

Malachi 2:17-3:5

Six disputes:

1. **1:2-5** – God has a covenant with Israel
 - a. **Nation does not recognize God in history or daily life**
2. **1:6-2:9** – Israel does not fear God and they despise His Temple in Jerusalem
 - a. **Priest do not teach the Word of God**
3. **2:10-16** – Israel is not faithful to Covenant(s) (Mosaic and Marriage)
 - a. **Men are not faithful to wives**
4. **2:17-3:5** – God has grown weary as Israel accuses Him of being unjust
 - a. **The God of justice you desire is coming, but He will be like a refining fire**
5. **3:6-12** – God does not change, the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants are intact
6. **3:13-4:3** – Israel says it is useless to serve the Lord

- This fourth dispute begins the final section of the book that is made up of the final 3 disputes

Malachi 2:17 – **You have wearied the Lord with your words. But you say, “How have we wearied him?” By saying, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delights in them.” Or by asking, “Where is the God of justice?”**

4100 [e] bam·māh בַּמָּה in what [way] Prep-b Interrog	559 [e] wa·'ă·mar·tem וְאַמַּרְתֶּם And yet you say Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-2mp	1697 [e] bə·dib·rê·kem, בְּדַבְּרֵיכֶם with your words Prep-b N-mpc 2mp	3068 [e] Yah·weh יְהוָה Yahweh N-proper-ms	3021 [e] hō·w·gā'·tem הוֹגַעְתֶּם You have wearied V-Hifil-Perf-2mp			
5869 [e] bə·'ê·nē בְּעֵינַי in the sight Prep-b N-cdc	2896 [e] tō·wb טוֹב [Is] good Adj-ms	7451 [e] rā' רָע evil Adj-ms	6213 [e] 'ō·sêh עוֹשֶׂה who does V-Qal-Prtcpl-msc	3605 [e] kāl- כָּל- Everyone N-msc	559 [e] be·'ē·mā·rə·kem, בְּאִמַּרְכֶּם in that you say Prep-b V-Qal-Inf 2mp	3021 [e] hō·w·gā'·nū; הוֹגַעְנוּ have we wearied [Him] V-Hifil-Perf-1cp	
4941 [e] ham·miš·pāṭ. הַמִּשְׁפָּט: of justice Art N-ms	430 [e] 'ē·lō·hē אֱלֹהֵי [is] the God N-mpc	346 [e] 'ay·yêh אֵי where Interrog	176 [e] 'ōw אוֹ Or Conj	2654 [e] ḥā·pêš, חַפֵּץ delights V-Qal-Perf-3ms	1931 [e] hū הוּא He Pro-3ms	3068 [e] ū·bā·hem וּבָהֶם and in them Conj-w Prep 3mp	Yah·weh יְהוָה of Yahweh N-proper-ms

1. “wearied YHWH” – *hoga'tem YHWH* – from *yaga* means “to toil”, “to labor”, “to be weary” and can refer to futile actions that result in the person being wearied.
 - a. Isaiah 43:22-24 – “Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings, or honored me

*with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, or **wearied** you with frankincense. You have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have **wearied** me with your iniquities."*

- b. Micah 6:3-4(-8) – "O my people, what have I done to you? How have I **wearied** you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam..."
2. "But you say" – *wa'amartem* – introduces the people challenging YHWH's claim to be wearied by them.
3. "in what way" – *bamma* – begins the people's challenge saying, "How have we wearied YHWH?"
4. YHWH explains what they have been saying, how they are thinking which produces how they are behaving. The people's words against YHWH are:
 - a. "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delights in them."
 - i. YHWH is violating the basic principles of good and evil.
 - ii. YHWH is pleased with evil doers instead with punishing them.
 - iii. YHWH calls evil good and good evil
 - iv. This will be restated by the people in:
 1. Malachi 3:15 – "And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape."
 - v. The definition of good and evil rests with Deity or the God, but YHWH, the god of Israel, is NOT in line with reality of Deity.
 - vi. Isaiah 5:20 and Jeremiah 18:20 – "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil..."
 - vii. The issue is most likely there is an elite, self-righteous group determining what is good and what should be punished and when it should be punished, but YHWH is not matching their "ideas", or "their god"

"But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?

