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## A STUDY OF THE PROPHET

# MALACHI



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## INTRODUCTION

For this study we will be using the outline obtained from WORDsearch as given below, and reflected in the Table of Contents.

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  - II. The sins of the restoration priests rebuked (1:6-2:9)
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WORDsearch Outlines

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The introduction is actually the first verse of this book.

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The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

Malachi 1:1 (NKJV)

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“Burden” is from the Hebrew מַסָּא (mas-saw) meaning “utterance” or “oracle”<sup>1</sup>. While these may be correct, what it refers to is a prophetic statement. The prophetic part does not actually start until chapters 3 and 4. The first part deals with Israel’s shortcomings. It is believed he wrote this between 445 and 432

BC, a contemporary of Ezra and Nehemiah. There is significance in this being the last book of the Old Testament. It might be stretching it a bit, but I feel that in this book, God is saying to Israel, "You been bad, I am ceasing communications with you until the coming of the Messiah. Noting that the Old Testament prophets did not know there would be an Age of Grace that broke the coming of the Messiah into a First Coming and a Second coming, at the time of the Tribulation, Malachi is not specific. So, for over 2300 years, God has not spoken to Israel. There are important lessons to be learned here. What did Israel do (or not do) to incur God's anger? What should we be doing (or not doing) to keep in God's good graces? We shall look for these as we proceed through the book.



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## CHAPTER 1

### I. THE LOVE OF GOD FOR ISRAEL (1:1-5)

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The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever. And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel.

Malachi 1:1-5 (KJV)

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The name "Malachi" is a *Personal name or common noun meaning, "my messenger," or "my angel" and name of the last book in the English Old Testament. Some people in ancient Israel believed that an angel wrote this book because of the name. We know nothing about Malachi other than what we are told in this book. He is not mentioned anywhere else in the Old or New Testaments.*<sup>2</sup> It is not likely that an "angel" wrote the book and, in as much as the other prophets and minor prophets have a man's name attached to them. Who he is is not really important. Why not? Because he is only a spokesman, what we have here written is *the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi*

The message begins with a reminder that God has loved Israel. This is mentioned in several other Scriptures.

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The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: **"Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love;** Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

Jeremiah 31:3 (NKJV)

Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like **the love of the LORD for the children of Israel**, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans."

Hosea 3:1 (NKJV)

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John wrote,

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The one who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.**  
1 John 4:8 (NASB)

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Do you ever have times when you think that God does not love you? This is not unusual. This was the situation that Malachi faced. *Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us?* What had happened. Under Ezra and Nehemiah, the temple had been rebuilt and things were back to "normal." What is "normal?"

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So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel. Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old. And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, **another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.**

Judges 2:7-10 (NKJV)

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Time and time again, in the book of Judges we see a generation arise that did not know the God of their fathers. Oh yes, they had head knowledge of Him but they did not have a personal intimate knowledge of Him and so went astray and God had to raise up another judge.

It seems that in the United States today we are seeing a repeat of this. Young people grow up that are not securely grounded in the knowledge of God. So, perhaps this might be a useful book to study. It seems that the time of the Lord's return may be soon. As Malachi wrote, the first coming was only a few hundred years away and he predicts His coming in this book.

*Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness*

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And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER." Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."

Romans 9:10-13 (NASB)

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Esau was the older brother. If only one was to receive God's blessing, it would have been Esau. It was not that way. God chose to bless Jacob and to hate Esau. Why did He do this? Why did God call you and not your next door neighbor? We can not explain nor completely understand God's election, but that does not mean that God does not choose to love (and save) some and not others.

Malachi writes to Israel to remind them of this. They should not forget what God had done for them, and, would continue to do for

them if they returned is love.

As to Esau, God would lay *“his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever.”*

This was not a one-time thing but something that would last through the ages. Even today, as we watch the news, we see Esau’s offspring attempting to build up. Will they prevail? Not in the end! God still loves Israel and will continue to do so. Does this appear to be the case today?

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For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; **For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.**" If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

Hebrews 12:3-7 (NKJV)

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God understands the principal of “Tough Love.” There are all too many in this country today who do not know what “Tough Love” is. They will not allow calamity (though minor) to befall a son or daughter if they believe that good will come from it.

*And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel.* What does the Lord command here? Open your eyes to what is happening. Do not neglect seeing what God has given us in the Scriptures and using them to understand what is going on in the world.

At this point of time, the U.S. has had two “world wars” and wars in Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq, Afghanistan and other places. Since “9/11” warfare has changed. President Bush (G.W.), in the days following 9/11, acknowledged that we were entering into a completely new kind of warfare. No longer was it one nation (or group of nations) against another. It is becoming more and more a war between ideologies. Today is the Jew against the Muslim and, indirectly the Muslim against the Christian. Who will win? I can not say who will win this battle or that battle but we know from the Scriptures that those whom God loves will win!

## II: THE SINS OF THE RESTORATION PRIESTS REBUKED (1:6-2:9)

Malachi 1:6-14

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"A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' 'You offer defiled food on My altar. But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. "Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," Says the LORD of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands. For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts. "But you profane it, In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit,

its food, is contemptible.' You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it," Says the LORD of hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD. "But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished--For I am a great King," Says the LORD of hosts, "And My name is to be feared among the nations.

Malachi 1:6-14 (NKJV)

The word from the Lord remind His people that he has two relations with them: *"A son honors his father, And a servant his master."* He is both Father and Master. As human fathers (or mothers) we must also be "masters" of our children until they too become fathers and mothers.

But . .

- ★ If then I am the Father, Where is My honor?
- ★ If I am a Master, Where is My reverence?

God was and is the Father to the descendants of Jacob but the descendants were not giving him His deserved honor! How about today in the "Church Age?" Do we, as Christians, give honor to the Lord? A lot of what I see in some of today's churches would not be considered by God as "honoring." Christians may go through the motions and get all emotional at times, but is there that strong inner feeling that honors God?

God is also a Master.<sup>3</sup> Are you God slave? You say "Abraham Lincoln abolished slavehood and we went through the Civil War to obtain freedom from slavery." Well, perhaps you ought to take

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<sup>3</sup>master1 >n. 1 chiefly historical a man who has people working for him, especially servants or slaves. Oxford Dictionary

a look at the following!

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Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God

Romans 1:1 (NKJV)

For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

Galatians 1:10 (NKJV)

Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,

Titus 1:1 (NKJV)

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Paul often referred to himself as a slave to the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Colossians 4:12 (NKJV)

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Paul's companions also claimed to be bondservants. But the greatest of these is below.

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Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:5-7 (NKJV)

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If Jesus Christ was willing to be a bondservant to God the Father,

you, as a Christian, certainly ought to consider yourself to be God's servant. When I write "being" I mean **doing** not just saying you are His servant.

*To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' "Well, what has that to do with me, I am not a priest, I am not even Jewish?"*

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John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him . . . . To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and **priests** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 1:4-6 (NKJV)

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Yes, my friend, you and I are priests! "O.K. so we are, is some sense, priests, where have we done wrong?" Well, this sort of thing has happened way back in the history of Israel.

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Now the **sons of Eli were corrupt**; they did not know the LORD. And the priests' custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling. Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up. So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw." And if the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "No, but you must give it now; and if not, I will take it by force." Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD. But Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.

1 Samuel 2:12-18 (NKJV)

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Eli was a good priest and faithful to God. Eli did one thing wrong. He did not give enough attention to what his sons were doing as priests.

What Malachi is likely referring to is the practice of taking animal sacrifices that were not "without blemish."

' "You offer defiled food on My altar. But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' And when you offer **the blind** as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the **lame and sick**, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?

This paragraph ends with an interesting question. Would your governor be pleased if you treated him that way? Think about this! Does the IRS say, "Well, you took some unauthorized exemptions on your tax form, but that's ok, we don't care!" I do not have to tell the answer to that question. If we have to be meticulous in what we do on our tax forms, how much more meticulous should we be in what we do as "priests" in the Lord's service?

Malachi is relaying the Lords feelings regarding the sacrifices they brought to the Temple. We do not offer animal sacrifices today. Our sacrifices today are in both time and money.

