

God chose Jacob, not Esau;

CHAPTER 1

1 The burden of the word of Jehovah to Israel by *the* hand of Malachi.

2 I have loved you, says Jehovah. And you say, How have you loved us? *Was* not Esau Jacob's brother? - An oracle of Jehovah - and I loved Jacob,

3 And I hated Esau, and put his mountains *to be* a stunned devastation, and his heritage *to be* habitations of the desert.

4 Since Edom says, We are demolished, and we will turn back and build the desolate places, thus says Jehovah of hosts, They shall build, and I will pull down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom Jehovah is enraged forever.

5 And your eyes shall see, and you shall say, Jehovah will be great from the border of Israel.

6 A son heavily glorifies his father, and a servant his lord; if then I *am* father, where is my heavy glory? And if I *am* lord, where *is* my fear? says Jehovah of hosts to you, Oh priests, who despise my name. And you say, How have we despised your name?

7 You bring near polluted food upon my altar, and you say, How have we polluted you? In that you say, The table of Jehovah *is* contemptible.

MALACHI

MALACHI 1

the priests are weary of serving God

8 And if you bring near the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And if you bring near the lame and worn *out*, is it not evil? Bring it now to your governor; will he be satisfied with you, and lift up your face? says Jehovah of hosts.

9 And now, please, rub the face of God, and he will stoop down in grace to us; this has been by your hands. Will he lift up your faces? says Jehovah of hosts.

10 Who *is there* also among you who would even shut the doors and light my altar free of charge. There exists to me no pleasure in you, says Jehovah of hosts, and I will not be satisfied with a food offering at your hand,

11 Because from the rising of the sun even to its going down my name *shall be* great among the peoples, and in every place perfumed incense shall be brought near to my name, and a pure food offering because my name shall be great among the peoples, says Jehovah of hosts.

12 And you have profaned it in that you say, The table of Jehovah, it is polluted, and its fruit, his food, is contemptible.

13 And you said, Behold, what a weariness! And you have puffed at it, says Jehovah of hosts, and you brought the plucked off, and the lame, and the worn *out*, and you brought a food offering! Should I be satisfied with this from your hand? says Jehovah.

MALACHI 2 *The blessings of the priests are cursed because their lips do not hedge about the law*

14 And cursed *is* the one who conspires when there exists in his drove a male, and promises, and sacrifices to the Lord a ruined thing, because I *am* a great King, says Jehovah of hosts, and my name *shall be* revered among the peoples.

CHAPTER 2

1 And now, this commandment is for you, Oh you priests.

2 If you will not attentively hear, and if you will not put it upon *your* heart to give heavy glory to my name, says Jehovah of hosts, then I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings, and also I have cursed them because you do not put it upon *your* heart.

3 Behold, I *am* rebuking your seed, and will scatter dung upon your faces, the dung of your festivals, and you shall be lifted away with it.

4 And you shall know by seeing that I have sent this commandment to you, *that* my covenant might be with Levi, says Jehovah of hosts.

5 My covenant was with him of life and peace, and I gave them to him for the fear *with which* he feared me, and prostrated himself before the face of my name.

6 The law of truth was in his mouth, and moral distortion was not found in his lips; he walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned back many from crookedness,

7 Because the priest's lips should hedge about knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth, because he is a messenger of Jehovah of hosts. See Note Gen 16:7

8 And you have departed out of the well trod way; you have caused many to totter weak legged at the law; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says Jehovah of hosts.

9 And also I have given you *to be* despised and humiliated before all the people, since you have not hedged about my ways, and have lifted faces⁹ in the law.

10 *Is there* not one father *to us* all? Has not one God created us? Why do we cover up, every man against his brother by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

11 Judah has covered up, and disgusting immorality is done in Israel and in Jerusalem because Judah has profaned the holiness of Jehovah which he loved, and has become a lord of the daughter of a pagan god.

12 Jehovah will cut off out of the tent of Jacob the man who does this, the one who wakens *the student* and the one who pays attention to answer, and him who brings near a food offering to Jehovah of hosts.

⁹ **2:9 lifted faces**, is the literal rendering, and means to show preferential treatment by lifting up the faces of the guilty and casting down the faces of the innocent, rather than going strictly by God's law regardless of who is standing to be judged by that law.

I hate sending away, says Jehovah; I will send the Messenger of the Covenant **MALACHI 3**

13 And you have done this again, covering the altar of Jehovah with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, *so that* he does not any more face about to the food offering and take delight at your hand.