But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die.

"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.'

Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? – Ezekiel 18:21-32

b. “Where is the God of justice?”

- i. Israel is looking for justice; they want the God of Justice!
- ii. “Justice” is a noun translated from the word *hammispat* or *mishpat* /mish-pawt/ meaning simply “judgment”.
 1. The people want “judgment”, the God of judgment.
 2. The people don’t want what is just, they have already decided what is good and bad, and what needs to be judged.
 3. YHWH has asked where is my honor and where is my reverence (1:6), but the people say, “Where is judgment.”

5. The next verses now describe what the God of justice will do when he comes as the God of judgment

- a. The next verses combine the First Coming of Jesus and the Second Coming of Jesus
- b. Many prophecies of the Messiah combined his coming.
- c. Also, remember in the past YHWH had entered Moses’ Tabernacle and Solomon’s Temple.
 - i. YHWH had left Solomon’s Temple in Ezekiel 10
 - ii. The Glory of God had not entered this temple (Second Temple; Zerubbabel’s)
 - iii. YHWH has not yet come to this temple.

3:1 – 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; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

6597 [e] û-pîṭ-’ôm וּפִתְאֹם	6440 [e] lə-pā-nāy; לִפְנֵי	1870 [e] de-reḵ דֶּרֶךְ	6437 [e] û-pîn-nāh- וּפִנְהַ	4397 [e] mal-’ā-ḵî, מַלְאֲכִי	7971 [e] šō-lē-ah שִׁלַּח	2005 [e] hin-nî הִנְנִי
and suddenly	before Me	the way	and he will prepare	My messenger	I send	behold
Conj-w Adv	Prep-l N-mpc 1cs	N-cs	Conj-w V-Piel-ConjPerf-3ms	N-msc 1cs	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	Interjection 1cs

4397 [e] û-mal-’ak וּמַלְאֲכִי	1245 [e] me-baq-šîm, מִבְקָשִׁים	859 [e] 'at-tem אַתֶּם	834 [e] 'ā-šer- אֲשֶׁר	113 [e] hā-’ā-dō-wn הָאֲדֹנָי	1964 [e] hê-kā-lōw הֵיכָלוֹ	413 [e] 'el- אֶל-	935 [e] yā-bō-w יָבוֹא
and Even the Messenger	seek	you	whom	the Lord	His temple	to	will come
Conj-w N-msc	V-Piel-Prtcpl-mp	Pro-2mp	Pro-r	Art N-ms	N-msc 3ms	Prep	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms

6635 [e] ṣə-bā-’ō-wṭ. צְבָאוֹת:	3068 [e] Yah-weh יְהוָה	559 [e] 'a-mar אָמַר	935 [e] bā, בָּא	2009 [e] hin-nêh- הִנֵּה	2655 [e] hă-pê-šîm חֲפִצִּים	859 [e] 'at-tem אַתֶּם	834 [e] 'ā-šer- אֲשֶׁר	1285 [e] hab-be-’rîṭ הַבְרִית
of hosts	Yahweh	says	He is coming	behold	delight	you	in whom	of the covenant
N-cp	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	Interjection	Adj-mp	Pro-2mp	Pro-r	Art N-fs

1. Two characters that are coming that the people appear to be asking for:
 - a. “My messenger” (*malaki*, or Malachi) who will prepare the way before “ME” (YHWH)
 - b. “the Lord” – *ha* (the) *adon* (lord) – who is the Messenger of the covenant (*malak* is used again.)
 - c. The third character is the speaker YHWH who is saying “I send”, “My messenger”, “before Me”, “says YHWH”

