

# Malachi 3:6-12

## Six disputes:

- 1:2-5** – God has a covenant with Israel
  - Nation does not recognize God in history or daily life**
- 1:6-2:9** – Israel does not fear God and they despise His Temple in Jerusalem
  - Priest do not teach the Word of God**
- 2:10-16** – Israel is not faithful to Covenant(s) (Mosaic and Marriage)
  - Men are not faithful to wives**
- 2:17-3:5** – God has grown weary as Israel accuses Him of being unjust
  - The God of justice you desire is coming, but He will be like a refining fire
- 3:6-12** – God does not change, the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants are intact
  - God has not altered his position concerning the Abrahamic Covenant**
- 3:13-4:3** – Israel says it is useless to serve the Lord
  - The fifth dispute contains two parts:
    - One, repentance (3:6-7)
    - Two, the tithe (3:8-10)
  - There are three pivotal statements by YHWH in this fifth dispute:
    - YHWH: “I do not change” (3:6)
    - YHWH: “Return to me” (3:7)
    - YHWH: “Test me in this” (3:10)
  - Malachi (speaking for YHWH) and the Israelites responses to the prophet flow like this:
    - Malachi: “YHWH made a covenant with Abraham. That is the only reason you have not been destroyed like the other nations.” (3:6-7)
    - Israel: “How shall we return? What have we even done wrong?” (3:7)
    - Malachi provides proof: “You are robbing YHWH” (3:8)
    - Israel: “How have we robbed YHWH?” (3:8)
    - Malachi provides proof: “Tithes and contributions.” (3:8)
    - Malachi declaration of YHWH’s explanation, decision and restatement of covenant promises.

Malachi 3:6 – “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

3615 [e]	3808 [e]	3290 [e]	1121 [e]	859 [e]	8138 [e]	3808 [e]	3068 [e]	589 [e]	3588 [e]	
ka-li·tem.	lō	ya·'ā·qōb	bə·nē-	wə·'at·tem	šā·nī·tī;	lō	Yah·weh	'ā·nī	kī	
·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	6
·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
are consumed	not	of Jacob	sons	therefore you	I do change	not	[am] Yahweh	I	For	
V-Qal-Perf-2mp	Adv-NegPrt	N-proper-ms	N-mpc	Conj-w   Pro-2mp	V-Qal-Perf-1cs	Adv-NegPrt	N-proper-ms	Pro-1cs	Conj	

- “For” or “surely” is *ki* which is a particle beginning two clauses. Also translated as “for”, “because”, “if”, “indeed” (the NIV doesn’t translate *ki*.)
- This verse can also be translated as:  
“Because I, YHWH, have not changed, you, the sons of Jacob, have not perished.”

- a. The perfect tense of the verbs “changed” and “perished” support: “YHWH has not changed” instead of “YHWH does not change”, though both are correct.
  - b. Since “Sons of Jacob have not changed”, it would be consisted to say, “YHWH has not changed.”
  - c. Instead of “Sons of Jacob DO NOT change.” And, “YHWH DOES NOT change.”
3. Two contrasting clauses:
    - a. YHWH has not changed referred to as “I” in the contrasting clauses
    - b. Israel is not destroyed referred to as “you” in the contrasting clauses
  4. YHWH can refer to the God of the Exodus (Mosaic Covenant), but “sons of Jacob” draws attention back to the Covenant of Abraham (Abrahamic Covenant)
    - a. 15x “sons of Jacob” is in the OT:
      - i. 3 of the 15x in 1 Kings 18:31; 2 Kings 17:34; and here in Malachi
      - ii. 12 of the 15x in Genesis (7 of those 12 in Genesis 34-35)
      - iii. The Sons of Jacob belong to the unconditional covenant given to Abraham
    - b. YHWH made the covenant with Abraham, but he revealed his name YHWH to Moses before the Exodus and the Mosaic Covenant (the Law, a conditional covenant)
  5. Two things are in play here, neither of which can or have changed:
    - a. The holiness of YHWH to judge sin as in Malachi 3:5
    - b. The faithfulness of YHWH (hesed, “covenant love”) as in Malachi 1:2
  6. Micah 7:18-20 declares God’s *hesed*:
 

