

# Malachi 2:1-9

- 2:1-9 is the second part of the second disputation (1:6-2:9)
  - Directed at the Levitical priesthood (Levites and priests)
- 2:1-9 can be divided in two halves focused on the theme of the Levitical priesthood’s failure to show YHWH the respect the Great King (the “great King” whose “name will be feared among the nations”) deserves:
  - 2:1-3 – “if you will not take it to heart to give **honor** to my name” (2:2)
  - 2:4-9 – “It was a covenant of **fear**, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name.” (2:5)
- 2:1-9 develops the curse promised at the end of the first part of this second disputation in the last verse of that section (1:14) by declaring a curse in both first half and second half of this second part:
  - 2:1-3 – “I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings,” in 2:2.
  - 2:4-9 – “I make you despised and abased,” declared in 2:9
- 2:1-9 addresses two issues presented to the priesthood in 1:9-14:
  - 2:1-3 – YHWH responds to his question presented to the priesthood in 1:6 which was: “Where is my honor?...Where is my fear?”
  - 2:4-9 – YHWH condemns the priesthood for allowing the people to despise the rituals and requirements of the covenant presented in 1:7-8 as: “offering polluted food upon my altar... ‘the Lord’s table may be despised’... you offer blind animals in sacrifice... you offer those that are lame or sick.”

Malachi 2:1 – “**And now, O priests, this command is for you.**

3548 [e]	2063 [e]	4687 [e]	413 [e]	6258 [e]
hak·kō·hă·nîm.	haz·zōt	ham·miş·wāh	'ă·lê·kem	wə·'at·tāh,
הַכֹּהֲנִים:	הַזֹּאת	הַמִּצְוָה	אֵלֵיכֶם	וְעַתָּה 1
O priests	this	commandment	to	Now
Art   N-mp	Art   Pro-fs	Art   N-fs	Prep   2mp	Conj-w   Adv

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.**

8034 [e]	3519 [e]	5414 [e]	3820 [e]	5921 [e]	7760 [e]	3808 [e]	518 [e]	8085 [e]	3808 [e]	518 [e]
liš·mī,	ka·bō·wd	lā·tēt	lēb	'al-	tā·sī·mū	lō	wə·'im-	tjš·mā·'ū	lō	'im-
לְשִׁמִּי	כְּבוֹד	לְתֵת	לֵב	עַל-	תִּשְׁימוּ	לֹא	וְאִם-	תִּשְׁמָעוּ	לֹא	אִם-
to My name	glory	to give	heart	to	you will take [it]	not	and if	you will hear	not	if
Prep-I   N-msc   1cs	N-ms	Prep-I   V-Qal-Inf	N-ms	Prep	V-Qal-Imperf-2mp	Adv-NegPrt	Conj-w   Conj	V-Qal-Imperf-2mp	Adv-NegPrt	Conj



1293 [e]	853 [e]	779 [e]	3994 [e]	853 [e]	7971 [e]	6635 [e]	3068 [e]	559 [e]	
bir·kō·w·tê·kem;	'et-	wə·'a·rō·w·tī	ham·mā·'ē·rah,	'et-	bā·kem	wə·šil·lah·tī	še·bā·'ō·wt,	Yah·weh	'a·mar
בְּרָכּוֹתֵיכֶם	אֶת-	וְאָרוֹתַי	הַמְּאָרָה	אֶת-	בְּכֶם	וְשִׁלַּחְתִּי	צְבָאוֹת	יְהוָה	אָמַר
your blessings	-	and I will curse	a curse	-	upon you	and I will send	of hosts	Yahweh	says
N-fpc   2mp	DirObjM	Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs	Art   N-fs	DirObjM	Prep   2mp	Conj-w   V-Piel-ConjPerf-1cs	N-cp	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms

3820 [e]	5921 [e]	7760 [e]	369 [e]	3588 [e]	779 [e]	1571 [e]
lēb.	'al-	šā·mīm	'ē·nā·kem	kī	'a·rō·w·tī·hā,	wə·gam
לֵב:	עַל-	שָׁמִים	אֵינְכֶם	כִּי	אָרוֹתֶיהָ	וְגַם
heart	to	do take [it]	not you	because	I have cursed them	and Yes already
N-ms	Prep	V-Qal-Prtclpl-mp	Adv   2mp	Conj	V-Qal-Perf-1cs   3fs	Conj-w   Conj

1. “take it to heart (“leb”, לֵב;) stated 2x in this verse
2. “curse” (“meerah”, מְאָרָה) repeated 3x in this verse
3. The “blessings” of the Levites must refer to the special favor they had for serving the Lord in the temple which would include the benefits they received from the tithing of the produce of all Israel.
  - a. If the land did not produce the Levitical provisions would equally be reduced
  - b. 3:11 mentions two of the blessings that would be removed causing devastation to the Levitical priesthood’s ability to survive:
    - i. Concerning crops: “I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil.”
      1. The “devourer” was some kind of devouring worm or pest that ate away at the crop.
      - ii. Concerning wine: “Your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts.”

