

Malachi 1:1-5

4 Assurances Of God's Supernatural Love For Us



Background/Context

- Malachi, name means, “My messenger” (Bk written 420 BC)
- Ministered roughly same time as Ezra and Nehemiah
- Israel under Persian rule, but allowed to return to homeland (Temple rebuilt, walls around Jerusalem restored)
- Great apathy and indifference; 100 years prior, Haggai/Zechariah prophesied great blessings would come to people
- Nation wasn’t strong and people not materially prosperous

God's Definite Declarations

- (vv. 1-2a) Malachi very careful, message wasn't his opinion or something he made up; it was the word of God
- “burden” – heavy and concerning message with warning
- God very clear, wanted no misunderstanding; “I love you”
- People responded with confusion and disbelief; “In what way..”
- God has always taken initiative; declared openly that He loves His creation and everyone in it
- This has always been the case

- Jer. 31:3, “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love;...”
- Is. 43:4, “Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honored, and I have loved you;...”



Bestowing Of His Sovereign Grace

- (vv. 2b-3) God's love for us is not because we deserve it, but because He CHOSE to love us; it is an act of the will
- Seems strange/wrong; "Jacob I have loved, Esau I have hated..."
- Words for love/hate literally reference to choosing and not choosing
- Not "hate" as we define it; God's sovereign choosing for a particular purpose according to His will
- Gen. 33:9 & Gen. 36; Esau and his descendants also blessed by God

- Rom. 9:10-13, “And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac, (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), it was said to her, ‘The older shall serve the younger.’ As it is written, ‘Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.’”



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God's Abundant Provision

- (vv. 3b-4) One big way, God displays His love is through His many blessings
- Malachi called out to people and pointed them to all the blessings God had given them (back in homeland, temple restored, walls rebuilt, etc.)
- Esau descendants "Edomites": rebelled against God and His ways; missed blessings of God
- Said in effect, we don't need God and His ways!
- Became "Land of Evil"
- God is a giving God!

- Psalm 103:2, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”
- Eph.3:18-19, “...may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;..”



Experiencing God's Glorious Presence

- (v. 5) God expresses His great love by allowing us to know Him personally and receive His free gift of eternal life
- So much so, people can be forgiven of all sin and have Jesus' presence dwell in them
- No longer restricted to place, temple, or gender or social status; can be in the very presence of God
- This for all people, everywhere
- We don't deserve this, but can experience it because of Jesus and His sacrificial death on the Cross

- John 14:18, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”
- Hebs. 4:16, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”



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