With respect to money, I don't know what all Christians do but, having been the Auditor of Giving for a church for a number of years, I can tell you that many are either way below the poverty level or their giving is way below a tithe. Some will say, "Well, I tithe my income!" Do they? What is a tithe as defined in the Old Testament? The oldest record of tithing is below.

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And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him. Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

Genesis 14:17-20 (NKJV)

Since some people today do not know the meaning of "tithe" many newer translation have "*Abram gave him a **tenth** of all the recovered plunder.*" Some say, "We tithe, We cash our paychecks and pay our outstanding bills and then we give a tenth of what is left to the Lord's work." That is not a tithe. Others will say, "We cash our paychecks and give ten percent of the money to the church!" That, also is not a Biblical tithe. To give a tithe as described in the Old Testament one may look at the stub on the paycheck and take ten percent of what is shown as "gross income."

Many will say, "We can not afford to do that!" I will say I don't think we can afford not to do it. Why?

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. **For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.**"

Luke 6:38 (NKJV)

What is Jesus saying? If you give little, you will receive little. If you give a lot you will receive a lot! You see, the tithe is for the Old Testament. Nowhere in the New Testament are we told to tihe. We are given some advice, however, (in addition to what we have cited above).

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NKJV)

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NKJV)

A tithe should just be the starting point. As the Lord prospers you, He will probably put it on your heart to give additionally for some cause of Christ.

You can not, however, "buy" your way into heaven. In addition to our wealth, we are to give of our time and talents. I don't know that it is possible to list all the ways in which you could do this. I will make two observations: (1) "Pew warming" is not a God-given talent! (2) There are some who render up an invaluable service to the church even though you never see them doing anything - they are at home spending many hours in prayer for the church and its people. (Most of these are elderly women).

*Says the LORD of hosts. "But now entreat God's favor"* There is always time to repent of our ways and do as the Lord would have us do.

*While this is being done by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. "Who is there even among*



*you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain?*

God says, "All this ritual that you are going through is meaningless. It is for nothing. It doesn't profit." But they continue on in it."<sup>4</sup> "To emphasize this point, Malachi said the whole temple service might as well be shut down. It was even useless to light the fires on the altar of burnt offering. God was not pleased; He would accept no offerings from them"<sup>5</sup> This is a pretty stinging condemnation. I would suspect there are churches today that God would say, "You might as well lock the doors of the church, it does you no good to go there!" In fact,

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"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. **Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.**

Revelation 2:1-5 (NKJV)

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The Ephesian church was the best of the seven church listed in the beginning of Revelation. But the Lord promised that he would even remove their "lampstand" unless they returned to their first love. I believe there are many churches today with missing lampstands!

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<sup>4</sup>McGEE

<sup>5</sup>BKC

*Says the LORD of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands. For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts*

Here is the first bit of prophecy in this book. While the Jews were going astray and had gotten slovenly in their worship, God had plans that would not affect them, they were plans for the Gentiles. Dr. McGee wrote, *God says that there is a day coming when His name will be great among the Gentiles. If you think that this has been fulfilled today, you're entirely wrong. It will be fulfilled in the Millennium but not today. God's name is not great among the nations today.*<sup>6</sup> He may be correct in this, but the prophecy is at least partially fulfilled in that some nations are "under God" even though the U.S. is gradually getting out from "Under God." The statement, however refers to "*the rising of the sun, even to its going down,*" which means this would be true around the world. There are large parts of the world today that still do not know the true God. The fact that he is not referring to the present times has to be true because God did not reveal the Age of Grace to any of the Old Testament prophets.

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For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles-- if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me **the mystery** (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in **the mystery of Christ**), **which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men**, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by

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<sup>6</sup>McGEE

the effective working of His power.

Ephesians 3:1-7 (NKJV)

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The Old Testament prophets look ahead to the coming of the Messiah as a single event, not as two events separated by (at least) two thousand years.

*"But you profane it, In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.' You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it," Says the LORD of hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD.*

JFB has an interesting note with respect to these two verses. *They did not literally say, The Lord's table is contemptible; but their acts virtually said so. They did not act so as to lead the people to reverence, and to offer their best to the Lord on it. The people were poor, and put off God with the worst offerings. The priests let them do so, for fear of offending the people, and so losing all gains from them.*<sup>7</sup> How contemporary this statement is today! Churches will do all kinds of things to "entertain" their membership so as not to lose them. Paul instructed Timothy with respect to this as he anticipated it would come.

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. **For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;** and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

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<sup>7</sup>JFB

2 Timothy 4:1-4 (NKJV)

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The priests said "what a weariness." Solomon talked about weariness (although he used a different Hebrew term).

And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright--words of truth. The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd. And further, my son, be admonished by these. **Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.**

Ecclesiastes 12:9-12 (NKJV)

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I challenge you to go into a Bible Bookstore today and look at the books on display. There are some good reference works and a number of Bibles. But, however, the majority of the books are based on the author's own experience. Some of these may be good but one can read these from now until the rapture and the result would be as Solomon said, weariness..

*"And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD. "But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished--For I am a great King," Says the LORD of hosts, "And My name is to be feared among the nations*

This chapter concludes with a judgement from God regarding the making of vows.

Luke describes a New Testament equivalent of this.

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold

a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

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Acts 5:1-5 (NKJV)

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- ★ *For I am a great King.*
- ★ *the LORD of hosts*
- ★ *My name is to be feared*

The chapter closes with three names or terms for God. First He says that he is "a great King." Next He describes himself by the name "Lord of Hosts" which, in the Hebrew, is יהוה צבאות (Yahweh of Hosts) or LORD of Hosts. This name appears about 135 times in the Old Testament. He also refers to His "Name."

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And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

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Exodus 3:14 (NKJV)

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When Moses asked God what His "name" was, the answer given is in the above passage - "I AM WHO I AM" This is the source of the name "Yahweh" which is translated in "good" translations as LORD (all upper case). It is also often used incorrectly as "Jehovah." This later term is a corruption made up of the consonants for "LORD" and the vowels for "lord." (Different words in the Hebrew).

## CHAPTER TWO

Malachi 2:1-9

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"And now, O priests, this commandment is for you. If you will not hear, And if you will not take it to heart, To give glory to My name," Says the LORD of hosts, "I will send a curse upon you, And I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have cursed them already, Because you do not take it to heart. "Behold, I will rebuke your descendants And spread refuse on your faces, The refuse of your solemn feasts; And one will take you away with it. Then you shall know that I have sent this commandment to you, That My covenant with Levi may continue," Says the LORD of hosts. "My covenant was with him, one of life and peace, And I gave them to him that he might fear Me; So he feared Me And was reverent before My name. The law of truth was in his mouth, And injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, And turned many away from iniquity. "For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. But you have departed from the way; You have caused many to stumble at the law. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore I also have made you contemptible and base Before all the people, Because you have not kept My ways But have shown partiality in the law."

Malachi 2:1-9 (NKJV)

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"And now, O priests this commandment is for you," Initially, the Lord gave Israel ten commandments.

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Now the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction."

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Exodus 24:12 (NASB)

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If you read through the rest of the Pentateuch, the Lord gave a number of other commandments (but not on the same level of importance as the “Ten.” And now, with Israel in the state it was then in, God gives a new command to the priests. There are three parts to it.

- ★ If you will not hear,
- ★ if you will not take it to heart
- ★ give glory to My name,

The first thing they had to do is to “hear.” Once “heard”, they were to take it to heart and do it. Specifically, to honor the name of the LORD. (My name). That sounds simple except, how do you honor the name of the Lord? We have an advantage over Malachi. We have the answer from Jesus Himself.

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But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' "This is the first and great commandment. "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:34-40 (NKJV)

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He summarized it all in two commandments. We are to love God and we are to love our neighbor. The Levites at that time were doing neither of these. They were offering up offerings not according to the law. They were not treating the people properly.

