

The Book of Malachi

I. THE LOVE OF GOD STATED.

- A. Beginning with the second verse of his book Malachi lists the first of six rather flippant questions the carnal Israelites had required of God. Each question was the result of a previous clear statement from God. These were:
1. In what way hast thou loved us? (1:2-5).
Answer: I have demonstrated this love by choosing as my special servants Jacob and his descendants instead of Esau and his descendants.
 2. In what way have we despised thy name? (1:6).
Answer: You have despised my name by refusing to give me the honor a son would give to his father and that of a servant to his master.
 3. In what way have we polluted thee? (1:7-8).
Answer: You offer me defiled food and blemished animals.
 4. In what way have we wearied thee? (2:17).
Answer: You have wearied me not only by trying to make evil good, but by implying that I delight in evil because I do not dispense immediate justice.
 5. How have we robbed thee? (3:8-10).
Answer: You have robbed me in unpaid tithes.
 6. What have we spoken so much against thee? (3:13-15).
Answer: You have spoken against me in saying it is vain to serve me unless I bless you with immediate prosperity.

II. THE LOVE OF GOD SCORNED.

- A. By the priests.
1. Who cheated the Lord through their shabby offerings (1:6--2:6).
 - a. They had offered lame and sick animals to God. These cheap sacrifices were refused by the Lord, who challenged them if they dared to "offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person?" (1:8).
 - b. They had not offered that proper honor and respect to God that:
 - (1) A child should give to his father (1:6).
 - (2) A servant should render to his master (1:6).
 - (3) A citizen should pay to his king (1:14).
 2. Who cheated the people through their shabby example (2:7-9).
- B. By the people.
1. Through their inequalities (2:10).
 2. Through their intermarriages (2:11).
 3. Through their immorality(2:14).
 4. Through their insincerity (2:17).
 5. Through their indebtedness (3:8-10).
 6. Through their incriminations (3:13-15).

III. THE LOVE OF GOD SHOWN.

- A. By remembering his own saints (3:16-17).
- B. By sending his own Son.
1. His first coming was introduced by John the Baptist (3:1; Mk. 1:2-3).
 2. His second coming will be introduced by Elijah the prophet (4:5-6). (See also Rev. 11:3-14.) Elijah thus will be awarded the privilege of preparing this cruel, corrupt, and cursed old world for its greatest, grandest, and most glorious moment--the personal and visible appearance of the King of kings and Lord of lords!
 - a. He shall come to punish the Gentiles (4:1, 3).
 - b. He shall come to purify Israel (3:2-4).
 - c. He shall come to publish his great name (1:11).