



Esteeming His Name

Stepping Up

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.
- ^{NAS} **Malachi 1:2** "I have loved you," says the LORD.
 - Word for 'love' here is the basis for God's choice of Israel.
 - ^{NAS} **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 Righteous and the Wicked

Malachi 3:13 -18

The Disputation Speech

- A disputation speech form has four elements: assertion, questioning, response, and implication.
 1. Assertion (LORD) → “Your words have overruled me.” (v.13a).
 2. Questioning (Israel) → “What did we say about you?” (v.13b)
 3. Response (LORD) → Israel claims that “serving God is useless” and that “evildoers prosper.” (v. 14-15)
 4. Implication → The faithful launch a covenant renewal and God promises to favor them. The Day of the Lord will punish the wicked and reward the righteous. . (v. 16-18)



About Face

- ^{NAS} **Malachi 3:13** "Your words have been arrogant against Me," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?' ¹⁴ "You have said, 'It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts?' ¹⁵ 'So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up, but they also test God and escape.'" ¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.

Mission Accomplished

- ^{NAS} **Malachi 1:2** "I have loved you," says the LORD.
- ^{NAS} **Malachi 3:16** Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.
- ^{NIV} **Isaiah 55:11** so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Esteeming His Name

- ^{NAS} **Malachi 3:16** Then **those who feared the LORD** spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for **those who fear the LORD** and who esteem His name.
- ^{ESV} **Revelation 15:4** **Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name?** For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”
- ^{NAS} **Psalm 111:10** **The fear of the LORD** is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments; **His praise endures forever.**

Applications

Our Purpose

- Our Charge

- ^{NAS} **Mark 12:29** Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; ³⁰ and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹ "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

- Our Mission

- ^{NAS} **Genesis 1:28** And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth ...

- ^{NAS} **Matthew 28:19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

We Are the Church

I am the church! You are the church!

We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus all around the world!

Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building,

the church is not a steeple,

the church is not a resting place,

the church is a people.

Conclusions

God Has Loved Us

- ^{NIV} **Malachi 1:2** "I have loved you," says the LORD. "But you ask, 'How have you loved us?' ...
- ^{NAS} **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- ^{NAS} **Romans 5:6** For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly ... ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...¹¹ And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Prepared *By* and *For* God

- ^{NAS} **Malachi 3:17** "And they will be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."
- ^{NAS} **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;
- ^{NAS} **Ephesians 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The Lord is Calling

- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 1:16** "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, ¹⁷ Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless; Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.
- ^{NAS} **Amos 5:14** Seek good and not evil, that you may live; And thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you, Just as you have said! ¹⁵ Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the LORD God of hosts May be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

It's Time to Step Up

- ^{ESV} **Romans 13:11** ... the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime ... ¹⁴ ... put on the Lord Jesus Christ ...
- ^{NIV} **Ephesians 5:14** for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."