They say “IF” is a big word. The text says “if you . . . if you . . . But these are empty ifs. Why? *"I will send a curse upon you, And I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have cursed them already, Because you do not take it to heart.* This is something to take

careful note of. The Lord will overlook our short comings for a time, but keep them up and the “if” gives way to “I will.”

*"Behold, I will rebuke your descendants And spread refuse on your faces, The refuse of your solemn feasts; And one will take you away with it. Then you shall know that I have sent this commandment to you.* This is what was said in Malachi's time. Today we would say “I will rub your faces in it.” The following is interesting modern day translation of this.

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Yes, and the curse will extend to your children. I'm going to plaster your faces with rotting garbage, garbage thrown out from your feasts. That's what you have to look forward to!

Malachi 2:3 (MSG)

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This translation pretty well “tells it like it is!” A more descriptive commentary: *Scattering dung in the face was a sign and figurative description of the most ignominious treatment. Through the expression "dung of your festal sacrifices," the festal sacrifices offered by these priests are described as being themselves dung; and the thought is this: the contempt of the Lord, which they show by offering blind or lame animals, or such as are blemished in other ways, He will repay to them by giving them up to the greatest ignominy.*<sup>8</sup>

*Then you shall know that I have sent this commandment to you, That My covenant with Levi may continue," Says the LORD of hosts.* As you are most like to know, the priests were Levites, descendants of Levi with whom the Lord made a covenant.

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At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister to Him and to bless in His name, to this day. Therefore

Levi has no portion nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD is his inheritance, just as the LORD your God promised him.)  
Deuteronomy 10:8-9 (NKJV)

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From the very beginning, the descendants of Levi had a special place in the Lord's service. But at this time, they were only "going through the motions" in doing the work prescribed by the Lord.

The Lord reminds the Levites of those in the past. *"My covenant was with him, one of life and peace, And I gave them to him that he might fear Me; So he feared Me And was reverent before My name. The law of truth was in his mouth, And injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, And turned many away from iniquity.* Levi was a good man of God. So far as we know, his sons also were good men, but over the years they degenerated.

*"For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.* The Israelites, as a whole, were not very learned in the Scriptures (in their case, the Pentateuch) The Levites were to continually study them and teach them to the people and remind the people of what they say. Things have not changed much over the years.

We rely (or should) rely on our Pastors and Elders to keep us in the Scriptures and having them encourage us and discourage us from doing things that are not pleasing to God. Unfortunately, this is not the case anymore. Few are the churches who have pastors who are true to the Bible, the entire Bible and who properly interpret it. I have always maintained that every Scripture has only one correct interpretation. It may have many applications, but you can not properly know the applications unless you know the proper interpretations.

It is horribly sad what goes on in many churches in this land.

Homosexuality and other similar acts are tolerated, including "Same Sex Marriages" (which is an oxymoron if I ever heard one!) Paul had really strong words to say in this respect.

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It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles--**that a man has his father's wife!** And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. **In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.** Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

1 Corinthians 5:1-7 (NKJV)

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Paul said that this man, whose crime may not even be as bad as "Same sex marriages" should be excommunicated - he should be removed from the church roles! How many people do you know who have been living in a state of vicious sin and yet have not been admonished by the church and, if there is no repentance, dropped from the church roles?

The Episcopalian Church elected a homosexual to lead the churches in the U.S. Then they chose a woman (which would not be as bad in my mind except that she is probably a Lesbian).

The priest (then) or Pastor (now) *is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. But you have departed from the way; You have caused many to stumble at the law. You have corrupted the covenant of*

*Levi," Says the LORD of hosts.*

*"Therefore I also have made you contemptible and base Before all the people, Because you have not kept My ways But have shown partiality in the law." Dr. McGee's summation of this section goes like this.*

*Now let me sum this up by giving my interpretation of this -- and you may not agree with it. I believe that the sole duty of the pastor of a church is to teach the Word of God. God have mercy on the church that expects its pastor to be the public relations man, running all over the countryside visiting sick babies and burping them, and expects him to spend his time in the administration of church affairs when he should be studying the Word of God and then teaching it to his people.<sup>9</sup>*

I once was in a church that called a new pastor. When he candidated, his message was quite good. So were some of them after he came. But we soon learned the truth, He had in his library the collected sermons of Charles Spurgeon and he was simply modernizing the style and preaching Spurgeon's sermons. I suppose that was not horribly bad but he failed to lead the people in other ways as well.

Many people have the greatest respect for MacArthur. He is an excellent preacher but he is so because he runs his church as McGee suggested above. I have heard the he more-or-less locks himself in his office each week and studying the word and preparing his messages.

There are people today who insist that is not enough! They had the same problem in the early church.

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Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was

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<sup>9</sup>McGEE

multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, **"It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables."** "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; "but we **will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."**

Acts 6:1-4 (NKJV)

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The apostles set the pattern for the ages to come. The Pastor(s) or Elders, were to spend their time in the Word. There were to be others who waited on tables. Incidentally, there was a time when I visualized the Elders with towels draped over their arms as the served the food. "To wait tables" refers to managing the financial affairs of the church. "Tables" is a reference to "money changers tables." (I.e. financial officers).

Well we have given the Levites (and some of their counterparts today) a going over. Malachi does not stop with that.

### III THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE REBUKED (2:10-3:18)

A: Sins against brotherhood (2:10)

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Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously with one another By profaning the covenant of the fathers?

Malachi 2:10 (NKJV)

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It was true that the Levites were leading people astray. But the

<sup>10</sup>people have a certain obligation to seek the truth themselves. There is an interesting thing that the congregation of the people were (and still are) to do with respect to a “prophet”<sup>11</sup>

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"As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent."

Jeremiah 28:9 (NKJV)

"when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

Deuteronomy 18:22 (NKJV)

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So, you as a member of the congregation have the obligation to know the Scriptures well enough to know whether your pastor speaks the truth and to know what is right. This short admonition serves as an introduction to what follows.

B: Sins Against God in the Family (2:11-16)

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Judah has dealt treacherously, And an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, For Judah has profaned

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<sup>11</sup>“Prophet,” in the Biblical sense is one who “speaks before God’s people.” It is true that often this is foretelling the future but their main obligation was to speak God’s word before the people. This is not always speaking God’s word before something happens!”

The LORD s holy institution which He loves: He has married the daughter of a foreign god. May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob The man who does this, being awake and aware, Yet who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts! And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

Malachi 2:11-16 (NKJV)

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*Judah has dealt treacherously, And an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, For Judah has profaned The LORD s holy institution which He loves: He has married the daughter of a foreign god. The Lord (through Malachi) has some very harsh words to say about Israel. “Treacherously,” בגד (bagad) is used frequently in the Old Testament, with one particular place, *the treacherous have dealt treacherously, yea in treachery have the treacherous dealt treacherously Isa 24:16 (striking alliteration);*<sup>12</sup>*

The term “Abomination” is also used. Do you know what that means. It is used often in the Old Testament and the meaning of the verb, תניעבא (to-ay-baw') is more instructive: “to be abhorred” “*abomination >n. a cause of disgust or hatred or loathing*”<sup>13</sup> It is

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<sup>12</sup>BDB

<sup>13</sup>OXFORD

a very strong word of condemnation. What did Israel do to be scolded so? *Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.* What this means depends on which commentary you look at and which translation. The NKJV has “*The LORD’s holy institution*” but other translations have:

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"Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned **the sanctuary of the LORD** which He loves and has married the daughter of a foreign god.

Malachi 2:11 (NASB)

Judah has been unfaithful! A disgusting thing has been done in Israel and Jerusalem. Judah has **dishonored the holy place** that the Lord loves and has married a woman who worships a foreign god.

Malachi 2:11 (GW)

Judah has cheated on God—a sickening violation of trust in Israel and Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the holiness of God by falling in love and running off with foreign women, women who worship alien gods.

Malachi 2:11 (MSG)

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Some take it in a figurative sense in that the Israelites were turning to other gods. Others take it to mean the men were marrying women who were not Israelites. Dr. McGee goes even further, *The men saw the beautiful foreign girls who lived around them when they returned from the Captivity. So they were leaving their wives and marrying these foreign girls who served heathen, pagan deities, and brought idolatry into the nation.*<sup>14</sup> I really doubt what he says on this. There is no question that the were marrying other than Israelites.