**2:3 – Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it.**

6569 [e]	6440 [e]	5921 [e]	6569 [e]	2219 [e]	2233 [e]	853 [e]	1605 [e]	2005 [e]	
pe·reš	pə·nē·kem,	'al-	pə·reš	wə·zē·rī·tī	haz·ze·ra',	'et-	lā·kem	gō·'ēr	hin·nī
פָּרֵשׁ	פְּנֵיכֶם	עַל-	פָּרֵשׁ	וְזָרִיתִי	הַזָּרַע	אֶת-	לְכֶם	גְּעַר	הִנְנִי
the refuse	your faces	on	refuse	and spread	descendants	-	your	I will rebuke	Behold
N-msc	N-mpc   2mp	Prep	N-ms	Conj-w   V-Piel-ConjPerf-1cs	Art   N-ms	DirObjM	Prep   2mp	V-Qal-Prtclpl-ms	Interjection   1cs

**"Refuse", "Offal" - peres פָּרֵשׁ - "fecal matter", the internal waste of the sacrificial animal**

413 [e]	853 [e]	5375 [e]	2282 [e]
'ê·lāw.	'et·kem	wə·nā·śā	ḥag·gē·kem;
אִלָּיו:	אֲתֶכֶם	וְנָשָׂא	חַגֵּיכֶם
with it	you	and [one] will take away	of your [solemn] feasts
Prep   3ms	DirObjM   2mp	Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms	N-mpc   2mp

1. “Rebuke your offspring”
  - a. The descendent and heirs of the Levitical priesthood would be rebuked and rejected
  - b. Aaron, and, also, his grandson Phinehas had been given promises that would continue to their family through the generations. But, now, no more.

2. “Offal” or “Refuse” – *peres* – פֶּרֶשׁ – /peh-resh/ - means “fecal matter”, “dung”. In this case of animals and included the internal waste of the cut open sacrificed animal.
  - a. Normally this waste or offal was to be carried out of the camp and disposed of.
  - b. Now, first, “spread dung on your faces” would occur to the priests.
    - i. The “dung of your offerings” would be spread on the faces of the Levitical priesthood.
    - ii. Then, “you shall be taken away with it”, or the Levitical priesthood would be taken to the garbage dump outside the camp to be disposed of together.

**2:4 – So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the Lord of hosts.**

3878 [e]	854 [e]	1285 [e]	1961 [e]	2063 [e]	4687 [e]	853 [e]	413 [e]	7971 [e]	3588 [e]	3045 [e]
lê-wî,	'et-	bə-rî-tî	lih-yô-wṭ	haz-zōt;	ham-miṣ-wāh	'ēt	'ā-lê-ḵem,	šil-laḥ-tî	kî	wî-da'tem
לְוִי	אֶת־	בְּרִיתִי	לַהֲיוֹת	הַזֹּאת	הַמִּצְוָה	אֶת	אֵלֵיכֶם	שִׁלַּחְתִּי	כִּי	וַיֵּדַעְתֶּם 4
Levi	with	My covenant	that may continue	this	commandment	-	to you	I have sent	that	Then you shall know
N-proper-ms	Prep	N-fsc   1cs	Prep-I   V-Qal-Inf	Art   Pro-fs	Art   N-fs	DirObjM	Prep   2mp	V-Piel-Perf-1cs	Conj	Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-2mp

6635 [e]	3068 [e]	559 [e]
ṣə-bā'ō-wṭ.	Yah-weh	'a-mar
צְבָאוֹת:	יְהוָה	אָמַר
of hosts	Yahweh	says
N-cp	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms

1. “Covenant” is mentions 6x by Malachi
  - a. 3x in chapter 2:1-9 referring to YHWH’s agreement with Levi (Arron)
    - i. 2:4 –
    - ii. 2:5 –
    - iii. 2:8 –
  - b. Once to the “covenant of the fathers” (2:10)
  - c. Once to the covenant of marriage (2:14)
  - d. Once, apparently to the “new covenant” of Jeremiah 31:31 in 3:1 -  
*“the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant.”*
2. “Covenant with Levi” would be the provisions in the Law referred to in:
  - a. Numbers 3:45-48 – The Levites were taken instead of the firstborn of all Israel
  - b. Numbers 18:21-24 –  
***“To the Levites I have given every tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service that they do, their service in the tent of meeting, so that the people of Israel do not come near the tent of meeting, lest they bear sin and die. But the Levites shall do the service of the tent of meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity. It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations, and among the people of Israel they shall have no inheritance. For the tithe of the people of Israel, which they present as a contribution to the Lord, I have given to the Levites for an inheritance. Therefore I have said of them that they shall have no inheritance among the people of Israel.”***
3. It was also extended to an individual, Aaron’s grandson Phinehas in Numbers 25:12-13:  
*“Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him my covenant of peace, and it shall be to him and to his descendants after him the covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the people of Israel.’”*

