

THE BOOK OF  
**MALACHI**

OUR AWESOME GOD:

Who God Is and What He Expects From Us

# The Prophet Malachi



# When did Malachi live & prophesy?

- 516BC The Temple was rebuilt under **Zerubbabel**.
- 458BC **Ezra** came to Jerusalem to teach the Law.
- 445BC **Nehemiah** came to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls. He was governor of Judah for 12 years...
- 433BC Nehemiah returned to Babylon, and during his absence the Jews fell into sin once more...
- Later, Nehemiah came back to Jerusalem, and spoke out against the same sins that **Malachi** mentions.
- Therefore it is likely that Malachi's message dates during Nehemiah's absence, around 425BC.

# What do we know about Malachi?

- **1:1** “The Word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi”
- This is the only mention of Malachi’s name in the Bible.
- Malachi means “Messenger” [Hebrew: mal-aw-kee’].
- This root [mal-awk’] also appears in 2:7 & 3:1 (twice).
- **Hebrew meanings:**  
messenger of God,  
angel, prophet,  
priest, teacher,  
ambassador, angel;  
// king (= meh'-lek).



# What do we know about Malachi?

- **1:1** = **Malachi** the prophet, God's messenger to the remnant of Israel back in Jerusalem.
- **2:7** = the **priests** in Israel, each of whom should be a messenger for the Lord.
- **3:1a** = prophecy of **John the Baptist**, the messenger who would prepare the way for the Lord...
- **3:1b** = prophecy about **Jesus Christ**, the Messenger of the Covenant, the Lord himself - become a man!



# 7 Disputes between God & His People

(1) God reminds his people that He loves them, even though they claim this is not so. **1:1-5**

(2) God condemns priests and people for offering unacceptable sacrifices. **1:6-14**

(3) God admonishes the priests for not following God's way, nor teaching it truthfully. **2:1-9**

(4) God argues against the people's unfaithfulness by marrying unbelievers and divorcing their wives. **2:10-17**



# 7 Disputes between God & His People

(5) God warns of the judgment and purification by fire that is coming with His Promised Messenger. **3:1-5**



(6) God accuses His People of robbing Him by not bringing Him the full tithes to the Temple. **3:6-12**

(7) God claims the People are saying harsh things against Him by saying that it is futile to serve God and that the arrogant and evildoers prosper. **3:13-18**

➔ God warns His People: The Day of The Lord is coming!  
A Day of Judgement (furnace) / Healing (sun)... **4:1-6**

# 26 Questions: 13 by God, 13 by Man

1. MAN: How have you [God] loved us?
2. GOD: Was not Esau Jacob's brother?  
Yet I loved Jacob & rejected Esau...
3. GOD: If I'm a father, where is my honor?
4. GOD: If I'm a master, where is my respect?
5. MAN: How have we despised your name?
6. MAN: How have we defiled you?
7. GOD: When you bring blind animals for sacrifice,  
is that not wrong?
8. GOD: And when you sacrifice crippled or diseased  
animals, is that not wrong?
9. GOD: Offer that to your governor, would he be pleased  
with you or receive you favorably?





# 26 Questions: 13 by God, 13 by Man

10. GOD: Will he receive you favorably and accept offerings like that from your hand?

11. GOD: Should I accept these [maimed, crippled, diseased animals] from your hand?

12. MAN: Do we not have one father?

13. MAN: Has not one God created us?

14. MAN: Why does each of us act deceitfully, each man against his own brother, to profane the covenant of our ancestors?

15. MAN: Why does God no longer pay attention to our offerings nor receive them with pleasure from our hands?

16. GOD: Did the Lord not make husband & wife one?

17. GOD: And why did He make husband & wife one?



# 26 Questions: 13 by God, 13 by Man

18. MAN: How have we wearied you [God]?
19. MAN: Where is the God of justice?
20. GOD: But who will survive the day when my Messenger comes?
21. GOD: Or who can stand when he appears?
22. MAN: How will we return [to the Lord]?
23. GOD: Will a person rob God?
24. MAN: How are we robbing you [God]?
25. MAN: What did we say against you [Lord]?
26. MAN: What did we get out of it when we carried out God's requirements and went about like mourners in the presence of the Lord of the Heavenly Armies?