With reference to the statement that “Judah” had done this, it is

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<sup>14</sup>McGEE

important to note that, at this time, the ten northern tribes had long before been taken captive by the Assyrians and so only Judah and Benjamin were left (Benjamin is usually included when the term Judah is used such as here.)

The significance is spelled out in Ezra.

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When these things were done, the leaders came to me, saying, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, with respect to the abominations of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. "For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed is mixed with the peoples of those lands. Indeed, the hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass."

Ezra 9:1-2 (NKJV)

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They were marrying women from the Parasites (I think that term covers them all!). I believe that the other meaning is true as well, they we not worshiping the Lord in the Temple. This will occur again!

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"And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and **place there the abomination of desolation.**

Daniel 11:31 (NKJV)

"So when you see the '**abomination of desolation**,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Mark 13:14 (NKJV)

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This will occur during the Tribulation. As far as I am concerned,



if you apply this to the Church rather than Israel, the same is true today!

*The man who does this, being awake and aware, Yet who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts.* If you have the KJV, this verse reads as follows:

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The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 2:12 (KJV)

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“The master and the scholar” is a Hebrew idiom for “everyone” because, if you are not a teacher, you must be a student (scholar). Included in this idiom is the concept of awareness.

*the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, With weeping and crying.* One commentator says this is in reference to *“the poor women who, being divorced by cruel husbands, come to the priests, and make an appeal to God at the altar; and ye do not speak against this glaring injustice”*<sup>15</sup> Another commentator agrees with this but says it also includes, *the tears of the men who (after divorcing their Israelite wives to marry pagans, v. 14) found that the Lord no longer received their offerings.*<sup>16</sup> Dr. McGEE and K&D agree with these statements but take a lot more words to say so.

*So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously.* I see people today in the news, etc. who say they pray this or that but,

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<sup>15</sup>ACC

<sup>16</sup>BKC

apparently, God hasn't answered many of these prayers. Why not? Why did He not receive their offering at the temple? The question then is, “why not?” James has given the answer loud and clear. “The Message” translation put it where we are:

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Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it. You wouldn't think of just asking God for it, would you? And why not? Because you know you'd be asking for what you have no right to. You're spoiled children, each wanting your own way. You're cheating on God. If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way. And do you suppose God doesn't care? The proverb has it that "he's a fiercely jealous lover." And what he gives in love is far better than anything else you'll find. It's common knowledge that "God goes against the willful proud; God gives grace to the willing humble." James 4:1-6 (MSG)

and

You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

James 4:3 (NKJV)

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I have always be rather intrigued by a small book by J. B. Phillips, “You God Is Too Small.” The table of contents lists the various kinds of “too small God” people have. The list is like this.

#### UNREAL GODS:

- I. RESIDENT POLICEMAN
- II. PARENTAL HANGOVER
- III. GRAND OLD MAN
- IV. MEEK-AND-MILD
- V. ABSOLUTE PERFECTION

- VI. HEAVENLY BOSOM
- VII. GOD-IN-A-BOX
- VIII. MANAGING DIRECTOR
- IX. SECOND-HAND GOD
- X. PERENNIAL GRIEVANCE
- XI. PALE GALILEAN
- XII. PROJECTED IMAGE
- XIII. ASSORTED

If you would have God answer your prayers, you have to know the true and living God personally. Just going through the motions or warming the pew on Sunday does not do it. Israel drifted away from the correct respect for God and, as a result He was not answering their prayers.

Let us get back to the text which becomes a little complicated here. *The LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously. Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant* Were they to take this literally? Is there an application of this for us today?

One commentator says, *But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously"*<sup>17</sup>

It is probably the best to let Jesus Himself explain this.

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The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who

made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, **and the two shall become one flesh**?' "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. **Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.**" They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" He said to them, "Moses, **because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.**" "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, **commits adultery**; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry." But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given: "For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it."

Matthew 19:3-12 (NKJV)

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Remember that Jesus' words here were spoke several hundred years later. By that time the Levites had "added to the law" and had all sorts of laws. One could only move a "Sabbath's day journey" on the Sabbath. Another law was with respect to divorce. They has set up certain conditions where a man could divorce his wife (and they were not unreasonable except that God did not institute this law). At the time Malachi was writing, the Jewish men, as they mixed in with the "Parasites" saw these cute ladies and decided their old Hebrew wives weren't good enough and so divorced them (I hope) and took these pagan girls as wives. It seems to me a bit strange that God to speaking to Israel because the men were carrying on with these women. It seems there ought to be worse sins than that.

On the other hand, the first commandment God gave was,

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<sup>17</sup>ACC

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Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, **and they shall become one** flesh.

Genesis 2:24 (NKJV)

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That was God's first command to man, that man and wife should become one. It was also the cause of man's first sin against God.

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And **Adam was not deceived**, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

1 Timothy 2:14 (NKJV)

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We might be inclined to forgive Eve for what she did, but, according to Paul, (and implied in Genesis) is the fact that Adam deliberately took of the fruit even though he knew it was sin. What did God say to Adam?

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Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

Genesis 3:17-19 (NKJV)

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Thus it does seem to make sense that God placed such a discipline for what the Jewish men were doing. This is not all they were doing, Malachi continues.

C: The sin of insincere religious profession (2:17)

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You have wearied the LORD with your words; Yet you say, "In what way 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?"

Malachi 2:17 (NKJV)

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This verse forms a transition from Chapters 1 and 2 where the sins if Israel are listed and Chapters 3 & 4 where the answer to when God's judgement wiss come is given.

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In this section the prophet's words are directed against the spirit of discontent and murmuring which prevailed among the people, who lost faith in all the promises of God, because the expected manifestation of the glory of the Lord for the good of His people did not take place at once, and in their despair called even the holiness and justice of God in question, and began to deny the coming of the Lord to judge the world. The prophet lets the feelings of the people express themselves in Malachi 2:17, for the purpose of meeting them with an announcement of the day of the Lord and its true nature

—Keil and Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament

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There is an old saying that says, "when you point your finger at others, you have three of them pointing at yourself." Hence we have the following from Peter.

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Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

2 Peter 3:1-4 (NKJV)

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Our Country's motto seems to be "We don't trust in God anymore." You can not pray in many places other than church. The "Ten Commandments" (actually, there are a lot more than ten) can't be displayed in the courtroom today which is not conceivable since the establishment of law and order in this country was based on these. We can not longer cite the basis for our legal system.

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But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NKJV)

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I might have underscored the characteristics in the above passage that are applicable today except they **all** are! We are entering into the situation that Israel was then. So, what will happen? We shall go on to Chapter 3 and see.

## CHAPTER THREE

D: Parenthesis: The mission of John the Baptist and coming of the Lord foretold (3:1-6)

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"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness. "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years. And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien--Because they do not fear Me," Says the LORD of hosts. "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

Malachi 3:1-6 (NKJV)

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This chapter deals with the first coming of the Lord, the fulfillment (partial) to Israel. Chapter 4 will deal with the second coming. As noted before, Malachi could not see these as separate events.

*Behold, I send My messenger.*

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As it is written in the **Prophets**: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You."

Mark 1:2 (NKJV)

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This is **one** of the passages that all for Gospel writers refer to.

Note the plural "Prophets" used in this passage. The other is,

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"Comfort, ye, comfort My people!" Says your God. "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD s hand Double for all her sins." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Isaiah 40:1-5 (NKJV)

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Isaiah lived long before Malachi, but the people had not changed, they had only gotten worse. So the Lord brings this final message through Malachi.

The Lord said he would bring a מַלְאָךְ (Malawk) which may be:

- ★ an angel
- ★ a human messenger
- ★ A pre-incarnate appearance of Christ

For some examples, we have:

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Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there **the angels** of God were ascending and descending on it.

