

Malachi

Chapter 1

1 The burden of the word of the Lord *given* to Israel by Malachi; *and his words are a burden unto them because of their wickedness:*

2 I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? *For ye suffer; but this is not by my hand. Ye suffer because of your own sins, for I am no respecter of men, and treat those who are wicked as those who are righteous.* Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the Lord:

3 Yet *ye believe that* I loved Jacob *and* hated Esau. *But it was your wickedness that* laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. *For I have loved him as I loved you.*

4 Whereas *Israel* saith, *We are scourged of the Lord and* we are impoverished, but we will return and build *up* the desolate places; *But* thus saith the Lord of hosts, They shall build, but *if they shall not build according to my word, they will be* thrown down; and *the Gentiles* shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom *their* Lord hath indignation for ever.

5 And your eyes shall see *what hath been done to you, but ye shall still believe that ye are*

righteous and that your works are mine, and ye shall *continue to* say, The Lord will be magnified from the border of Israel, *for we are the children of God, and there are no other; for He is our master alone.*

6 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, *and you my children,* where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? *Behold, your leaders are your masters and the devil your god.* Thus saith the Lord of hosts unto *your leaders,* O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar *and give of this bread to my people to eat;* and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? *Ye have polluted the people by the bread which ye give them to eat and* ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible *because the people are wicked; but ye are they who are wicked and have corrupted the table of the Lord; for ye blind the minds of this people and by your bread they are made sick and lame.*

8 And if ye offer the blind for a *righteous* sacrifice *unto me,* is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? *Go unto those who rule over you and* offer

it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with *you*, or accept *an unrighteous offering, because in vanity ye believe ye are better than the offering which ye give because of thy person?* saith the LORD of hosts.

9 And now, *because my people suffer they come unto you and plead with you, their leaders, saying, we pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us; and this they believe because ye have convinced them of your person, that ye are my priests. Behold, this they believe because this hath been placed in their hearts by your means, which hath lifted you up above them. Yet will I regard your persons over them?* saith the LORD of hosts.

10 Who is there, even among you, *who would shut the doors against the people so they receive nothing? Why would they then come to the doors, if not to have them opened unto them? Would they come for nought? Neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. But I have no pleasure in those of you who are chosen to present offerings unto me for my people,* saith the Lord of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand *anymore. For ye have set yourselves above my people, and have set my people above the Gentiles, who are the children of Esau who I also loved.*

11 For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same, my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering *because they shall reject you as my priests. For they shall know that I am no respecter of persons and that they are my children, even as ye believe ye are. And my name shall be great among those who you consider are the heathen,* saith the LORD of hosts.

12 But ye have profaned *my name*, in that ye say, The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible. *And ye blame those whom ye have led and by whose fruits ye shall also be judged. Blame not their burden upon them, for ye bear the whole weight.*

13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it *to bear their burden!* And ye have snuffed at it *blaming the people for the offerings they present before me,* saith the Lord of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering *that has been made at your hand.* Should I accept this of your hand? saith the Lord.

14 But cursed be the deceiver, *who hath in his flock a male, which is pure, but who* voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt

thing *which he has corrupted*; for I am a *just* King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name *shall not be* dreadful among the heathen *who come unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit; who maketh a righteous offering unto me of that which is pure.*

Chapter 2

1 And now, O ye priests, *who have corrupted my people and presented them as an unrighteous offering before me*, this commandment is for you.

2 If ye will not hear *and repent*, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, *and not to your own* saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse *the* blessings *ye have received*; yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

3 Behold, *my curse shall be that* I will *allow you to* corrupt your *own* seed, and spread dung upon your *own* faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and *in that day* one shall take you away with *your solemn feasts and your assemblies and your offerings and sacrifices.*

4 And ye shall know that I have sent *my* commandments unto you, that my covenant might be *with you as it was* with *Abraham, the father of the house of Levi, who were set apart to prepare the*

people for sacrifice, saith the Lord of hosts.

5 My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave *my commandments* to him for the fear wherewith he feared *that he would not have life and peace. But from my name he shall receive eternal life, which is that thing which he feared he would not have from* me, and *thus he* was afraid before my name.

6 The law of truth was in his mouth, and *while* iniquity was not found in his lips, he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. *And he sanctified his servants, the house of Levi, that they might keep the people in remembrance of me to fulfill the covenant I have made with them.*

7 For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and *the people* should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.

8 But ye are departed out of the way; *and* ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of *Abraham which was given unto the sons of Levi*, saith the Lord of hosts.

9 Therefore, *in the day of the Lord* I *shall make* you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law *and have broken mine everlasting covenant. For*

ye have taught this people that they are a chosen people above the heathens; but it is the heathen that I love; for he shall receive me in righteousness.

10 Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

11 Judah hath dealt treacherously *with those who are not of the covenant*, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD *by that which he hath done unto his brother. Yea, he hath profaned the God* which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.

12 *And in the day of the Lord he will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, who putteth themselves above another, believing that he is righteous because he cometh out of the tabernacles of Jacob; and him that offereth an unrighteous offering unto the LORD of hosts shall also be cut off.*

13 And this *wickedness* have ye done again. *And ye* cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, *but not in righteousness, but through the misery of your soul which cannot offer a pure offering*, insomuch that he regardeth not the

offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand.

