Malachi 1:6-14

Six disputes:

- 1. **1:2-5** God has a covenant with Israel
- 2. 1:6-2:9 Israel does not fear God and they despise His Temple in Jerusalem
 - 1. God says, Israel despises me and gives me no honor.
 - 2. Israel says, "How have we despised your name?"
 - 3. God says look at your worship practices in the temple
 - a. People bring lame sacrifices
 - b. Priests/Levites accepted the people's lame sacrifices
- 3. **2:10-16** Israel is not faithful to Covenant(s) (Mosaic and Marriage)
- 4. 2:17-3:5 God has grown weary as Israel accuses Him of being unjust
- 5. 3:6-12 God does not change, the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants are intact
- 6. **3:13-21** <u>Israel says it is useless to serve the Lord</u>
 - This second dispute is presented in two parts:
 - o 1:6-14 The Lord is despised by the priests (and the people of Israel)
 - o 2:1-9 The priests are warned for their failure to:
 - Honor YHWH
 - Teach the people
 - The priestly blessing that was intended in Numbers 6:23-27 will be turned into a curse in 1:14 and 2:2:

"The Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

'Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying,

"Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

'The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.'

"So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

- Numbers 6:23-27

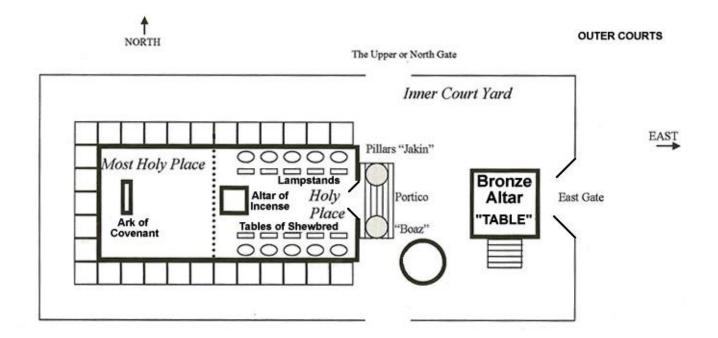
Malachi 1:14 – "Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the Lord of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations."

Malachi 2:2 – "If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the Lord of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart."

- Malachi uses
 - exclamatory words,
 - "Now" or *attah* (1:9; 2:1)
 - "Behold" or *hen* (2:6)
 - Vocative,
 - "O priests!" or hak·kō·hă·nîm (1:6; 2:1)
 - "you" referring to the priests

Malachi 1:6 – A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, 'How have we despised your name?'





OUTER COURTS

- 1. God is Father and deserves the honor. As the creator of man and the one who established Israel: "Do you thus repay the Lord, you foolish and senseless people? Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and established you?" Deuteronomy 32:6
- God is Master and deserves the respect or reverence since Israel was chosen to be YHWH servant.

- 3. The reference to priest is the word *kohen* which is inclusive making no distinction between priest and Levites in rank of function. They were:
 - a. Ritual, worship leaders
 - b. Teachers
 - c. At this time (as in Haggai and Zechariah) the *kohen* ("priests") were the national leaders. There was no king.
- 4. "show contempt" is a verb from that shows an ongoing, habitual state that was repeated over and over.
 - a. The priests had broken their legal covenant requirement of sacred service
 - b. This is the same sin stated earlier in the chapter that Esau had committed
 - i. Esau had despised or shown contempt for his birthright
 - ii. Now, Israel (Jacob) was responding to God the same way as Esau
 - c. Their failure to teach the Law and the rituals was going to lead the entire community into disaster...again
- 5. Israel's response was, "How?" which reveals their disrespect and impudence
- 6. "Name" of the Lord or his reputation:
 - a. is used 8x in this second dispute
 - b. Name is a term to represent the essence of God's nature, his being, who he is.
 - c. Character of God which produces the fruit of the Spirit and to which Christians are to be transformed into
 - d. God wanted to prove his covenant faithfulness (hesed, "love") to Israel for the world to see
 - e. Israel was failing to allow God to reveal himself to the nations

1:7 – By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, 'How have we polluted you?' By saying that the Lord's table may be despised.



1. Polluted food:

a. Deuteronomy 15:19-21 -

"All the firstborn males that are born of your herd and flock you shall dedicate to the Lord your God. You shall do no work with the firstborn of your herd, nor shear the firstborn of your flock. You shall eat it, you and your household, before the Lord your God year by year at the place that the Lord will choose. But if it has any blemish, if it is lame or blind or has any serious blemish whatever, you shall not sacrifice it to the Lord your God."

