

NEXT STEPS

The problem is not a lack of God's love, but a lack of response to it—Israel was chosen to reflect God's covenant love so that His greatness would be known far beyond their borders. In Malachi 1:5, God reveals Himself as Yahweh, the faithful and sovereign covenant Lord whose unchanging love awakens hearts, opens spiritual eyes, and leads His people to live and speak in ways that declare, "Great is the Lord."

What intentional step will you take this week to rediscover God's love—and to actively reflect it through obedience, worship, or showing His love to someone else?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Who or what can you be praying for this week?

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the book of malachi

FINAL WORDS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT



TALK IT OVER

Talk It Over Questions

For the week of February 15, 2026

You Will See – the Lord is Great

Malachi 1:1-5

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MY STORY

The book of Malachi was written to call God's people back to Himself, not to shame them, after their return from exile and the rebuilding efforts described in Haggai. Eighty to one hundred years later, their faith had drifted into empty rituals—worship was hollow, obedience was sloppy, and hearts were cold even when lips still prayed. Through Malachi, God confronted their spiritual laziness and called them to repent and return from lifeless religion to a living relationship with Him.

Where might we be going through the motions spiritually while God is calling us to turn back to Him with our whole hearts?

Malachi shows how spiritual drift often leads to apathy, where we slowly begin to justify our choices and grow indifferent toward God. The issue was not a lack of knowledge but a lack of care—they knew God and knew what was right, but He no longer held a central place in their lives.

In what ways might busyness or comfort be quietly pushing God to the edges of our hearts today?

DIGGING DEEPER

Malachi begins with God declaring His love for His people, revealing that love is central to who He is and not merely something He does. This sovereign, intentional love is fully revealed in Jesus Christ, through whom God has chosen and set apart a people, making His love personal, unconditional, and purposeful. Read the following passages and answer the question below.

Malachi 1:1-2; 1 John 4:8

If God begins His message with “I have loved you” (Malachi 1:2) and Scripture tells us that “God is love” (1 John 4:8), how should that reshape the way we see God and respond to Him when life is hard or confusing?

The people questioned God's love because hardship led them to assume God did not care, revealing hearts of disbelief rather than ignorance. God responded by pointing to His sovereign choice of Jacob over Esau—not based on merit, but on His purposes—showing that His love is rooted in His redemptive plan and His glory. Read the following passages and answer the question below.

Malachi 1:2-3; Genesis 25:21-23, 29-34; Romans 9:11-15

How do Malachi 1, Genesis 25, and Romans 9 challenge the way we interpret God's love when our circumstances are painful or confusing?

God's judgment on Edom revealed that history is not centered on human entitlement but on God's purposes, justice, and glory, as He held Edom accountable for persistent arrogance, violence, and opposition to His people. In Malachi 1:4–5, God makes clear that His love and justice extend beyond Israel, calling His people to move from self-focus and entitlement to humble awe and obedient response. Read the following passage and answer the question below.

Malachi 1:4-5

How do Malachi 1:4–5 challenge us to examine whether we see God as existing for our benefit—or whether we see ourselves as living for His glory, even when obedience costs us something?