



Doug Baker | August 6, 2023
Malachi Intro
Malachi 1:1-5

Introduction to the Book

The book of Malachi is a hinge...a pivot point...an axis...in the Bible.

You'll probably remember that God's Shekeinah glory returning to the temple was something the prophet Ezekiel (40-43) had foretold happening after the return.

BUT the real problem for them...and for us...was not really God's performance...rather it was...and is...with their...and our...perspectives and performance.

7 conversations in Malachi

1:2 – God tells them of His love for them but they reply *"How have You, loved us?"*

1:6 – God accuses them of disrespecting Him, and they counter with *"How have we despised Your name...and polluted You?"*

1:12 – God charges them with engaging in lackadaisical worship and they respond with a tissue to the nose.. *"What a weariness this all is! Sniff, Snort!"*

2:13-14 – God tells them He will no longer respond to them with favor, and they react with a clueless *"Why do You not respond to us with favor?"*

2:17 – God states that they have exhausted Him with all their empty words and they are shocked... *"How have we wearied You?"*

3:7-8 – God calls them on the carpet for being distant and keeping back from Him what He is due...And they reply with oblivious clueless ignorance *"How are we to return? How have we robbed You?"*

3:13 – God challenges them to examine their bitter attitudes and accusations that He is a skin-flint God...and they react with surprise saying *"How have we spoken against You?"*

Here is a simple outline of the fuel for intense faith and the book:

God's Goodness is Compelling – so we should give Him the best of what we have, 1:1-14

God's Spiritual Leaders are Infecting – so we must look to them for integrity of life and faithful instruction, 2:1-16

God's Presence is Refining – so we can react with genuine awe, 2:17-3:5

God's Character is Unchanging – so we should respond with determined and generous trust, 3:6-4:6