**... LOTS OF QUESTIONS**

I Love You



**Malachi 1:1-5**

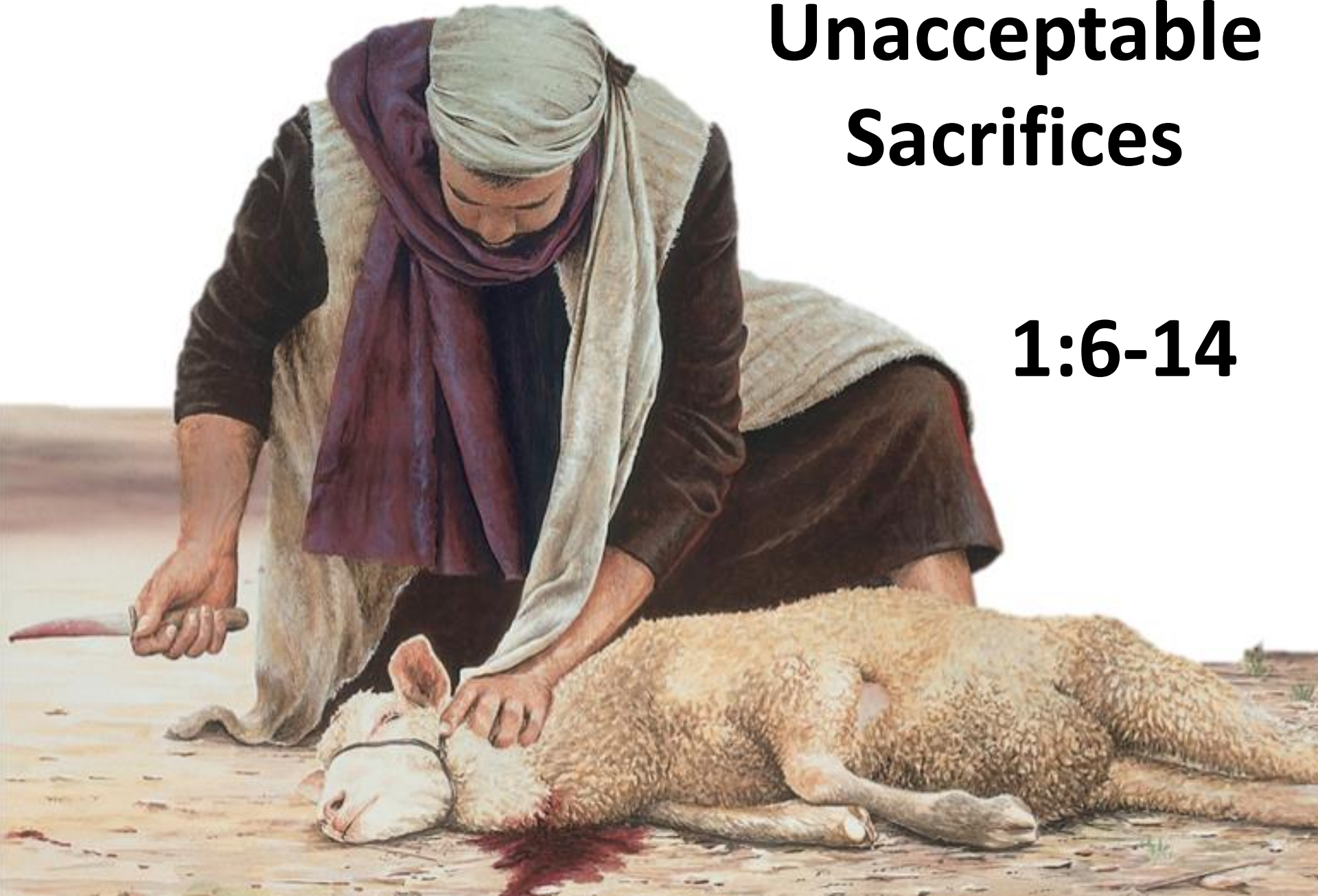
# (1) God says “I Love You” 1:1-5



- **1:2** “I have loved you” says the Lord...
- The start of God’s message for us also! He first loved us: “We love Him, because he first loved us.” **1 John 4:19**
- ➔ This should motivate us to respond: “For the love of Christ compels/constrains us, judging this, that if one died for all, then all died...” **2 Corinthians 5:14**
- **1:2-5** God loves Jacob (Israel) but hates Esau (Edom)...  
➔ Wickedness... Arrogance... Cruelty... Unrepentance...
- ➔ It is useless to try to rebuild a wicked unrepentant life under the wrath of the Lord... God will be exalted even among the unbelievers (v.5)

# Unacceptable Sacrifices

**1:6-14**



## (2) Unacceptable sacrifices 1:6-14




- The priests showed contempt for God by offering crippled / diseased / injured animals as sacrifices.
- That would be insulting to a human governor, how much more to the Lord God, the Great King!
- Cursed is the cheat who goes back on his promises...
- My Name will be great among all the nations...  
My Name is to be feared among the nations...
- “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...” **Matthew 6:33**
- ➔ Do I give the Lord my best or my left-overs?

# Admonishment for the Priests

2:1-9



# (3) Admonishment for Priests 2:1-9

- God admonishes / rebukes / curses the priests because they had **turned from the way**, and by **their teaching** caused many to stumble. They stopped following God's ways and showed partiality with God's Law. 
- I will curse you and your blessings... I will disgrace you... I have caused you to be despised and humiliated...
- **Paul's example:** "But you have observed my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love, my endurance..." (**2 Tim 3:10**).  
