



# Esteeming His Name

Divine Intervention

## The Context of Malachi

- 460 – 450 BC to post-exilic Judah still under Persian rule
  - Before - peace & prosperity in Babylon
  - After - poverty, famine, conflict & oppression in Jerusalem
- Serious adversity has been going on for a long time.
  - Many decades with no sign of relief.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Malachi 1:2** "I have loved you," says the LORD.
  - Word for 'love' here is the basis for God's choice of Israel.
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **Deuteronomy 4:37** Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them. And He personally brought you from Egypt by His great power

## The Structure

1. God's Love 1:2-5
2. Denunciation of the Clergy 1:6-2:9
3. Idolatry and Intermarriage 2:10-16
4. **The God of Justice 2:17-3:5**
5. Withholding Tithes 3:6-12
6. The Righteous and the Wicked 3:13-18
7. Day of the Lord 4:1-6

# The God of Justice

Malachi 2:17 – 3:5

## The Disputation Speech

- A disputation speech form has four elements: assertion, questioning, response, and implication.
  1. Assertion (by Malachi) "You have wearied the LORD with your words." (v. 17a).
  2. Questioning (by Israel) → "How have we wearied him?" (v. 17b)
  3. Response (by Malachi) → Through two popular sayings: (1) "All who do evil are good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them" and (2) "Where is the God of justice?" (v. 17c)
  4. Implication → The messenger will come, the LORD will judge, worship and justice will be restored.. (3:1-5)

## Same Old Questions

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Malachi 2:17** You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, "How have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them," or, "Where is the God of justice?"
  - 450 BC (post exile)
  
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Ezekiel 9:9** Then He said to me, "The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is very, very great, and the land is filled with blood, and the city is full of perversion; for they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see!'"
  - 570 BC (during Babylonian exile)

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Zephaniah 1:12** "And it will come about at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And I will punish the men Who are stagnant in spirit, Who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good or evil!'
  - 600 BC (pre-Babylonian exile)
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Isaiah 5:18** Woe to those who drag iniquity with the cords of falsehood, And sin as if with cart ropes; <sup>19</sup>Who say, "Let Him make speed, let Him hasten His work, that we may see it; And let the purpose of the Holy One of Israel draw near And come to pass, that we may know it!"
  - 740-700 BC (pre-Assyrian exile)
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Samuel 2:3** "Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; For the LORD is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed.
  - 1100 BC (pre-monarchial Israel)

## Be Careful What You Wish For

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Malachi 3:1** "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears?"
- <sup>ESV</sup> **Jeremiah 25:29** For behold, I begin to work disaster at the city that is called by my name, and shall you go unpunished? You shall not go unpunished, for I am summoning a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth, declares the LORD of hosts.
- <sup>ESV</sup> **1 Peter 4:17** For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God;

## People Purified - Worship Restored

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Malachi 3:2** ... For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup> "And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **John 4:23** "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. <sup>24</sup> "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

## Justice Delivered

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Malachi 3:5** "Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien, and do not fear Me," says the LORD of hosts.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 5:4** Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth [Hosts].
- <sup>ESV</sup> **James 1:27** Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

# The Coming Messiah

## A Closer Look

## The Messiah and the Messenger

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Malachi 3:1** "Behold, I am going to **send My messenger [forerunner]**, and he will clear the way before Me. And **the Lord, whom you seek [Messiah]**, will suddenly **come to His temple**; and the **messenger of the covenant**, in whom you delight, behold, **He is coming**," says the LORD of hosts.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **John 1:6** There came **a man, sent from God**, whose name was **John**. <sup>7</sup> **He came for a witness, that he might bear witness of the light**, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but **came that he might bear witness of the light**.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 3:1** Now in those days **John the Baptist came**, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>3</sup> For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "**The voice of one crying** in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of **the Lord**, Make **His** paths straight!'"

## The True Identity of the Messiah

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Malachi 3:1** "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And **the Lord, whom you seek**, will suddenly **come to His temple**; and the **messenger of the covenant**, in whom you delight, behold, **He is coming**," says the LORD of hosts.
  - God [Jehovah] refers to the Messiah both as Me and He.
  - God [Jehovah] is both the sender and the coming one .
  
- <sup>NAS</sup> **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh, and dwelt [tabernacled] among us
  - Malachi 3:1 foreshadows the incarnation and has Trinitarian hints.

## The Glory of the LORD Returns

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Ezekiel 10:4** Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the temple, and the temple was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD ...<sup>18</sup> Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Malachi 3:1** "Behold, ... the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple
- <sup>NAS</sup> **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **Hebrews 1:3** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

# Conclusions

## The Time Has Come

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Malachi 3:1** "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Galatians 4:4** But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,
- <sup>NAS</sup> **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 4:6** For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

## We Are The Temple

- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 3:18** But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Corinthians 3:16** Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 6:16** ...For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Peter 2:5** you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

## Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world! the Lord  
is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him  
room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,
- 2 Joy to the earth! the  
Savior reigns;  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy
- 3 No more let sin and  
sorrow grow,  
Nor thorns infest the  
ground;  
He comes to make his  
blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found
- 4 He rules the world with  
truth and grace,  
And makes the nations  
prove  
The glories of his  
righteousness,  
And wonders of his love