intermarriage with pagans

:12 Yet you bring an offering to the Lord of Hosts

:14 The wife of your youth – the permanent, covenant relationship

:15 He made you one. For godly children. Violence against the children.

:16 God Hates Divorce! It is violence- **ripping the covenant apart. Ripping children apart**  
Always painful. That's why God hates it. Paul: 2 Cor 6:14 *Do not be unequally yoked*  
Marriage is not to be taken lightly. It is a covenant relationship under God.

## 4. **2:17 In what way have we wearied Him?**

"You tell everyone who does evil that they are good in the sight of God."

"Don't worry about it, God loves you and understands how you are"  
Liberal agenda today embraced by major denominations

Or, "Where is the God of Justice"

If there was a God, why would He let these things happen?"

**--Because judgement hasn't come, it won't come**

3:1 "Behold, I send my Messenger

3:2 "Lauderer's soap" "Refiner's fire"

3:3 "He will purify the sons of Levi"

3:5 "Judgement is coming against sorcerers, adulterers, perjurers,  
And those who exploit employees and widows and orphans.

3:6 "I do not change" Compassion and Grace of God is not exhausted, or they would  
be destroyed.

**"I love you is why I do not destroy you!**

## 5. **3:7 In what way shall we return?**

Mal 3:7 Yet from the days of your fathers, You have gone away from My ordinances  
And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," Says the Lord of hosts.

"But you said, 'In what way shall we return?'

**No Answer from God.**

**This is not Hebrew interpretation – just my thoughts,  
Just imagine God giving them that disgusted look.**

## 6. **3:8 In what way have we robbed You?**

Will a man rob God, Can a man rob God. Yes, in tithes and offerings

3:10 *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse.* **STOREHOUSE TITHING**

If your pastor never preaches on tithing, he is not preaching all of God's word.  
He is robbing you of God's blessings.

**Haggai 1:6** "You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough;  
You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm;  
And he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes."

3:11 "I will rebuke the devourer"

## 7. 3:13 In what way have we spoken against You?

3:14 & 15 "Useless to serve God, What good is it to serve God?  
The wicked are better off than we are!

## Chapter 4 THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT IS COMING

4:1 Behold, Judgement is coming!  
4:2-3 Those who fear His name will triumph.

**4:5 I will send Elijah** before the day of the Lord

Luke 1:13-17 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him **in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,'** and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Luke 1:76 Zacharias, father of John the Baptist: *"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,* (Malachi 3:1)

Matt 11:9-15 JESUS: 9 *But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. 10 For this is he of whom it is written: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You."* (Malachi 3:1)  
13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

John 1:19-27 19 Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."  
23 He said: *"I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said."*

Luke 16:16 *"The law and the prophets were until John."*  
Luke 20:3-7 *"for they are persuaded that John was a prophet."*

Luke 7:28 Jesus said, *"among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist;"*  
Matt 17:10-13 *"Elijah has come already,..."*  
13 *Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.*

**4:6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.**

**THE ANGEL SAID of JOHN:** Luke 1:17 *He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,'* (Malachi 4:6)

**Old Testament ends with 4:6** *Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."*

**The last word from God for 400 years. Be careful when you tell God to go away.**

**New Testament ends with: Rev 22:21** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**The Law came through Moses - Grace came through Jesus**