**2:5 – My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name.**

4172 [e]		5414 [e]	7965 [e]	2416 [e]	854 [e]	1961 [e]	1285 [e]	
mō-w-rā	lōw	wā-'et-te-nēm-	wə-haš-ša-lō-wm,	ha-hay-yīm	'it-tōw,	hā-yə-tāh	bə-rī-tī	
מִוְרָא	לוֹ	וְאֶתְנַחֵם-	וְהַשְׁלוֹם	הַחַיִּים	אִתּוֹ	הָיְתָה	בְּרִיתִי	5
[that he might] fear [Me]	to him	and I gave them	and peace	[one] of life	with him	was	My covenant	
N-ms	Prep   3ms	Conj-w   V-Qal-Conseclperf-1cs   3mp	Conj-w, Art   N-ms	Art   N-mp	Prep   3ms	V-Qal-Perf-3fs	N-fsc   1cs	
		1931 [e]	2865 [e]	8034 [e]	6440 [e]		3372 [e]	
		hū.	ni-hat	šə-mī	ū-mip-pə-né		way-yī-ra-'ê-nī;	
		הוּא:	נִחַת	שְׁמִי	וּמִפְנֵי		וַיִּירָאנִי	
		was	reverent	My name	and before		so he feared Me	
		Pro-3ms	V-Nifal-Perf-3ms	N-msc   1cs	Conj-w, Prep-m   N-cpc	Conj-w   V-Qal-Conseclperf-3ms   1cs		

1. Verses 5-6 describe the ideal, perfect situation God created for the Levites. It was a “covenant of fear” with Levi and Aaron based on:
  - a. Given to Levitical priesthood: “Life and peace” for the Levitical priesthood
  - b. Given to YHWH by Levi: “Covenant of fear”...”feared” YHWH and “stood in awe” of YHWH

**2:6 – True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity.**

	8193 [e]	4672 [e]	3808 [e]	5766 [e]	6310 [e]	1961 [e]	571 [e]	8451 [e]	
	biš-pā-taw;	nim-ša	lō-	wə-'aw-lāh	bə-pî-hū,	hā-yə-tāh	'ê-met	tō-w-rat	
-	בְּשִׁפְתָיו	נִמְצָא	לֹא-	וְעוֹלָה	בְּפִיהוּ	הָיְתָה	אֵמֶת	תּוֹרַת	6
	on his lips	was found	not	and injustice	in his mouth	was	of truth	The law	
	Prep-b   N-fdc   3ms	V-Nifal-Perf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt	Conj-w   N-fs	Prep-b   N-msc   3ms	V-Qal-Perf-3fs	N-fs	N-fsc	
	5771 [e]	7725 [e]	7227 [e]	854 [e]	1980 [e]	4334 [e]	7965 [e]		
	mê-'ā-wōn.	hē-šib	wə-rab-bîm	'it-tī,	hā-laḡ	ū-bə-mî-šō-wr	bə-ša-lō-wm		
	מֵעֲוֹן:	הִשִּׁיב	וְרַבִּים	אִתִּי	הֵלַךְ	וּבְמִישׁוֹר	בְּשָׁלוֹם		
	from iniquity	turned away	and many	with Me	He walked	and equity	in peace		
	Prep-m   N-cs	V-Hifil-Perf-3ms	Conj-w   Adj-mp	Prep   1cs	V-Qal-Perf-3ms	Conj-w, Prep-b   N-ms	Prep-b   N-ms		

1. Levi’s service to Israel:
  - a. “True instruction”
  - b. “No wrong” – avel - עוֹלָה - /eh-vel/ - “injustice”, “unrighteousness”
    - i. No bad advice
    - ii. No corrupt council
  - c. “Turned many from iniquity”
2. Levi’s character before YHWH:
  - a. “peace” – “shalom” – “completeness, soundness, welfare, peace”
  - b. “equity” – “a level place”

