

Mid-Week Recharge Minor Prophets Study: Malachi

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- *February 9th – Malachi 1:1-5; God’s Unique Love*
- *February 16th – Malachi 1:6-2:12; God’s Unique Love for His Disobedient People*
- *February 23rd – Malachi 2:13-3:12; God’s Unique Righteous Love*
- *March 2nd – Malachi 3:13-4:6; God’s Unique Servant Love*

Series Theme: “God’s Unique Love”

Book Theme: The Day of the Lord

Section Theme: God’s Unique Love

Section #1: Chapter 1:1-5

Class Agenda

Prayer

Study of Malachi 1:1-5

Prayer requests and prayer

Introduction

Author

Malachi means, “my messenger”, from the root also translated angel, messenger, and ambassador.

Date

Contemporary of Ezra and Nehemiah, around the middle of the 5th Century B.C.

Purpose

The clear focus of Malachi is the holiness of God. He is entirely other and His ways are not our ways. That is what Israel fails to understand and why God sends Malachi to comfort them.

Historical Context

- Roughly 100 years after Babylonian captivity and the decree of Cyrus to rebuild the temple, Judah is not experiencing the promises of God’s blessings.
- Exiles were returned to their land, rebuilt the temple and were sharing borders with Idumeans and Samaritans under Persian rule.
- Contemporary prophet of Ezra and Nehemiah

Text

God's Unique Love

1 *The oracle of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi*

Reflection Questions

- How does my life show that I believe God is “the existing One”?

The Lord's Love for Israel

2 *“I have loved you,” says the Lord. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the Lord. “Yet I have loved Jacob but*
3 *Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert.”*

Reflection Questions

- Why has God chosen to love me?
- What does my answer to that question say about my understanding of Jesus’ death and my salvation?
- How do I most commonly respond when I see bad things happen in the world?

4 *If Edom says, “We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins,” the Lord of hosts says, “They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called ‘the wicked country,’ and ‘the people with whom the Lord is angry forever.’”*

5 *Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, “Great is the Lord beyond the border of Israel!”*

Reflection Questions

- How do I describe God’s love in the middle of adversity, trouble, and catastrophe?
- Looking back on my life, can I see any time when I accused God of being cruel or disproportionate in His response?
- How do I need to understand that situation in light of this passage?