

Questioning Our Devotion

Malachi 1:1-2:9



Malachi: Probing Questions About Our Relationship with God

Introduction

Malachi's prophecy is the Old Testament's last words. As he speaks, Malachi brings the questions of his peers to God and God's message back to them. The Lord's answers should have prompted Malachi's hearers to reflect upon their relationship with God. The first interchanges help us evaluate our devotion to God.

I. Question His L_____ for Us (1:1-5)

“And the LORD said to her:

‘Two nations are in your womb;

two people will come from you and be separated.

One people will be stronger than the other,

and the older will serve the younger.”

Genesis 25:23

“‘I have enough, my brother,’ Esau replied. ‘Keep what you have.’”

Genesis 33:9

“Egypt will become desolate,

and Edom a desert wasteland,

because of the violence done to the people of Judah

in whose land they shed innocent blood.” Joel 3:19

“So he answered me, ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: “Not by strength or by might, but by My Spirit,” says the LORD of Hosts.’”

Zechariah 4:6

II. Question Your R_____ for Him (1:6-14)

“But if there is a defect in the animal, if it is lame or blind or has any serious defect, you must not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.” Deuteronomy 15:21

“... you then, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach, ‘You must not steal’—do you steal? ²²You who say, ‘You must not commit adultery’—do you commit adultery? You who detest idols, do you rob their temples? ²³You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? ²⁴For, as it is written: ‘The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.’”
Romans 2:21-24

“Better that you do not vow than that you vow and not fulfill it.” Ecclesiastes 5:5

“... traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵holding to the form of religion but denying its power. Avoid these people!”
2 Timothy 3:4-5

III. Difficulty with Their D_____ (2:1-9)

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His instructions have good insight. His praise endures forever.” Psalm 111:10

“... for I did not shrink back from declaring to you the whole plan of God.” Acts 20:27

“This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent—Jesus Christ.” John 17:3

“Then all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the LORD’s name, and they will stand in awe of you.” Deuteronomy 28:10