

# Malachi 2:17-3:6 – An Unchanging God

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, January 28, 2024 AM

**Last Time:** 3rd of Six Discourses [Charge (God), Question (Israel), Response (God), Foundation];

- **Sunday Jan 7 AM** – “I Have Loved You” **Despite their blindness, there was evidence of His love in front of them.**  
**Foundation:** “The Lord will be magnified beyond the borders of Israel.”
- **Sunday Jan 7 PM** – Overview of Malachi: Background, Relevance, Threads and Theme. **He wants a people who will make His name great across geography & generations.**
- **Sunday Jan 14 AM** – “I Am a Great King” **Their worship of a great God was weak and they were unaware.**  
**Foundation:** His name would be great from rising of son to setting of the same & pure incense.
- **Sunday Jan 21 AM** – “A Godly Seed” **Their actions were undermining His desire to perpetuate Israel.**  
**Foundation:** He is seeking a godly generation to be raised up by the prior generation.

**Organization of Malachi:** We have gone up the hill (Heart towards God, Worship of God, Treatment of Others) and are now going back down in reverse. **Chiasm**

**There is a bit of retread here, further opening themes we touched upon earlier.**

## Malachi 2:17-3:6 – Fourth Discourse

**Context:** Israel generally expected God to move more quickly (glory in temple, Israel exalted). Their country was limping along under Persian rule while neighbors were relatively more prosperous.

### Charge: Wearing God Out

**Mal 2:17a** *Ye have wearied the LORD with your words.*

**The everlasting God does not get tired or weak.**

**Isaiah 40:28** *Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, That the everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding.*

**This is referring to His frustration with persistent ignorant complaints against Him.**

### Question: How have we Complained?

**Mal 2:17b** *Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, And he delighteth in them; Or, Where is the God of judgment?*

**They do not understand that their attitude and speech are frustrating God.**

### Two statements:

1. God must be pleased with evil-doers (**sarcasm**)

**Their attitude is that evil must not be that bad because evildoers (likely their neighbors) seem to be doing just fine.**

**Illus:** Asaph had his questions (**Psalm 73**), but handled it in a much more godly way.

2. When is God going to do something about the rampant evil around us?

**This is the clear and prevailing sentiment. When will God move? Don't you care?**

**Israel was putting itself in a very dangerous position, presuming to judge God.**

### Response: I Will Come

**Structure:** His response will come in two parts, with two subparts to the second part.

**In truth, His delay was due to their injustice, not His; their complacency about evil, not His.**

#### 1. First My Messenger

**Mal 3:1a** *Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me:*

**Jesus quotes this passage and links it directly to John the Baptist (Matt 11:10** *For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.*) **Illus:** Advance Team

**A work of preparation was necessary because Israel was in a state of spiritual disarray. He addressed these issues!**

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**2. Then I Will Come**

**Mal 3:1b** *And the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, Even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: Behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.*

**One of their chief concerns was when the greater glory of God would manifest itself in the temple.**

- When Solomon built the first temple, the shekinah glory of the Lord filled it.
- Nothing like this happened at the building of the second temple, but...  
**Haggai 2:9** *The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: And in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.*
- Still nothing (at the time of Malachi)... but **SUDDENLY**
- **Incarnation: John 1:14** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*
- **Simeon: Luke 2:32** *A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*
- **Multiple visits to the temple:** over the years and during His ministry.

**The glory of God in Jesus Christ perfectly fulfilled Haggai's prophecy... a greater glory than Solomon saw.**

**You seek Him, you long for Him... and He is coming... but.**

**a. ... to Clean House**

**Mal 3:2-4** *But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: And he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, As in the days of old, and as in former years.*

**His FIRST priority will be to cleanse the sin of His people.**

**This is NOT what the people expected... especially the religious elite (Pharisees & Sadducees)**

- A refiner doesn't destroy the silver, he purifies it.
- A fuller (launderer) doesn't destroy the clothes, they cleanse them.  
**The goal is a pure offering, like those offered in the early days of Israel.**

**What did Jesus do in His ministry?**

- He provided a perfect example.
- He taught the true intent of the Law and called out sin.
- He came to call sinners to repentance.
- He made the perfect sacrifice that can purge the sin of all who repent and believe in Him.  
**Luke 3:16** *John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:*

**b. ... to Judge Sin**

**Mal 3:5** *And I will come near to you to judgment; And I will be a swift witness Against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, And against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, The widow, and the fatherless, And that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, Saith the LORD of hosts.*

**This appears to be an example of OT telescoping, combining His first and second appearing.**

**He will judge evil and "take out the trash" AFTER He purifies His people.**

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**Foundation: I am Unchanging**

**Mal 3:6** *For I am the LORD, I change not; Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

**This is a deeply significant passage with countless applications.**

**Why wasn't God wearied to the point of casting off and destroying Israel?**

**Psalm 89:31-34** *if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes, but I will not remove from him my **steadfast love** or be false to my faithfulness. I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips. (ESV)*

**Because He HATES evil (lying), is NOT unjust and would NOT violate His word.**

**APPLICATION**

**NT Truths for Translation:**

- We are under the NT initiated by Christ and are priests, offering up spiritual sacrifices to God.

**1. Charge: Wearing God Out with Words**

**Can NT Christians do this?** **Eph 4:29-30** *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

**2. Question: How have we Complained?**

- **Can we be afflicted with discontent about the situation in our life, our community, our country?**  
**This can be especially troublesome when we are comparing ourselves to others.**
- **Can we find ourselves asking, "Lord where are You"? "What are you doing?"**

**3. Response: I Will Come**

**His priority is the preparation and purification of a people. He has come and He is doing a work right now.**

**What if God had met their expectations?** No gospel, no purity, no salvation.

**What if God met our expectations?**

**a. This is a space of Salvation.**

**2 Peter 3:4, 8-9** – He is not slack, but longsuffering for the sake of saving some.

**b. This is a space of Sanctification.**

**1 Peter 1:6-7** *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: **He has come to refine & clean.***

**1 Pet 4:17** *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*

**Illus:** Election, the troubles in our country. **Illus 2:** Our personal lives

**We are in a space God for salvation and sanctification. When judgment begins, that opportunity is over.**

**While we wait, when trials come, rather than asking "what are you doing!", ask "what are you doing in me?"**

**4. Foundation: An Unchanging God**

**There is no change in His purpose, power, or His promises. He will keep EVERY one.**

**His commitments aren't anchored in you or the world around you but in His unchanging character.**

**This moment of trial and waiting is sponsored by the unchanging Love of God.**