

Malachi 1:1-5

Turn to the book of Malachi. The Title Lord of Hosts is used some 24 times in these 4 short chapters. As we walk through this short prophecy we will see this title resurface and we will see its significance as we go. The main point communicated by this title in our text today is, I believe, the following.

1. The Lord of Hosts has the freedom, right, and power to bestow His love, mercy, and grace on whomever He chooses.
2. Likewise, The Lord of Hosts has the freedom, right, and power to bestow His anger, wrath, and judgement on whomever He chooses.

I trust we will be challenged and encouraged as we begin our study of Malachi today in Malachi 1:1-5.

Read/Pray

The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.

The oracle (or burden) of the word of the Lord.

1. The word of God is NEVER light and trifling. It is always weighty, serious, and heavy.
2. 1 Corinthians 9:16 *For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.*
3. Psalms 123:3-4 *Be gracious to us, O LORD, be gracious to us, For we are greatly filled with contempt. 4 Our soul is greatly filled With the scoffing of those who are at ease, And with the contempt of the proud.*
4. Jeremiah 20:9 *But if I say, "I will not remember Him Or speak anymore in His name," Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; And I am weary of holding it in, And I cannot endure it.*

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1. This heavy burden originated with the Lord
2. It was communicated by His messenger; Malachi
3. And it was applied to Israel, His chosen people.

I. God Declares His Love v2a

2 "I have loved you," says the LORD.

The force of the Hebrew verb form renders I have loved is, "I have loved you and still do." NIV

1. Zechariah 2:8 *For thus says the LORD of hosts, "After glory He has sent me against the nations which plunder you, for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye.*
2. Jeremiah 31:1-5 *At that time," declares the LORD, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people." 2 Thus says the LORD, "The people who survived the sword Found grace in the wilderness--Israel, when it went to find its rest." 3 The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness. 4 "Again I will build you and you will be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! Again you will take up your tambourines, And go forth to the dances of the merrymakers. 5 "Again you will plant vineyards On the hills of Samaria; The planters will plant And will enjoy them.*

II. They Deny His Love v2b

But you say, "How have You loved us?"

In effect, the people were saying, "God, you say you love us, but what have you ever done to prove it?"

III. God Demonstrates His Love v2c-4

Verse 2c-3

God chooses to highlight his love for the descendants of Jacob by contrasting it with his hatred for the descendants of Esau, the nation of Edom.

1. Romans 9:13 *Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."*
2. His answer to Israel is, I have love you
 - a. By choosing you **above** your brother Esau
 - b. By choosing you **apart** from anything you have done...while you were still in your mother's womb (Genesis 25:24).
 - c. By choosing you **according** to my free and sovereign grace.
3. The point is this: Based on what you and Esau were in yourselves I could just as easily have chosen Esau as you. Isn't he your brother? Weren't you twins? Isn't he in fact your elder? But I chose you, and passed him by.
4. This is where you could be if I had not chosen you!

Verse 4

The Lord of Hosts...will bring final judgment on Edom and bestow great love on Israel.

1. Amos 1:11-12 *Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Edom and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because he pursued his brother with the sword, While he stifled his compassion; His anger also tore continually, And he maintained his fury forever. 12 "So I will send fire upon Teman And it will consume the citadels of Bozrah."*
2. Jeremiah 49:10 *But I have stripped Esau bare, I have uncovered his hiding places So that he will not be able to conceal himself; His offspring has been destroyed along with his relatives And his neighbors, and he is no more.*
3. Obadiah 1:18 *Then the house of Jacob will be a fire And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau will be as stubble. And they will set them on fire and consume them, So that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau," For the LORD has spoken.*
4. Neither the nation of Edom nor the Edomites as a people exist today.

IV. They Declare His Glory v5

When you realize that you are not an equal partner in this affair...When you see God's love for you...you will be stirred to declare it!

Psalm 96:3 *Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.*

Conclusion:

1. The Lord of Hosts has the freedom, right, and power to bestow His love, mercy, and grace on whomever He chooses.
2. Likewise, The Lord of Hosts has the freedom, right, and power to bestow His anger, wrath, and judgement on whomever He chooses.

How does this apply to us today? Paul tells us.

1. Romans 9:10-24
2. When we see that God so loved us, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, we will be overwhelmed.
3. We will be driven and moved to declare that love to the ends of the earth.

“Let us give him the glory—all the glory—for our salvation. And let us never grow weary in savoring and strengthening and spreading the vision of our God, for “Great is the Lord beyond the walls of this church!” Piper

Discussion Questions

1. Take some time to review the sermon notes from Sunday.
2. Was there anything from this sermon that was difficult to understand or that didn't make sense to you? Discuss it with the group to try and get a better understanding.
3. What do we learn about God the Father...God the Son...and/or God the Holy Spirit from the main Scripture text that was used?
4. What do we learn about man from the main text?
5. Are there any commands to obey? Promises to believe? Sins to avoid in the main Scripture text?
6. What do you believe was the most impactful part of the sermon Sunday? Discuss.
7. How do you plan to apply some portion of what you learned to your life? For example, “In response to this sermon, I will _____