"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth..." (**2 Tim 2:15**).



# (3) Admonishment for Priests 2:1-9



- **2:5-7** How a true priest should live:
  - (a) Living in God's covenant of life and peace
  - (b) Showing reverence & awe for God's Name
  - (c) Teaching the truth and not falsehoods
  - (d) Walking with God in peace & uprightness
  - (e) Turning many away from their sin
  - (f) Preserving knowledge & sharing instruction
  - (g) Being a faithful messenger of the Lord Almighty!
  
- → How do I represent God in my **life**?
  
- → Is my **teaching** true to God's Word?
  
- → Am I a faithful **messenger** of God?

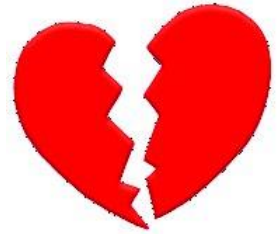
# Marriage & Unfaithfulness

2:10-17



# (4) Marriage & Unfaithfulness 2:10-17

- 2:10-17 God's People had become unfaithful:
- (a) by marrying "the daughter of a foreign god..."
- → Single Christians: Don't marry a "nice" unbeliever!  
"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" **2 Cor 6:14**
- (b) by being "unfaithful to the wife of your youth..."
- → The Lord is a witness between each married couple.
- → You weep & wail but He won't accept your offerings.



# (4) Marriage & Unfaithfulness 2:10-17

- (c) by divorcing the wife of your youth  
→ “I hate divorce” says the Lord God of Israel...
- (d) because divorce is also a stumbling block to your children, the “godly offspring” God seeks to build up.  
→ Do not do violence to your relationships...
- → “guard yourself in your spirit and do not break faith” with your **wife**... with your **children**... with the **Lord**!
- (e) you weary the Lord by saying that “all who do evil are good in the Lord’s eyes and that He is pleased with them” ... even taunting “where is the God of justice?”  
→ But He will come soon...