Genesis 28:12 (NKJV)

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And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, **three men** stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

Genesis 18:1-2 (KJV)

And **the LORD said**, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

Genesis 18:17 (KJV)

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Taking this text in context, two of the men were "messengers (angels) but the third was the LORD. Thus in this passage of Genesis we have the word being used of the LORD Himself and of heavenly messengers (i.e angels).

On the other hand we have,

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"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

Revelation 2:1 (NKJV)

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There has always been some discussion as to whom the messengers to the seven churches were. The Greek has ἀγγελῶ which is equivalent to the Hebrew. Practically speaking, these "angels" were really human messengers (presumably the Elders of the churches.

In this text, the term refers to a human messenger who turned out to be John the Baptist. Since what Malachi wrote is so similar to what Isaiah wrote, one might think that he just copied this from the Isaiah scroll. If he did, what does that mean? The authors of the New Testament copied a lot of Old Testament passages but that does not make them any less inspired. Again, you must understand that the Old Testament writers knew nothing of the Age of Grace. One starting proof of that is found below.

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So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day,

and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: **"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."** Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

Luke 4:16-20 (NKJV)

**"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,** And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified." And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations. . . .

Isaiah 61:1-4 (NKJV)

The passage in Luke has Jesus reading from Isaiah, chapter 51. He read the first verse and half of the second verse and sat down! Why would He sit down right the middle of a verse? The people had "all eyes" on Him when He sat down because He sat down in the middle of a verse. Why? That is the point at which Isaiah's prophecy switches between the fulfillment on His first coming and the fulfillment of His second coming.

Returning to Malachi, I will break verse one into four parts.

- ★ "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me.
- ★ And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple,
- ★ Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight.
- ★ Behold, He is coming,"

Who do each of these four parts refer to? Do they refer to four different persons? Let me repeat the above, using the NASB.

- ★ "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.

Malachi 3:1 (NASB)

What is the point of this? Look at the third item. The NKJV has "Even" while the NASB has "and." Is one wrong? It all hinges on I(waw) a simple Hebrew letter that sometimes means "and," sometimes can mean "even" (i.e. "that is") and sometimes should not be translated at all!

Consider the verse below.

The LORD spoke to Moses in the Tent of Meeting in the Desert of Sinai on the first day of the second month of the second year after the Israelites came out of Egypt. He said:

Numbers 1:1 (NIV)

This is the beginning of the Book of Numbers. It starts with the word "The." That seems natural, but, the KJV has "And the LORD . . . ." while the NASB has "Then the LORD." Why the differences? Because it is not clear what to do with this simple Hebrew connective. The fact of the matter, in Numbers, is that it simply

signals the beginning of a new section of the Scriptures. Hence it is equivalent to our ¶ (paragraph) symbol in English (We usually do not use it except in legal documents, etc.). So, just as we do not use the ¶ in normal writing, the waw should not be displayed. The KJV translators slavishly translated it “And,” taking it to be a connective. The NASB translators, apparently, wished to denote the presence of the waw and so used “Now” or, as here “Then.”

I might have inserted the remarks from several commentaries on this verse but that would have added a quite a few pages (i.e. they had a hard time with this verse).

Most are agreed that the first person referred to is John the Baptist. The second person is not in question, it is the Lord Himself. The third person is a bit more difficult. Is this a fuller description of John? Is it a continued description of the Lord? Is it someone else?

One interpretation is that he is *a concrete personality—a messenger who was really sent to the nation in John the Baptist immediately before the coming of the Lord*<sup>18</sup>

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*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*

*Malachi 4:5 (NKJV)*

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Clearly this is not to be taken literally since Elijah had long been dead. Of course, we could consider the following.

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Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and

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<sup>18</sup>K&D

**Elijah appeared to them**, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Matthew 17:1-4 (NKJV)

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We shall discuss this more when we get to Malachi 4:5. For now, this particular appearance of Elijah did not precede the Messiah. Hence we must assume that John the Baptist is the messenger, a very human one.

★ *And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple,*

There are a few things we can rule out here. This sentence deals with a time before 70 A.D.<sup>19</sup> Some light (or more confusion) may be had with the passage from Daniel.

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"Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes

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<sup>19</sup>the fall of Jerusalem and destruction of the Temple was in A.D. 70

desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

Daniel 9:24-27 (NKJV)

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First, be assured that "weeks" here is literally "sevens." It may refer to seven days, seven months seven years, etc. It is pretty uniformly accepted that each week is, in actual time, seven years.

First there are 7 weeks,  $7 \times 7 = 49$  years. In 49 years the Temple would be rebuilt (and was) so that the Temple Services might be resumed (and, as we have already studied, degraded). Then  $62 \times 7 = 434$  years. We shall assume that the 434 years of temple worship ended (There are questions as to the dates, and since this is not a study of Daniel, we shall let it go at that). The last seven years are, as you probably know already, are seven years of tribulation.

★ *And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple,*

Does this refer to Christ's first coming. About all we know of Him and the Temple was he overturned the money changers tables. He is never shown taking up residence there. So, does this refer to the second coming when the Lord will certainly enter His Temple.

"Will Suddenly," is the key to this. Most believe this can only refer to His second coming. The Lord can not "come to His temple today because there is none today. I have heard it said that the Jews have hidden, somewhere, all the furnishings and materials for the Temple and only need the opportunity to kick the Moslems out of the Mosque of Omar so they can start construction.

★ and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight

"Messenger" here is the same Hebrew word used for John the

Baptist, but should be identified as the Lord Himself. It is true that the word can also refer to an "angel," and it could be so interpreted here as it is in other Old Testament passages (i.e.. Gen. 16:10; 22:15-18; Ex. 3:2; 33:14 with Isa. 63:9; and Judges 13:21-22).where it is translated "The Angel of the Lord."

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Then the **Angel of the LORD** said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude."

Genesis 16:10 (NKJV)

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Note that "Angel" is capitalized here as in the other passages. It speaks of Jesus Christ. The "Angel of the Lord" in the Old Testament refers to preincarnate appearance of Christ.

So the third "person" of the four is the same person as the second and so the connective "and" is appropriate.

Having settled that, we finally have,

★ behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

Which can only refer to Jesus Christ also. If the LORD (YHWH) = God the Father refers to "he," He is not referring to Himself but to Christ.

Then two questions are asked:

- ★ "Who can endure the day of His coming?
- ★ Who can stand when He appears?

These two questions are answered by stating what the Lord is like.

- ★ For He is like a refiner's fire
- ★ He is like launderer's soap.



Paul continues the idea of the Lord being like a “refiner’s fire.”

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For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with **gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw**, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because **it will be revealed by fire**; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NKJV)

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Malachi continues with *“He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver,”* The priests in the temple have one thing in common with you and me. Paul said only the real work we do for the Lord will be acceptable. In the case of the priests, purification was needed so *“That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.”*

"Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years. The judgement now is directed against the people as a whole. A whole list of evil things is given and God will judge the people for them, namely,

- ★ Against sorcerers,
- ★ Against adulterers,
- ★ Against perjurers,
- ★ Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans,
- ★ Against those who turn away an alien

Various commentaries see various numbers of sins here, depending on how you interpret the fourth item in the list above. There are three people to whom their sins are affected so, if you

list each separately, you would have seven complaints. That would be a “perfect” number but I don’t think the number is of any significance here.

sorcerers = a person believed to have magic powers. There were many then, there were many in Paul’s day,

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Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain **sorcerer**, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus,

Acts 13:6 (NKJV)

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There are still such people. It is usually these people who cause others to be demon possessed.

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And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

Acts 16:16 (KJV)

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When I was in high school, the Senior Pastor of the church I attended went on a Holy Land trip. When he came back he related how, amazingly, he had been able to cast a demon out of a demon possessed girl. Recently, one of the missionaries we support wrote to say that she had been witness to the casting out of a demon in Israel. They are here today, they will be here until the return of Christ.