14 Yet ye say, *Why?* Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, *who is also thy brother from Jacob*, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant *which was given to Jacob of Abraham for both of his sons?*

15 And did not he make one *covenant unto all?* Yet *Jacob* had the residue of the spirit *and sought that which was righteous before God*. And *why was one covenant given unto all?* That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit *alone*, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth; *for the Lord loveth all flesh the same.*

16 For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away *one because of the other*; for one covereth violence *against another* with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously *one with another*.

17 Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. 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? *And this ye say because ye take that which is evil and make it*

good, and that which is good, ye make evil.

Chapter 3

1 Behold, *before the day of the Lord* I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me *by preparing the elect as a righteous offering. And he shall teach my will and show those things which are good, and also those which are bad, even that the whole earth might know a righteous judgment. And this is my messenger, even the Lord, whom ye seek, who shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in and claim that ye follow and in whose name ye speak;* behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

2 But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand *before him with clean hands* when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire, *which is used to remove the impurities of element,* and like fullers' soap, *which is used to clean the works of his hands.*

3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver *and of gold. And with a fervent heat shall the elements of this earth be refined, even the gold and silver filled with dross.* And he shall purify the sons of Levi, *who have corrupted*

the people and led them astray, filling them with dross. And he shall purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. *For behold, all their offerings they have polluted, and there are none who are pure. But they shall know good at that day, that they might cast out the evil from among them.*

4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as *it was* in former years *before the sons of Levi corrupted it.*

5 And I will come near to you to judgment, *even that ye might judge righteously, both good and evil;* 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 *that which they do against* me, saith the Lord of hosts.

6 For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore, ye sons of Jacob, *so that ye are not consumed by the heat of that day, repent of the evil of your ways. Seek to do good. Yea, seek to care for the poor among you whose faces ye grind and whose substance ye steal for yourselves. For I have given my ordinances that ye all might become one and treat each other equally, even as I*

have treated the children of Abraham and Issac;

7 *But* even from the days of your fathers ye *have corrupted* mine ordinances, and have not kept them *as I have commanded you*. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? *Do we not fulfill the law required of us in our tithes and offerings?*

8 *Behold, ye wicked servants:* Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? *Ye have robbed me* in the tithes and offerings *that ye have taken of the people for yourselves*.

9 *And because ye have done this* ye are cursed with a curse, *and the windows of heaven have been closed so that ye receive no rain upon the earth, which would bring the good fruits of the field forth, even the fruit that giveth eternal life. But ye receive no rain*, for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes *and offerings back* into *my* storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house *for those who are hungry*. *Yea, your temples and your synagogues have used up the meat. Your substance and priestly apparel have not covered your nakedness as ye suppose, but have taken from the widow and the fatherless and the stranger.*

Yea, bring back that which ye have robbed from me and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour *upon* you a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. *For without the rain from heaven, how shall the vine receive her nourishment? Behold, except I do this, the leaf shall fall off from the vine, and the fig from the tree before its time.*

11 *But if ye return unto me and keep my commandments*, I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

12 And all nations shall call you blessed *because there shall be no poor among you, neither shall there be inequality*; for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.

13 *Behold*, your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?

14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God *as our fathers before us*; and what profit is it *to us* that we have kept his ordinance *and given away the tithes and offerings so that we gain not from them?* And *what has it profited us* that we have

walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts?

15 And *ye* call the proud happy, *saith the Lord*; Yea, they that work wickedness are set up *before the people, even the leaders who shall rise in the pride of their hearts, even to the envying of those who follow them*; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered *in their wickedness, which they think is a blessing from heaven. But how can ye receive a blessing from a window that is shut?*

16 *And in those days there shall be* they that fear the Lord *and keep his commandments. And these shall speak* often one to another. *And they shall have it given unto them to judge between good and evil, making a righteous judgment in the works that they do.* And the Lord *shall* hearken, and hear *them*, and a book of remembrance *shall be* written before him for them that fear the Lord and *receive his name in their foreheads.*

17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels, *yea, even when I shall purge the dross from my gold and my silver; And the heat of my furnace will not burn them up; for* I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son *who* serveth him *and receiveth a just wage in his hire.*

18 Then shall *the wicked* return, and discern *for themselves* between the righteous and the

wicked *works which they have done. Then shall they all know the difference* between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Chapter 4

1 For, behold, the day cometh, that *the elements of the earth shall melt with fervent heat, even this silver and gold filled with dross shall burn in an oven until it is purified*; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be *as the stubble of the field after the harvest; which is burned to prepare the earth for a new planting*; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch *from which will grow again the corrupted fruit of the vine.*

2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; *and the windows of heaven shall be opened up so that this light can shine upon you and warm you and give you comfort.* And ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall, *which are fed by the hand of the Lord.*

3 And *he shall lead you forth from the stalls among the wicked, and ye shall tread upon them, even as grown cattle walk upon the remnants of a burnt field*; for

they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

4 *And now, I would that ye should* remember the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments *that I gave unto your fathers that they might look forward to the day of the Lord. And ye are their children, therefore, the law that I have given them, even so shall ye do.*

5 *But in the last days the heart of the children shall be turned away from the law and the statutes and judgments of their fathers; and their fathers shall mourn for them. For I have promised their fathers and have made my covenant with them. But their children do not know them.*

6 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord; And he shall *plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to their fathers*, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse *and the whole earth be utterly wasted at his coming.*