# The Promised Messenger

**3:1-7a**



# (5) The Promised Messenger 3:1-7

- God will send “his messenger to prepare the way...” (**John the Baptist**), and then “The Messenger of The Covenant, the Lord Himself will come to the temple...” (**Jesus Christ**)... → Fulfilled and quoted in the gospels!
- But his coming is one of judgement! Like a refiner’s **fire**, like launderer’s **soap**: he will **purify**. “Who can stand?”
- Then the Lord will again have those who will bring offerings in righteousness... “The time has come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship Him in the Spirit and in truth.” **John 4:23-24**

# (5) The Promised Messenger 3:1-7

- God comes to judge: sorcerers, adulterers, perjurers, defrauders, those who oppress widows and orphans and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear the Lord.  
→ **Repent** from your wicked ways. (= John's message...)
- God is the same despite our waywardness, “therefore we are not destroyed” ... Same yesterday, today, forever.
- The Lord's Invitation to us: “**Return** to Me and I will return to you” says the Lord Almighty!  
// “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you”  
**James 4:8**
- → Will we **Repent** and **Return** to the Lord?!

**We Are  
Robbing  
God**

**3:7-12**





# (6) We Are Robbing God 3:7-12



- The people were robbing the Lord by not giving Him their **tithes** (10%) & **offerings** (voluntary).
- “Whoever sows generously will also reap generously... Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly... You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion... and your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God...”

**2 Corinthians 9:6-11**

- → Do we **rob** the Lord in this way? Or do we give Him our **first fruits**? Are we **cheerful** or reluctant givers?



**Accusing or Trusting God? 3:13-18**

# (7) Accusing or Trusting God? 3:13-18

- (a) Some **spoke harshly** against the Lord:  
“it is futile to serve the Lord...”  
“the arrogant are blessed...”  
“the evildoers prosper...”  
“those who challenge God escape...”
- (b) Others **feared the Lord** and spoke together,  
and the Lord listened & heard & remembered them:  
“They will be mine, in the day I take up my treasured  
possession, I will spare them with compassion as a son.”
- Eventually there will be a clear distinction between  
the righteous who serve God & the wicked who do not...  
➔ There is a final day of reckoning coming: Am I ready?!



# The Day of The Lord's coming

4:1-6



# ➔ The Day of The Lord's coming 4:1-6

- (a) Like a **Furnace** of Fire burning stubble → it will destroy the arrogant and the evildoers.
- (b) **Sun** of Righteousness → that will bring healing & joy & victory over the wicked, for those who revere God.
- God promises to send “**Elijah**” before the great and dreadful day of the Lord. → Fulfilled in John the Baptist: Mark 1:1-4 & 9:11-13, Matthew 11:10-14 & 17:10-13; Luke 1:17 & 7:27, John 1:6-9 & 19-21.
- God desires to bring about **reconciliation** between fathers & their children // Himself & His Children...  
→ Allow God to work in our own family life through the “prophets” & “messengers” which He sends to us...



# Malachi's Message → Conclusions



**(1) Have I forgotten that God loves me so very much?**

→ Rejoice in His **love**, let that be my driving force...

**(2) What sort of sacrifices do I offer to God?**

→ Give the Lord my very **best**, not my left-overs...

**(3) As a priest, am I leading others in the right path?**

→ Ensure my **life** and **teaching** are transparent & true!

**(4) Am I faithful in my intimate relationships?**

→ Make my **marriage** and my **family** life my priority...

**(5) Do I listen to the Messengers God sends me?**

→ **Repent** and **return** sincerely to the Lord Jesus...

**(6) Am I robbing the Lord?**

→ Be a cheerful & **generous giver**, give Him my best...

**(7) Am I accusing or trusting God?**

→ Be **patient** and wait for God's timing, He is good...

**CONCLUSION: Am I ready for the coming Day of the Lord?**

→ Be reconciled to God, **prepare** to meet your God!

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