**2:7 – For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.**

6310 [e]	1245 [e]	8451 [e]	1847 [e]	8104 [e]	3548 [e]	8193 [e]	3588 [e]	
mip-pî-hû;	yə·baq·šû	wə·tō·w·rāh	da·'at,	yiš·mə·rū-	kō·hên	šip·tê	kî-	
—	מִפִּיהוּ	יִבְקֹשׁוּ	וְתוֹרָה	וְדַעַת	יִשְׁמְרוּ-	כֹּהֵן	שִׁפְתָי	כִּי 7
	from his mouth	[people] should seek	and the law	knowledge	should keep	of a priest	the lips	For
	Prep-m   N-msc   3ms	V-Piel-Imperf-3mp	Conj-w   N-fs	N-fs	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	N-ms	N-fdc	Conj

1931 [e]	6635 [e]	3068 [e]	4397 [e]	3588 [e]	
hū.	šə·bā·'ō·wṭ	Yah·weh-	mal·'aḵ	kî	
·	הוּא:	צְבָאוֹת	יְהוָה	מַלְאָךְ	כִּי
	he [is]	of hosts	of Yahweh	the messenger	for
	Pro-3ms	N-cp	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Conj

1. “For” – *ki* – The reason for verse 2:5-6 was that Levi had this responsibility before the Lord who had made a covenant with him.
2. Priest’s responsibility:
  - a. Guard knowledge means “to keep”, “to watch”, “to preserve” knowledge
  - b. Provide instruction means people would “seek” from Levi “direction”, “instruction” and the “law”
  - c. Messenger of Lord of Hosts – The Levitical Priesthood was the established institution of the Messengers of YHWH. They existed for this purpose.

**2:8 – But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts,**

8451 [e]	7227 [e]	3782 [e]	1870 [e]	4480 [e]	5493 [e]	859 [e]
bat-tō·w·rāh;	rab·bîm	hiḵ·šal·tem	had·de·reḵ,	min-	sar·tem	wə·'at·tem
—	בַּתּוֹרָה	רַבִּים	הַדֶּרֶךְ	מִן־	סָרְתֶם	וְאַתֶּם 8
	at the law	many	the way	from	have departed	But you
	Prep-b, Art   N-fs	Adj-mp	V-Hifil-Perf-2mp	Art   N-cs	Prep V-Qal-Perf-2mp	Conj-w   Pro-2mp

6635 [e]	3068 [e]	559 [e]	3878 [e]	1285 [e]	7843 [e]	
šə·bā·'ō·wṭ.	Yah·weh	'ā·mar	hal·lê·wī,	bə·rît	ši·ḥat·tem	
·	צְבָאוֹת:	יְהוָה	אָמַר	הַלְוִי	בְרִית	שִׁחַתְתֶּם
	of hosts	Yahweh	says	of Levi	the covenant	You have corrupted
	N-cp	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms	Art   N-proper-ms	N-fsc	V-Piel-Perf-2mp

1. Instead of fulfilling their end of the covenant the priests have done just the opposite.
2. Result: Levitical priesthood will be “despised and abased”
3. The priests have:
  - a. Turned aside
  - b. Caused many to stumble
  - c. Corrupted the Covenant
    - i. “corrupted” – *shachath* – means “go to ruin”, “spoil”, “corrupt”

2:9 – and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”

6310 [e]	5971 [e]	3605 [e]	8217 [e]	959 [e]	853 [e]	5414 [e]	589 [e]	1571 [e]
kə·pî,	hā·'ām;	le·kāl	ū·šə·pā·lîm	niḇ·zîm	'et·kem	nā·tat·tî	'ā·nî	we·gam-
כְּפִי	הָעָם	לְכָל־	וּשְׁפִלִים	נִבְזִים	אֶתְכֶם	נַתַּתִּי	אֲנִי	וְגַם־ 9
because	the people	Before all	and base	contemptible	you	have made	I	Therefore also
Prep-k   N-msc	Art   N-ms	Prep-l   N-msc	Conj-w   Adj-mp	V-Nifal-Prtcpl-mp	DirObjM   2mp	V-Qal-Perf-1cs	Pro-1cs	Conj-w   Conj

	8451 [e]	6440 [e]	5375 [e]	1870 [e]	854 [e]	8104 [e]	369 [e]	834 [e]	
	ḇ	bat-tō-w-rāh.	pā·nîm	we·nō·šə·'îm	də·rā·kay,	'et-	šō-mə·rîm	'ê-ne·kem	'ā·šer
פ	.	בְּתוֹרָה:	פָּנִים	וְנִשְׂאִים	דְּרָכַי	אֶת־	שָׁמַרְתֶּם	אִינְכֶם	אֲשֶׁר
-		in the law	-	but have shown partiality	My ways	for	have kept	not you	-
Punc		Prep-b, Art   N-fs	N-mp	Conj-w   V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	N-cpc   1cs	Prep	V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	Adv   2mp	Pro-r