14 And you say, Why? Because Jehovah has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have covered up, and she is your companion and the wife of your covenant.

15 And did he not make *them* one? And the remnant of the spirit *was* to him.¹⁵ And why one? That he might seek a godly seed. And hedge about your spirit, and let none cover up against the wife of his youth,

16 Because *I* hate sending away,^{16a} says Jehovah, the God of Israel, and him who covers violence^{16b} with his garment, says Jehovah of hosts, and hedge about your spirit that you do not cover up.

¹⁵ **2:15** And the remnant of the spirit *was* to him. The meaning of this phrase has been much debated since the translation of the Septuagint beginning in 285 BC. Based on the remainder of the verse, **That he might seek a godly seed. And hedge about your spirit....**and again in verse 16, **hedge about your spirit, that you do not cover up.** The meaning must be to the effect that man received enough of a god-like human spirit that he might receive God's righteousness and treat his wife as God would treat her, in love and provision. So the meaning must be that God gave man enough spirit to make man capable of being godly if he will only hedge about his spirit to receive godliness, and therefore not deal in cover up against his wife.

^{16a} **2:16** sending away, *shalach*, to send away, divorce.

^{16b} **2:16** Here is a direct condemnation of physical abuse in marriage. Apparently this sin is as old as sin itself.

17 You have caused Jehovah to pant in exhaustion with your words.¹⁷ And you say, How have we caused him to pant in exhaustion? When you say, Everyone who does evil is good in the eyes of Jehovah, and he inclines in pleasure to them, or, Where is the God of judgment?

CHAPTER 3

1 Behold, I will send my Messenger,¹ and he shall change around the way before my face; and suddenly the Lord shall come to his temple, him whom you seek, even the Messenger of the Covenant, to whom you incline in pleasure; behold, he shall come, says Jehovah of hosts. Note Gen 16:7

2 And who may abide the day of his coming, and who shall stand when he is seen? Because he is like a refiner's fire, and like launderer's alkali soap;

3 And he shall sit down as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he shall purify the children of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, and they shall be to bring near to Jehovah a food offering in righteousness.

4 And the food offering of Judah and Jerusalem shall be pleasant to Jehovah, as the days of old and as former years.

¹⁷ **2:17** Note the power of words to exasperate one, as well as the power of words to bring strength.

¹ **3:1** my Messenger, *malak*. This entire passage proves conclusively that the Messenger (Angel) of Jehovah is the Son of God, the pre-incarnate Son of God who was and is Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, because no one else qualifies as the One who fulfills this entire passage but Him. See Note Gen 16:7

MALACHI 3 *I am Jehovah, I do not change; Bring all the tithes; I will rebuke the devourer; a book of remembrance*

5 And I will come near to you to judgment, and I will be a witness flowing like liquid against enchanters, and against the adulterers, and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the hired in his wages, the widow, and the bereaved, and him who turns away the stranger, and does not fear me, says Jehovah of hosts,

6 Because I *am* Jehovah, I do not change, and you children of Jacob are not ended.

7 Even from the days of your fathers you are turned away from my enactments, and have not hedged *them* about. Turn back to me, and I will turn back to you, says Jehovah of hosts. And you said, About what shall we turn back?

8 Will a man defraud⁸ God? Because you have defrauded me. And you say, In what have we defrauded you? In tithes and offerings.

9 You are cursed with a curse, and you have defrauded me, the whole people.

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, and there shall be fresh food in my house, and test me now *with* this, says Jehovah of hosts, if I will not open wide to you the windows of the heavens, and pour you out a blessing until there is not enough *room for it*.

⁸ **3:8 defraud**, *qaba*, to mound up and thus cover over, hiding something in the mound. People constantly mound up their wealth, and cover up, hide God's tithe in the mound, hoping that He will not see, thus defrauding Him of what is rightly His.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for you, and he shall not destroy your fruits of the soil, and your vine shall not miscarry in the field, says Jehovah of hosts.

12 And all the peoples shall call you righteously happy, because you shall be a pleasant land, says Jehovah of hosts.

13 Your words have been strong against me, says Jehovah. And you say, What have we spoken against you?

14 You have said, *It is* ruinous to serve God, and what profit *is it* that we have hedged about his guard duty, and that we have walked mournfully before the face of Jehovah of hosts?