2. “will prepare” – *panah* – means “to turn”
 - a. Isaiah 57:14-21 (also Isaiah 40:3; 62:10)
 - b. The idea is preparing away for the arrival of a king and removing the obstacles from the path of their travel
 - c. The idea “to turn” from *panah* can indicate a preparing of the heart for the arrival of the messenger of the covenant.
3. Messenger of the covenant would be the New Covenant
4. Clearly from the New Testament John the Baptist is the “my messenger” and “Messenger of the covenant” is Jesus
 - a. John the Baptist = Matthew 11:3, 10, 14
 - b. Jesus = Luke 2:21-40; John 2:12-22
5. “Suddenly”
6. “Desire” was used in 2:15 where God desired Godly offspring. Now the people desire justice of judgment

3:2 – 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 fullers' soap.

5975 [e]	4310 [e]	935 [e]	3117 [e]	853 [e]	3557 [e]	4310 [e]
hā-ō-mêḡ	ū-mî	bō-w-ōw,	yō-wm	'et-	mə-kaḵ-kêl	ū-mî
הֶעֱמַד	וְיָמִי ?	בּוֹאֹ	יוֹם	אֶת-	מִכְלָכֶל	וְיָמִי 2
can stand	and who	of His coming	the day	-	can endure	But who
Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	Conj-w Interrog	V-Qal-Inf 3ms	N-msc	DirObjM	V-Piel-Prtcpl-ms	Conj-w Interrog

3526 [e]	1287 [e]	6884 [e]	784 [e]	1931 [e]	3588 [e]	7200 [e]
mə-kaḵ-bə-sîm.	ū-kaḵ-bō-rîṭ	mə-šā-rêḡ,	ka-êš	hū	kî-	bə-hê-rā-ō-w-tōw;
מְכַבְּסִים:	וְכַבְּרִית	מְצַרֵּף	כָּאֵשׁ	הוּא	כִּי- ?	בְּהִרְאֹתוֹ
launderer's	and like soap	of a refiner	[is] like fire	He	for	when He appears
V-Piel-Prtcpl-mp	Conj-w, Prep-k N-fs	V-Piel-Prtcpl-ms	Prep-k N-cs	Pro-3ms	Conj	Prep-b V-Nifal-Inf 3ms

3:3 – He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.

1121 [e] bə·nê-	853 [e] 'et-	2891 [e] wə·tî·har	3701 [e] ke·sep,	2891 [e] û·mə·ṭa·hēr	6884 [e] mə·ṣā·rêp	3427 [e] wə·yā·šab
בְּנֵי־	אֶת־	וַיְטַהֵר	כֶּסֶף	וּמְטַהֵר	מַצְרֵף	וַיָּשָׁב 3
the sons	-	and He will purify	of silver	and a purifier	as a refiner	And He will sit
N-mpc	DirObjM	Conj-w V-Piel-ConjPerf-3ms	N-ms	Conj-w V-Piel-Prtcpl-ms	V-Piel-Prtcpl-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms

3701 [e] wə·ḵak·kā·sep;	2091 [e] kaz·zā·hāb	853 [e] 'ō·ṭam,	2212 [e] wə·ziq·qāq	3878 [e] lé·wî
וַיַּכְּסֵף	כַּזָּהָב	אֹתָם	וַיַּזְקֵק	לֵוִי
and silver	as gold	them	and purge	of Levi
Conj-w, Prep-k, Art N-ms	Prep-k, Art N-ms	DirObjM 3mp	Conj-w V-Piel-ConjPerf-3ms	N-proper-ms

6666 [e] biṣ·dā·qāh.	4503 [e] min·ḥāh	5066 [e] mag·gî·šê	3068 [e] Yah·weh,	1961 [e] wə·hā·yū
בִּצְדָקָה:	מִנְחָה	מִגִּישִׁי	לַיהוָה	וְהָיוּ
in righteousness	An offering	offer	to Yahweh	that they may
Prep-b N-fs	N-fs	V-Hifil-Prtcpl-mpc	Prep-l N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3cp