Next on the list is adulterers. I think I need not spend any time on this subject other than to note that that was one of the great sins covered in the first two chapters.

perjury “Law: the offense of willfully telling an untruth in a court

after having taken an oath or affirmation.”<sup>20</sup> Since the Lord will come in **judgement**, the use of a legal term is fitting here. I believe it might be easier to locate people who always tell the truth and to find all the liars in the world

Next is the group we noted earlier. We shall look at them as separate parts now. “Those who exploit wage earners.” Are there any people like this today? The other day, just out of curiosity, I asked a waitress if she actually got the gratuity that I added on my credit card. She said she did but there were some restaurants that short changed the waiters and waitresses. Then, why hire a U.S. citizen when you can hire an illegal immigrant for much less money. “Just don’t tell me he is illegal!”

Then there are those who take advantage of widows. This even happened (maybe) in the early church.

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And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.

Acts 6:1 (KJV)

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Whether or not this was really so cannot be determined. But to make sure the widows were treated fairly, the office of Deacon was established.

With respect to “orphans,” it is a bit difficult to cite specific cases. James, however, makes the following statement.

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Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: **to visit orphans** and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

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James 1:27 (NKJV)

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The Israelites were to abstain from all of these sins. But why did they do these things they knew were wrong? *Because they do not fear Me," Says the LORD of hosts. "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob*

Even though Israel was falling far short of what God expected of them, there was one thing that saved them.

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Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

Genesis 12:1 (NKJV)

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What does this passage have to do with it? The answer lies in the understanding of covenants.

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The theme of the two covenants is crucially important to the unity of the Bible. God’s plan of redemption, bringing people into a right relationship to Himself, begins with the call of Abraham and the establishment of a covenant with him. Subsequently, this covenant was reaffirmed with his son Isaac; with Isaac’s son Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel; and finally the covenant was reaffirmed with the whole nation of Israel. **It was an unconditional covenant on God’s part** but a conditional covenant from the human side: God’s people must live up to the covenant responsibilities. The major portion of the Old Testament is the story of repeated failure to live up to the covenant responsibilities. The prophet Jeremiah looked forward to a new day when God would write His covenant on the hearts of the people so that it could not be broken (Jer. 31:31-34), a prophecy of the new birth referred to by Jesus in John 3:1-8. Jesus termed His death on the cross as the sacrifice instituting the new

covenant referred to by Jeremiah (Luke 22:20). This shows the remarkable unity of the Old and New Testaments as anticipation and fulfillment.—

Holman Bible Dictionary

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Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life **which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began**, but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;

Titus 1:1-3 (NKJV)

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We say that God is Omnipotent<sup>21</sup>. We say that God can do everything. That is not true! For one thing, as Paul stated above, God cannot lie! Lying is sin and God cannot sin.

So God made the unconditional covenant with Abraham and his seed and God will not break that covenant and, since it is unconditional, there is nothing Israel can do to annul it. This is why God chose to have Malachi write these words to Israel and to simply wipe the Israelites off the face of the earth.

Two covenants were noted above. We have just discussed the covenant with Abraham. The second unconditional has to do with us as Christians. When you accept Christ as Savior and Lord, even though you live a life of horrible sin, the covenant with you remains. It is unconditional. But note the following!

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If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to

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<sup>21</sup>omnipotent >adj. (especially of a deity) having unlimited or very great power. (OXFORD)

death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

1 John 5:16-17 (NKJV)

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First, I want to note what the passage above **does not say**. It deals with a single little letter. In the KJV translation we find, "*There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.*"

The "a" should not be there. Some Christians like to debate on what the "Unpardonable sin" might be. There is no such thing! There is some kind of sin that leads to death, most does not. Even this does not speak of Spiritual Death. This is quite clear in the passage below.

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For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

1 Corinthians 11:29-30 (NKJV)

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The death referred to is **physical**, not spiritual. God may take you home because He will not allow you to continue in the sin you do.

Getting back to Israel, Even though Israel had strayed so far, God would still keep His covenant with Israel. That was all that was restraining God from raining fire and brimstone down upon them!

E: The people have robbed God (3:7-15)

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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?' "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and

offerings. You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts; "And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the LORD of hosts. "Your words have been harsh against Me," Says the LORD, "Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?' You have said, 'It is useless to serve God; What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, And that we have walked as mourners Before the LORD of hosts? So now we call the proud blessed, For those who do wickedness are raised up; They even tempt God and go free.' "

Malachi 3:7-15 (NKJV)

*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?'*

Even the patriarch Abraham did not always follow the Lord. The Lord sent him to the "promised land," to the land east of the Mediterranean Sea. But, twice, Abraham went down into Egypt and got into trouble, saying that Sarah was his "sister." Israel hid sinned and strayed from God when the finally returned to the Promised Land led by Moses. They are to drive out **all** of the inhabitants of the land, one hundred percent. They never did succeed in clearing the land. If they had have done so, Israel might not be in the situation it is today.

They sinned in asking for a human king to lead them instead on leaning solely on the Lord. Also, from the book of Judges, we see Israel falling away from the Lord time after time. It is certainly good that we have a patient God who will always keep His part of

a covenant.

Here the Lord is giving them one last chance. If they cleaned up their act and began to operate as the Lord had commanded them, things would go well with them. However, the Lord said to them, *'In what way shall we return?'* This statement reminds me of the way little kids act. They act so innocent, "We didn't do anything wrong!" - but they knew they had.

*Oh, what smart alecks they were! They say to God, "You say that we should return to You. We didn't know that we had gone away. We've been going up to the temple to all the services. We tithe to a certain extent. We're doing this, that, and the other thing, but how can we return when we haven't even left You?" They were actually so far gone that they did not realize their true condition.<sup>22</sup>*

*Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.*

We have already studied at length the practices of the priests in accepting sacrificial animals that were blemished, etc. The priests were not the only ones to blame. Regardless of whether the priests would accept them, the people's hearts were not right in thinking they could get away with it.

I would imagine the first time a family brought a blemished animal, it troubled them quite a bit. The second time it didn't bother them so much, finally it became easy and, now, it was so easy they were not even aware of their wrongs.

*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house.* I have been in churches that have abused this statement. They preach "storehouse giving." This means that all of your offerings should directed to the church to which you

belong.

In general, this is what most people do but it is not a Biblical imperative. Some people have a burden for a certain missionary and so give part of their giving to the support of this ministry. You could give the money to the church and have them give it to the missionary. This is unnecessary work unless the church actually takes it upon itself to take up this missionary's support. But you may change churches and then what?

You need not give all of your offering to your local church even though it is a fairly good idea and most people do.

The "storehouse" that is referred to here was in the temple. In "The Message" this verse reads as follows. *Bring your full tithe to the **Temple treasury** so there will be ample provisions in my Temple. Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams.*

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So all the work that King Solomon had done for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon brought in the things which his father David had dedicated: the silver and the gold and the furnishings. He put them in the **treasuries** of the house of the LORD.

1 Kings 7:51 (NKJV)

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*And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. If Israel was to receive a rich blessing from the Lord, they first had to give generously to the Lord. Do you need a further explanation of this? Then listen to what Jesus Himself said.*

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"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Luke 6:38 (NKJV)

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Starting with the word "measure," its meaning is "a vessel for receiving and determining the quantity of things, whether dry or liquid"<sup>23</sup> I am not much of a cook, but I know some recipes call for a level tablespoon, others for a heaping tablespoon, and so on. Thus we are considering a vessel used to measure our giving. First note that what you give, you will receive in return except that., when it is returned, the Lord does all He can to fill it up. He presses it down and shakes it to fill all available space. The He continues to fill it until it overflows.

Now, I have a question for you to consider. Knowing that the Lord will return what you give Him, you would be even with God if it were not for that fact that it is overflowing when you get it back. Would you rather have the overflow coming from a teaspoon or a wheelbarrow?

*And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field*

If Israel would amend its ways and bring to the storehouse what was due, the Lord would rebuke "the devourer."

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What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has **eaten**; What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has **eaten**; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming **locust** has eaten.

Joel 1:4 (NKJV)

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The "devourer" is from אכל (Akal) from the verb "to eat" or "to consume." and is seen in Joel above. Malachi is probably referring to the locust which was a plague all through the Old Testament.