15 And now we call the arrogant righteously happy; also, they who work wickedness are built up; also, they tempt God and escape.

16 Then they who feared Jehovah spoke one man to his companion; and Jehovah pricked up his ears, and attentively heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before his face for them who feared Jehovah and who calculated upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, says Jehovah of hosts, in that day when I make up my wealth, and I will spare them in pity, as a man in pity spares his own son who serves him.

18 And you shall turn back, and see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, the distinction between him who serves God, him who does not serve him.

CHAPTER 4

1 Because, behold, the day comes that shall burn as an oven, and all the arrogant and all them who do wickedly shall be straw, and the day that comes shall lick them up, says Jehovah of hosts, that it shall not leave them root nor branch.

2 And to you who fear my name the Sun of Righteousness shall rise with healing in his wings, and you shall go forth, and spread out as calves of the stall.

3 And you shall trample the wicked, because they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do *this*, says Jehovah of hosts.

4 Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, enactments and judgments.

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the face of the coming of the great and fearful day of Jehovah;

6 And he shall turn back the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth, devoting it to destruction.

Note: All The Books Of The Bible

Malachi is the last Book of the Old Covenant, and it was written last. With Malachi the inspired Books of the Hebrew Bible are ended, and no prophet appeared on the scene until approximately 460 years later when John the Baptist and Jesus began again to preach the Word of Jehovah God.

The Jews of Jesus' day had the exact same Books of the Bible that we have today in the Old Covenant. We have these Books divided into thirty-nine Books. They kept them in twenty-two Books, but they were the identically same Books, only they divided them differently, and kept them in a little different order.

Josephus was a general in the Jewish army in the wars of the Romans against the Jews. He composed the history of the Jews from the creation to A.D. 70. He was captured by the Romans in the war. He wrote, "I was then seized by the Romans and became a captive. Vespasian also and Titus had me kept under guard and forced me to attend them continually. At the first I was put in bonds but was set at liberty afterwards and sent to accompany Titus when he came from Alexandria to the siege of Jerusalem during which time there was nothing done to escape my knowledge. For what happened in the Roman camp I saw and wrote down carefully. And what information the deserters brought out of the city of Jerusalem I was the only man that understood them. Afterward I got leisure at Rome and when all my materials were prepared for the work I made use of some persons to assist me in learning the Greek tongue and by these means I composed the history of those transactions. And I was so well assured of the truth of what I related that I first of all appealed to those that had the supreme command in the war Vespasian and Titus as witnesses for me for to them I presented those books first of all and after them to many of the Romans who had been in the war. I also told them to many of our own men who understood the Greek philosophy among whom were Julius Archaleous, Herod King of Calcus and a person of great gravity and King Agrippa himself a person that deserved the greatest admiration. Now, all these men bore their testimonies to me that I had the strictest regard for truth." Especially note that Josephus had the strictest regard for the truth, and had that reputation of being completely truthful.

Now then I want you to read what Josephus wrote about the Bible. "We Jews, for we have not an enumerable multitude of books among us, disagreeing from and contradicting one another as the Greeks have. But only 22 books contain the records of all the past times which are justly believed to be divine and of them

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NOTE: All The Books of the Bible

five belong to Moses, which contain his laws and traditions of the origin of mankind until his death. This interval of time was little short of 3000 years. But as to the time from the death of Moses til the reign of Artaxerxes King of Persia who reigned after Xerxes from Moses to Ezra and Malachi the prophets who were after Moses - wrote down what was done in their time in 13 books. [Five books of Moses and thirteen prophets.] The remaining four books contained hymns to God and precepts for the conduct of human life.”

Here is how the books were grouped:

Law - The five books of Moses are exactly as we have them in our Bible.

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy.

And here are the thirteen prophets.

1. Joshua
2. Judges - Ruth
3. Samuel [what we call 1 and 2 Samuel]
4. Kings [our 1 and 2 Kings]
5. Chronicles [our 1 and 2 Chronicles]
6. Ezra - Nehemiah [one book]
7. Esther
8. Job
9. Isaiah
10. Jeremiah - Lamentations [one book]
11. Ezekiel
12. Daniel
13. Hosea through Malachi [all 12 of the minor prophets were classified as one book].

The writings.

1. Psalms
2. Proverbs
3. Ecclesiastes
4. Song of Solomon

The 22 books of The Bible that were accepted as the Bible in Jesus' day are exactly the same as our 39 books as printed in our Bibles today.