1. This is New Covenant activity in the Church Age
2. Refiner uses fire
3. Laundry uses bleach

3:4 – Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

5769 [e] 'ō·w·lām,	3117 [e] kî·mê	3389 [e] wî·rū·šā·lim;	3063 [e] ye·hū·dāh	4503 [e] min·ḥaṭ	3068 [e] Yah·weh,	6149 [e] wə·'ā·rə·bāh
עוֹלָם	כִּי־מֵי	וַיְרוּשָׁלַם	יְהוּדָה	מִנְחַת	לַיהוָה	וְעָרְבָה 4
of old	as in the days	and Jerusalem	of Judah	the offering	to Yahweh	And will be pleasant
N-ms	Prep-k N-mpc	Conj-w N-proper-fs	N-proper-ms	N-fsc	Prep-l N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3fs

6931 [e] qad·mō·nî·yō·wṭ.	8141 [e] û·ḵə·šā·nîm
קִדְמֹנִיּוֹת:	וּכְשָׁנִים
in former	and as years
Adj-fp	Conj-w, Prep-k N-fp

3:5 – Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

3784 [e]	4116 [e]	5707 [e]	1961 [e]	4941 [e]	413 [e]	7126 [e]
bam-kaš-še-pīm	mə-ma-hēr,	'ēd	wə-hā-yī-tī	lam-miš-pāt	'ā-lé-kem	wə-qā-rab-tī
בְּמַכְשָׁפִים	מַמְהֵר	עֵד	וְהֵיְתִי	לְמִשְׁפָּט	אֵלֵיכֶם	וְקָרַבְתִּי
Against sorcerers	a swift	witness	and I will be	for judgment	you	And I will come near
Prep-b, Art V-Piel-Prtcpl-mp	V-Piel-Prtcpl-ms	N-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs	Prep-l, Art N-ms	Prep 2mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs

490 [e]	7916 [e]	7939 [e]	6231 [e]	8267 [e]	7650 [e]	5003 [e]
'al-mā-nāh	kīr	še-ka-r-ša-	ū-be-'o-še-qē	laš-ša-qer;	ū-ban-niš-ba-'īm	ū-bam-na-'ā-pīm,
וְאֶלְמָנָה	שָׂכִיר	שָׂכָר	וּבְעֹשֶׂי	לְשָׁקֵר	וּבְנֹשְׁבֵי	וּבְמַנְאֵי
and widows	earners	wage	and Against those who exploit	perjurers	and Against	and Against adulterers
N-fs	Adj-ms	N-msc	Conj-w, Prep-b V-Qal-Prtcpl-mpc	Prep-l, Art N-ms	Conj-w, Prep-b, Art V-Nifal-Prtcpl-mp	Conj-w, Prep-b, Art V-Piel-Prtcpl-mp

6635 [e]	3068 [e]	559 [e]	3372 [e]	3808 [e]	1616 [e]	5186 [e]	3490 [e]
še-bā-'ō-wt.	Yah-weh	'ā-mar	ye-rê-'ū-nī,	wə-lō	gēr	ū-mat-tē-	wə-yā-tō-wm
צְבָאוֹת:	יְהוָה	אָמַר	יְרֵאוּנִי	וְלֹא	גֵר	וּמַטְּרִי	וְיָתֹום
of hosts	Yahweh	says	they do fear Me	and because not	a sojourner	and against those who turn away	and orphans
N-cp	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms	V-Qal-Perf-3cp 1cs	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	N-ms	Conj-w V-Hifil-Prtcpl-mpc	Conj-w N-ms

1. After the purifying of the Levites (NT priests, the righteous), the Lord will destroy the wicked.