

THE MENACE OF UNFAITHFUL MINISTERS

July 10, 2016

Malachi 1:6-2:9

**“For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth:
for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.” Malachi 2:7**

In this passage, Malachi delivers God’s message of rebuke to the priests of Israel.

I. The priests despised God’s name (1:6-14)

- A. They offered polluted sacrifices (7)
- B. They thus polluted God’s altar (7)
- C. They complained, “what a weariness is it” (13)
- D. They profaned God’s name (11, 12)

Results: God was displeased, and His blessing withheld (2:1-3)
Their religious activities were contemptible to God and shameful to them
(2:3)
Divine favor would be turned unto the Gentiles (10, 11)
God’s name will be great among the Gentiles (11, 12)

II. God’s response to priests who despised His name (2:1-6)

- A. An offer of repentance (2:2a)
- B. Warning of a curse (2:2b-4)
- C. Reminder of the His covenant with Levi (2:4-6)
- D. Divine description of a faithful ministry (2:5-9)

1. The example of Levi (4-6)

- a. He feared the Lord (5)
- b. God’s truth was his message (6a)
- c. He walked with God and knew God’s peace (6b)
- d. He turned many from iniquity (6c)

2. The essence of a faithful ministry (7)

- a. God’s truth should be preserved and proclaimed
- b. The minister is a messenger sent by the Lord of Hosts

E. Indictment (8-9)

- 1. “Ye are departed out of the way”
- 2. “Ye have caused many to stumble”
- 3. “Ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi”
- 4. “I have also made you contemptible and base before all the people”