*“Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love (ḥe·sed). He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love (ḥe·sed) to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.”*
  7. The curse and punishment of the Mosaic Covenant is declared in:
    - a. Leviticus 26
    - b. Deuteronomy 28
  8. The failure of the Mosaic Covenant to make the people holy will result in a New Covenant:
    - a. Jeremiah 31:31-34
  9. The failure of the Sons of Jacob in the Mosaic Covenant will NOT destroy YHWH’s faithfulness to Abraham’s covenant:
    - a. “By no means!” – Romans 11:1
    - b. Failure of Mosaic covenant was:
      - i. Not total – Romans 11:1-10
      - ii. Not final – Romans 11:11-32
    - c. A deliverer will come out of Zion to turn the sons of Jacob – Romans 11:26-27
  10. Replacement Theology or Covenant Theology
    - a. Rooted in three Covenants:
      - i. Covenant of Redemption
        1. Covenant among members of the Trinity
        2. Agreement among the Father, Son and HS:
          - a. Son agreed to become a man and obey the demands of the covenant of works and pay for sin

- b. Father agreed to give the Son to live under the Mosaic law
      - c. Holy Spirit agreed to empower and apply the benefits
    - ii. Covenant of Works
      - 1. This includes several binding covenants God made with man where God promised blessing, but man needed to obey
      - 2. First was in the Garden
      - 3. Also, Mosaic Covenant
    - iii. Covenant of Grace
      - 1. Since man failed the Works Covenant, God would supply another means
  - b. With this idea the Covenant with Israel has been set aside and the Covenant of Grace has replaced Israel
  - c. Or, the Church will now spiritually fulfill all the promises given to physical Israel
  - d. Three errors they make:
    - i. Isolate scripture
    - ii. Proof texts (out of context)
    - iii. Spiritualize interpretation
11. God is not finished with Israel. God will complete his plan and fulfill his promises to Israel
- a. God is able to restore physical Israel and build his church.
  - b. Israel and the church are two separate works of God
12. Matthew 21:43 – “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.”
- a. Matthew 23:39 – “For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”
  - b. Luke 13:29 – “And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.”
  - c. Acts 1:3 – “He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.”
  - d. Acts 1:6-8 – “So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’”
13. Romans 2:28-29
- a. Paul is not saying an unsaved Jew is not a Jew
  - b. Paul is not saying unsaved Israel is not Israel
  - c. Paul is not saying a Christian is a Jew
  - d. Paul is not saying the church is Israel
14. Romans 9:6
- a. Luke 3:8-9
  - b. John 8:39-44
    - i. Israel refers to all Jews and to the physical nation of Israel (Romans 9:4)
    - ii. True Israel refers to saved Israel or believing Jews (Romans 9:6)
15. Romans 11:16-24
- a. The Root is The Abrahamic Covenant or Abraham’s Seed (Jesus)
  - b. The Root is not Israel
  - c. Israel and the church grow from the same Root

- d. Romans 11:25-27 – Israel is in spiritual blindness today, but Israel (the nation, not every last individual) will be saved
    - i. Zechariah 13:8-9 says 1/3 of Israel will be saved
    - ii. Romans 9:27 says the remnant of Israel will be saved
16. Galatians 3:16
- a. Abraham's covenant is fulfilled in Christ and by Christ who is the promised Seed
  - b. Paul is contrasting the covenant with Abraham and the covenant with Moses
17. Galatians 3:26-29
- a. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek. In Christ they are the same body
  - b. Romans 1:16 – “first the Jew, then also the Greek”
  - c. 1 Corinthians 10:32 Paul identifies three groups of people:
    - i. Jew
    - ii. Gentile
    - iii. Church
  - d. Believers are the seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:7) and have become children of God
  - e. Believers are not Jews and are not part of the nation of Israel
18. Ephesians 2:13-16
- a. Paul is not saying Israel and the Church are one body, or that the Church is now Israel
  - b. Israel maintains its identity.
  - c. Paul is teaching that Jews and Gentiles are one new body, the church
19. Hebrews 12:22-23
- a. Contrasting the Law of Moses with the New Covenant
  - b. The church is in heaven and there is a heavenly Jerusalem
  - c. There is still a born Israel to fulfill the physical promises to Abraham

**3:7 – From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’**

**3:8 – Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions.**

**3:9 – You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.**

**3:10 – Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.**

**3:11 – I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts.**

**3:12 – Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.**