What would life be like if the locust, the gopher, the jackrabbit, the . . . were removed from our fields. We spend a lot of money on insecticides and other techniques so that we will get a full harvest. God make the promise to Israel that, if they would turn from their ways and worship Him as they should, He would remove these creatures. What would be the result? *All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.* This never happened.

*"Your words have been harsh against Me," Says the LORD, "Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?' You have said, 'It is useless to serve God; What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, And that we have walked as mourners Before the LORD of hosts?"*

I don't know about Israel, but the LORD is spoken harshly today in our country (as well as others). In fact, there are many (at least it seems like many) who would wipe out all references to God, the Lord and anything to do with Him. Where does the U.S. fit into the end times? It doesn't. When they come it appears that the U.S. will be a third or fourth rate country and will have little to do with the end times.

Why is the U.S. a foremost power in the world? Because this country was founded by men who had great faith in God and walked in His ways. God blessed that. Then the Lord said He would bless those who blessed Israel. In the past, the U.S. has been very helpful to Israel. Today there are a growing number of Americans who would drop all aid to Israel and, perhaps, "throw in" with the Muslims.

*So now we call the proud blessed, **For those who do wickedness are raised up;** They even tempt God and go free.' There have been homosexuals running around since early times.*

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Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'I am the LORD your God. 'According

to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. 'You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the LORD your God. 'You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the LORD. **'None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness:** I am the LORD. **'The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover. She is your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness. 'The nakedness of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness. 'The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover. 'The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for theirs is your own nakedness. 'The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father--she is your sister--you shall not uncover her nakedness. 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is near of kin to your father. 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is near of kin to your mother. 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother. You shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt. 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law--she is your son's wife--you shall not uncover her nakedness. 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness. 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness.** They are near of kin to her. It is wickedness. 'Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive. 'Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity. **'Moreover you shall not lie carnally with**

**your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her.** 'And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. **'You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. 'Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion. 'Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you.** 'For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants. 'You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, either any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you '(for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled), 'lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you. 'For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people. 'Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that you do not commit any of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I am the LORD your God.' "

Leviticus 18:1-30 (NKJV)

This is a rather long passage. There is no way that anyone can say that the Lord is not concerned with homosexual behavior (or adultery and the rest). Here is a whole chapter devoted to it.

Now, the courts say that we have to teach it as an "alternate lifestyle" in our schools!

So now we call the proud blessed, **For those who do wickedness are raised up:** *They even tempt God and go free.* ' This verse surely fits the U.S. today! So, sorry to say, by the time the Lord comes to take His Church up with Him, we will no longer be a world power. It says so (implied) in the Scriptures.

No to upset you too much, Malachi continues with the following.

F: The faithful remnant (3:16-18)

---

Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name. "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him." Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.

Malachi 3:16-18 (NKJV)

---

You and I can remain faithful to the Lord and we will spare us. A זכרון (zikkarren) is a "memorial" or "remembrance" and here, as in the Scriptures below, refers to a book of remembrance.

---

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven."

Exodus 17:14 (NKJV)

That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

Esther 6:1 (NKJV)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Matthew 1:1 (NKJV)

---

The Book you and I are concerned with is noted below.

---

And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of

my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

Philippians 4:3 (NKJV)

"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Revelation 3:5 (NKJV)

*"They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him." Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.*

You and I will some day "rule and reign" with Jesus Christ. Dr. McGee makes a rather amusing comment here. *"And the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name." Running all through the Scripture there is this idea that God keeps books. I do not think there is an actual book up there in which He is writing. God never forgets, and He doesn't need that book, and He doesn't even need a computer.*<sup>24</sup>

Dr. McGee may be correct in a literal sense, but "literal" is not necessary.

A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, **And the books were opened.**

Daniel 7:10 (NKJV)

The most important reference of all is for a time yet to come.

<sup>24</sup>McGEE

When John was given a view up into heaven, one of the most important things he saw (other than the Lord, of course) is spelled out below.

And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

Revelation 5:1-5 (NKJV)

Let me bit a bit clearer.

I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; and one of the elders said\* to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."

Revelation 5:1-5 (NASB)

"Scroll" and "Book" are to be taken in the same sense. Just because some translation say "scroll" does not preclude it being a book (or vice versa). In Old Testament days then had no "books," Gutenberg had not come along yet. All of the "books" in the Old Testament were, in reality, scrolls.



Getting back to the main thought here, there is something we, as Christians, often forget. We speak about the fact that we will return to earth when Christ comes again. We forget about the fact that many of those who return will be Old Testament Jews as well.

---

And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw **four and twenty elders** sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

Revelation 4:4 (KJV)

---

There are various opinions as to whom these twenty four elders might be. The term "Elder" is from Πρεσβύτερος (Presbuterous) from which we get "Presbyterian." Dr. McGee tells of a little girl who learned about this in a Presbyterian Sunday School who *came home from her Presbyterian Sunday school, and her mother asked her what they had talked about. "We talked about heaven," the little girl replied. "Well, what did they say about it?" her mother asked. "The teacher said that there were only twenty-four Presbyterians there!"*<sup>25</sup>

I believe what JFB state. *'So in Re 15:3, "the song of Moses, and of the Lamb," the double constituents of the Church are implied, the Old Testament and the New Testament. "Elders" is the very term for the ministry both of the Old and New Testament, the Jewish and the catholic Gentile Church'.*<sup>26</sup> So there will be (I believe) and Elder from each of the tribes of Israel. Perhaps the other twelve will be the twelve Disciples (with Matthias replacing Judas). In any even, there will be both Old Testament Jews and New Testament Christians there.

*For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name. "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that*

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<sup>25</sup>McGEE

<sup>26</sup>JFB

*I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him."* Have you ever considered yourself being a "jewel?" To us today "jewels" mean "a lot of money." To Israel, they had a different significance.

---

"You shall make the breastplate of judgment. Artistically woven according to the workmanship of the ephod you shall make it: of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, you shall make it. "It shall be doubled into a square: a span shall be its length, and a span shall be its width. **"And you shall put settings of stones in it, four rows of stones: The first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald; this shall be the first row; "the second row shall be a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond; "the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; "and the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper.** They shall be set in gold settings. "And the stones shall have the names of the sons of Israel, twelve according to their names, like the engravings of a signet, each one with its own name; they shall be according to the twelve tribes.

Exodus 28:15-21 (NKJV)

---

However, this is not what is in view here. The word, סגולה (Seagulla) means "possession" or "property"<sup>27</sup> It nowhere refers to precious stones. The NASB has *"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."* Another way of saying this would be to say that *He will treat them like His sons.*

This is the same as what Paul wrote,

---

For **you are all sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

---

<sup>27</sup>BDB and TWOT

**There is neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then **you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

Galatians 3:26-29 (NKJV)

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*So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him. While this applies directly to the faithful Jews, it is true for you and I as well.*

## CHAPTER FOUR

### THE DAY OF THE LORD (4:1-6)

A: The second coming of Christ (4:1-4)

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"For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this," Says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 4:1-3 (NKJV)

---

Let us begin this chapter by determining what is meant by the "Sun of Righteousness." (Not SON!). What does this refer to? It is generally agreed that it refers to the Lord, but why "Sun?"

---

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. **There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light.** And they shall reign forever and ever.

Revelation 22:1-5 (NKJV)

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He truly will be our "Sun!"

"For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven," Burning like an oven" is an interesting statement. "Oven" here is תנור (tenoor) first appears in the passage below.

---

And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared **a smoking oven** and a **burning** torch that passed between those pieces.

Genesis 15:17 (NKJV)

---

Note that "burning" also appears here. Then there is this interesting passage,

---

He shall cross over to his stronghold for fear, And his princes shall be afraid of the banner," Says the LORD, Whose fire is in Zion And whose **furnace** is in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 31:9 (NKJV)

---

So this expression refers to a final judgement by fire. *And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble.* This deals with all who do wickedly, but note that "proud" is especially signaled out. "Proud" is זד (zed) which means "insolent, presumptuous."<sup>28</sup> It is interesting that it also has another meaning, "boiled food, pottage."<sup>29</sup>

Isaiah predicts that the focal point of this will be in Jerusalem. In a somewhat difference sense, we have the following.