Pro-3ms V-Nifal-Prtcpl-ms N-proper-ms

N-msc

Prep-b | V-Qal-Inf | 2mp

b. Leviticus 22:17-25 -

"And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons and all the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of the house of Israel or of the sojourners in Israel

presents a burnt offering as his offering, for any of their vows or freewill offerings that they offer to the Lord, if it is to be accepted for you it shall be a male without blemish, of the bulls or the sheep or the goats. You shall not offer anything that has a blemish, for it will not be acceptable for you. And when anyone offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the Lord to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering from the herd or from the flock, to be accepted it must be perfect; there shall be no blemish in it. Animals blind or disabled or mutilated or having a discharge or an itch or scabs you shall not offer to the Lord or give them to the Lord as a food offering on the altar. You may present a bull or a lamb that has a part too long or too short for a freewill offering, but for a vow offering it cannot be accepted. Any animal that has its testicles bruised or crushed or torn or cut you shall not offer to the Lord; you shall not do it within your land, neither shall you offer as the bread of your God any such animals gotten from a foreigner. Since there is a blemish in them, because of their mutilation, they will not be accepted for you."

- 2. "By offering" or "by putting" is a verb form again indicating a repeated behavior. This is the people and the priests habitual pattern.
- 1:8 When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the Lord of hosts.



- 1. Priests were to establish the value and worth of a sacrifice and many other things. The priests could (should) reject an unworthy sacrifice:
 - "He shall stand the animal before the priest, and the priest shall value it as either good or bad; as the priest values it, so it shall be. But if he wishes to redeem it, he shall add a fifth to the valuation."

-Leviticus 27: 11-14

- 2. This had been a problem in Eli's day with his corrupt sons and also in Ezekiel's day.
- 3. "Is that not evil?" is meant to be an interrogation process of the guilty party.
- 1:9 And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? Says the Lord of hosts.

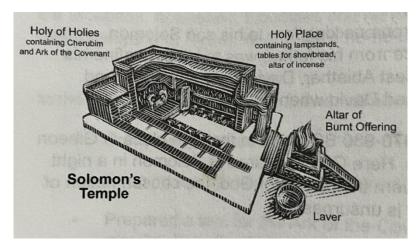
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- 1. This verse is a sarcastic mockery of the priests and the people.
- 2. The Lord is mockingly quoting the priests whose role was to be the mediator for the people. The priests were to ask God for:
 - a. "favor" pene literally means "face" and is a request for God "to soften his face"
 - b. "to entreat" hallu "to be weak or sick"
 - c. "hanan" "to show favor", "to be gracious"

1:10 - Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the Lord of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand.

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- 1. God's desire is to stop the whole process. Shut the temple doors. Close it down.
- 2. Result:
 - a. Unemployed priesthood
 - b. God's plan of be worshipped and made known throughout the nations through Israel would fail
- 3. Reason:
 - a. Unacceptable offerings
 - b. No benefit to Israelites
 - c. No advancement of God's plan
- 4. The offerings are bad, but the priestly work is worthless. The priests should make the correction.





1:11 – For from the rising of the sun to its setting my <u>name</u> will be great among the nations, and in

every place incense will be offered to my <u>name</u>, and a pure offering. For my <u>name</u> will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.

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6635 [e] 3068 [e] ṣe·ḇā·ʾō·wt. Yah·weh 'הֹוֶה צְּבֶאוֹת: of hosts Yahweh N-cp N-proper-ms

- 1. God chose Jacob (not Esau) to continue the covenant of Abraham
 - a. Genesis
 - b. Genesis 22:17-18 "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and **in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed**, because you have obeyed my voice."
- 2. "Name" is repeated 3x in this verse. YHWH is to be a GREAT name among the nations.
 - a. In spite of Israel's failure, God will accomplish his plan
 - b. The nations themselves (all around the globe, sunrise to sunset);
 - i. God's name will be great in the nations (2x)

- ii. Incense and offerings will be offered to YHWH around the globe
- 3. This is speaking of a future time when God's kingdom is over the earth
 - a. Church age it begins
 - b. Kingdom Age it is fulfilled

1:12 – But you profane it when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised.

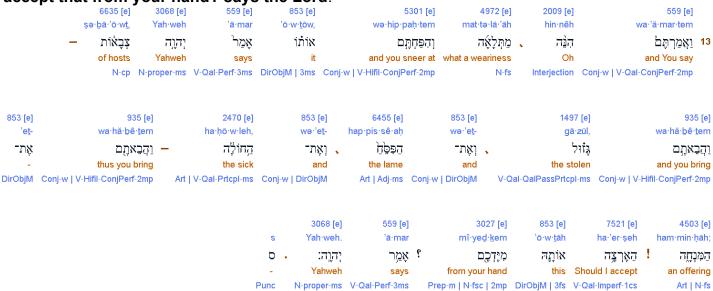


1:13 – But you say, 'What a weariness this is,' and you snort at it, says the Lord of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the Lord.

V-Nifal-Prtcpl-ms

Conj-w | N-msc | 3ms

N-msc | 3ms



- 1. The priests have become bored with the ritual
- 2. The teaching of the Word and the practice of the sacrifice is a burden to the priest. It is weariness.

1:14 – Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the Lord of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.



- 1. God reminds Israel of who he is and what they already know.
- 2. God is now the great King in Israel
- 3. God will be the Great, feared king in the nations in the future