---

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other

---

<sup>28</sup>BDB

<sup>29</sup>TWOT

foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, **because it will be revealed by fire**; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. **If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.** Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

1 Corinthians 3:10-17 (NKJV)

---

This illustrates a significance that is important to note. These two passages do not quite "line up."

- ★ And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts\_
- ★ but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire

The disobedient Jew (Old Testament Jew) will be cut off if he is judged unworthy. But you and I have the assurance that, even if all our works were nothing but wood, hay, and stubble, we still will be saved. The statement about Old Testament Jews is born out by Daniel.

---

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:2 (NKJV)

---

This is concluded with "*And the day which is coming shall burn them up,*" Says the LORD of hosts."

Those that are "burned up" "*will leave them neither root nor branch.* Most Springs I have a "burn day" in which I burn up the



“wood, hay and stubble” I have gathered during the year. Growing right up to the pit where I burn all this stuff is a fairly large plot of Ice Plant. When all is burned up, the ice plant is still there - it is very difficult to burn the plant, to say nothing of its roots. But on the day of judgement, those who are judged are burned by fire clear down to their roots.

*But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; We have already considered the Sun of Righteousness. When He comes, He will have “healing” in his wings. In Proverbs we read,*

---

He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without **remedy**.

Proverbs 29:1 (NKJV)

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“Remedy is from the same Hebrew word as “healing,” מרפה (marpe) It is also found in Proverbs.

---

For they are life to those who find them, And **health** to all their flesh.

Proverbs 4:22 (NKJV)

---

My wife sometimes suffers from rather severe migraine headaches. She will not have any when the Sun of Righteousness appears! (Unless she is still alive then, she will have relief even sooner than that).

I am afraid the next part is bad news for the ladies. *“And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.”* Of course, this is not to be taken literally. It speaks of the wealth we have and will have in Jesus Christ. It also speaks of the close relationship with the Lord. You can fatten calves two ways: (1) send them out in the

fields to find food for themselves, and (2) you can “Stall Feed” them so they get all the nutrition they need.

You will need to “grow fat” because, as Malachi continues, *You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this,” Says the LORD of hosts.*

To see your foe beaten is good. But how much better is it that you be allowed to be the one who punishes them.

B: Elijah to come again before the day of the Lord (4:5-6)

---

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

Malachi 4:5-6 (NKJV)

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Before we consider Elijah, consider the expression “the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” Malachi is not the only one who predicts this.

---

The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the **coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD**.

Joel 2:31 (NKJV)

---

This event has not yet happened. When will it take place? Matthew quoted Jesus as He said,

---

**“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power**

**and great glory.** "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Matthew 24:29-31 (NKJV)

---

The "awesome day of the LORD" is when Christ returns with His saints to begin the Millennium.

---

"But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, And there shall be holiness; The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. The house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau," For the LORD has spoken.

Obadiah 1:17-18 (NKJV)

---

"In that day," says the LORD, "I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast And those whom I have afflicted; I will make the lame a remnant, And the outcast a strong nation; So the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on, even forever. And you, O tower of the flock, The stronghold of the daughter of Zion, To you shall it come, Even the former dominion shall come, The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem."

Micah 4:6-8 (NKJV)

---

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were

redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Revelation 14:1-5 (NKJV)

---

This concludes what Malachi wrote except for explaining one point. *I will send you Elijah the prophet.* Is this to be taken seriously? What do we know about Elijah?

---

And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

2 Kings 2:1 & 11 (NKJV)

---

Enoch and Elijah are the two men who have not yet tasted (physical) death. After this time, we see Elijah again!

---

"But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God." Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. Then it happened, as they were parting

from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for **Moses, and one for Elijah**"--not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

Luke 9:27-35 (NKJV)

---

Some have seen some sort of contradiction here. It should have been Enoch and Elijah, not Moses. Then some, in error, think that Moses did not die. Just to settle that,

So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished. And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended.

Deuteronomy 34:5-8 (NKJV)

---

Where else do we see Elijah?

Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. "But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. **And I will give power to my two witnesses**, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be

killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. **When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.** Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

Revelation 11:1-14 (NKJV)

---

John speaks of the Two Witnesses. Unfortunately, He did not give us their names. The two common opinions are that they are Moses and Elijah (in the light of the preceding Scripture). Others think it was Enoch and Elijah, being the only two had never died the first death - until here. Both seem to make some kind of sense. One commentary has this.

Another problem is their identification. A common interpretation is that they are Moses and Elijah because the judgments inflicted by Moses and Elijah in the Old Testament are similar to those of these two witnesses (11:5-6). Further support is given the

identification of Elijah because of the prediction (Mal. 4:5) that he will appear “before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.” Christ said this prophecy of Elijah was partially fulfilled in His lifetime (Matt. 17:10-13; Mark 9:11-13; cf. Luke 1:17). And both Moses and Elijah were involved in the transfiguration (Matt. 17:3), which anticipated the Second Coming. But a problem with this suggested identity is that Moses had already died once. Some have identified the two witnesses as Enoch and Elijah inasmuch as they did not die but were translated (cf. Heb. 9:27).

While there is room for considerable discussion of these various views, the fact is that the passage does not identify the two witnesses, and they probably do not have historic identification.

—Bible Knowledge Commentary

This is about as good an explanation. It, therefore, seems that Elijah will be one of these two witnesses and we shall have to wait to find out who the second will be.

The important thing of all this is that most of this prophecy concerned Israel and may only be applied typically to The Church. Still, the Church will play an important role when the time of the end arrives. The first important role that the Church plays as being snatched away for the Seven Year Tribulation. The other role is that we shall share with the Old Testament Israelites as we go into the Millennium and, eventually, the New Heavens and the New Earth to come.

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### ACC ADAM CLARKE'S COMMENTARY

Adam Clarke is best known as the most famous commentator ever produced by the Methodist Church. Clarke labored over 40 years to produce his most significant contribution to the church his Complete Commentary on the Whole Bible. This rich, verse-by-verse expository is not only based on a deep knowledge of scripture, but is also greatly affected by sanctification doctrines of American Methodists and holiness groups.

Originally published in 1825, as a complete and unabridged eight-volume set. For over 150 years, this commentary is still one of the most used and most trusted commentaries used by both by Armenians and Calvinists alike, this standard in Biblical scholarship transcends theological barriers and differences. Only Matthew Henry's Complete Commentary on the Whole Bible has sold more copies than Clarke's commentary.

### BDB BROWN, DRIVER, AND BRIGGS

Author: Brown, Francis; Driver, S.R.; Briggs, Charles A.

A trio of eminent Old Testament scholars: Francis Brown, D.R. Driver, and Charles Briggs spent over twenty years researching, writing, and preparing The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon. Since it first appeared in the early part of the twentieth century, the BDB Lexicon has been considered the finest and most comprehensive Hebrew lexicon available to the English-speaking

student. Based upon the classic work of William Gesenius, the "father of modern Hebrew lexicography," the BDB Lexicon gives not only dictionary definitions for 8764 words, but relates each word to its Old Testament usage and categorizes its nuances of meaning. The Lexicon's exhaustive coverage of Old Testament Hebrew words, as well as its unparalleled usage of cognate languages and the wealth of background sources consulted and quoted, render the BDB Lexicon an invaluable resource for all students of the Bible.

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<sup>30</sup>Not all of these may have been used.

as well as pastors and students

K&D KEIL AND DELITZSCH COMMENTARY ON THE OLD TESTAMENT - Vol. 10: THE MINOR PROPHETS

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TWOT THEOLOGICAL WORDBOOK OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

This extensive work (frequently referred to by the abbreviation TWOT) was written by 46 Old Testament scholars, and contains over 1,400 articles of theologically significant words and 400 definitions of other words. The articles focus on theological meanings, and are brief and non-technical. Each article includes an extensive bibliography. First published in 1980. In Bible Explorer, every TWOT number is cross-referenced to the appropriate Strong's number, making finding a TWOT definition easy and fast.

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