

How Have We Despised Your Name?

COMPLACENCY
EXPOSED

A Study of the Book of Malachi

 LifeWay
Biblical Solutions for Life

“Excellent”

“Devoted”

“Committed”

Used of Athletes and career people

Sadly absent in the church and family

It was the same in Israel



The Exodus

God: Redeemed from Egypt
Led through the desert
Gave food and water
Was given a “golden calf”



Exodus 20:7

“Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses His name.”



What is worship?

An attitude of the heart:

Gives to God what He is worth

Leads us to change



We worship God because:

He is Creator

He is Savior

He is Lord



Malachi 1:6

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. But if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is your fear of me?”



Malachi 1:6

“says Yahweh of Hosts to you
priests, who despise My name.
Yet you ask, “How have we
despised Your name?”



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Who do you admire for their devotion? What would your worship of God look like if it reflected such devotion?



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How does our worship reveal how highly we esteem God's name?



***Israel's Priests
Practiced
Depraved
Worship
(Malachi 1:6-12)***



How is God our Father?

- Creator
- Redeemer
- Loves us
- Nurtures us
- Disciplines us



Israel did not honor God.

- Indictment #1
- To “give glory” is to honor
 - Did not honor God
 - Did not revere God
 - Did not respect God



Israel did not honor God.

- Indictment #2
- Israel did not fear God
 - Respect = fear
 - Reverence = fear



Israel did not honor God.

- Indictment #3
- Priests despised God
 - Failed to set the example
 - Disobedience was willful and continual



Israel did not honor God.

- Because of His character (who He is)
- Because of His work (what He has done)



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How has God shown Himself to be a father to the people of Israel?
How had God shown Himself to be a father to you?



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What are some contemporary characteristics of worthless worship?



***Israel's Priests
Despised God's Name
In their
Contribution
(Malachi 1:6-12)***



Malachi 1:7

“By presenting defiled food on My altar. You ask, “How have we defiled You?” When you say, “The LORD’s table is contemptible.””



Defiled = corrupted, polluted
“Dung”

Nadab & Abihu (Lev. 10:1-3)

God sent down fire to
consume them.



Malachi 1:8

“When you present a blind animal for sacrifice, is it not wrong? And when you present a lame or sick animal, is it not wrong?”



Malachi 1:8

“Bring it to your governor! Would he be please with you or show you favor?” asks the LORD of Hosts.”



The animals were:

Crippled

Blind

Lame

Sick

Not
Perfect
Animals
But
Rejects



Would your governor:
Accept it?
Bless you for it?



Malachi 1:9

“And now ask for God’s favor. Will He be gracious to us? Since this has come from your hands will He show any of you favor? asks the LORD of Hosts.



When our attitude is to cheat God
in worship:

Is that reverence?

Is that respect?

Do we despise Him?



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How might people today reflect Israel's hypocrisy of verse 9?



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What/Who tries to claim your highest worship which really belongs only to God?





Honor: kâbôd (to show honor or glory)

Fear: môrâ (dread or terror)

Despise: hâzâ (to show continual utter contempt)

Name: šēm (to recognize a person) See next slide:



Name:

*To know the name was to know the character. To blaspheme God is not just to curse or use profane language but to also live in such arrogance and pride that we **WHO BEAR HIS NAME** abuse His character with our words, actions and lives.*



***Israel's Priests
Despised God's Name
In their
Commitment
(Malachi 1:10-12)***



Malachi 1:10

“I wish one of you would shut the temple doors, so you would no longer kindle a useless fire on My altar!



Malachi 1:10

“I am not pleased with you,” says the LORD of Hosts, “and I will accept no offering from your hands.”



Malachi 1:11

“For My name will be great among the nations, from the rising of the sun to its setting. Incense and pure offerings will be presented in My name in every place



Malachi 1:11

“because My name will be great among the nations,” says Yahweh of Hosts.”



Malachi 1:12

“But you are profaning it when you say; ‘The Lord’s table is defiled, and its product, its food is contemptible.’”



“useless fire on My altar”

Monotony

Just a job

Going through the motions



Malachi 1:10a

**“I wish one of you
would shut the temple doors!”**

God wanted to shut them out!



He was tired of their rituals (they tried to cheat God)

He was sick of their useless sacrifices



Amos 5:21-24

²¹I hate, I despise your feasts! I can't stand the stench of your Solemn assemblies.



Amos 5:21-24

²²Even if you offer Me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. I will have no regard for your fellowship offerings of fattened cattle.



Amos 5:21-24

²³Take away from Me the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.



Amos 5:21-24

²⁴But let justice flow like water
and righteousness like an unfailing
stream.



Matthew 10:17-20

¹⁷ Don't you realize that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is eliminated?



Matthew 10:17-18

¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this defiles a man.



Make It Real!

Stop going through the motions

Stop making worship worthless

Stop despising God with your
attitudes



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What are we called to contribute in worship? How can we despise God in our contribution?



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How can cultural, casual
Christianity resemble Israel's
defective worship?



***Israel's Priests
Demonstrated Apathetic
Attitudes toward
Worship
(Malachi 1:13-14)***



Malachi 1:13-14

13a You also say: “Look, what a nuisance!” “And you scorn it,” says the LORD of Hosts.



Malachi 1:13-14

13b “You bring stolen, lame or sick animals. You bring this as an offering! Am I to accept that from your hands? asks the LORD.



Malachi 1:13-14

¹⁴ “The deceiver is cursed who has an acceptable male in his flock and makes a vow but sacrifices a defective animal to the Lord. For I am a great King,



Malachi 1:13-14

¹⁴ “says Yahweh of Hosts, and My name will be feared among the nations.



They were burdened by the Process

You cannot play games with God
First blind, lame, sick
Now stolen animals



***God's Curse Against
Israel's Priests
For Their Depraved And
Apathetic Worship
(Malachi 2:1-3)***



Malachi 2:1-3

“¹ Therefore this decree is for you priests. ² If you don’t listen, and if you don’t take it to heart to honor My name,” says Yahweh of Hosts, “I will send a curse among you,



Malachi 2:1-3

“and I will curse your blessings. In fact I have already begun to curse them because you are not taking it to heart.



Malachi 2:1-3

³ “Look, I am going to rebuke your descendants, and I will spread animal waste over your faces, the waste from your festival sacrifices, and you will be taken away with it.



This is “THE curse”

Deuteronomy 28:15-19



Deuteronomy 28:15-19

¹⁵ But if you do not obey the LORD your God by carefully following the commands and statutes I am giving you today, all the curses will come and overtake you.



Deuteronomy 28:15-19

¹⁶ You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country.

¹⁷ Your basket and kneading bowl will be cursed.



Deuteronomy 28:15-19

¹⁸ Your descendants will be cursed, and your land's produce, the young of your herds.

¹⁹ You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out.



The Curse Carries Two Statutes

1. The descendants of the priests would suffer.
2. The priests would be humiliated by the LORD.

(ref. Malachi 2:3)



If the temple doors could not be shut – God would keep them out of the temple. The priests being defiled would prevent them from service in the temple.



God is making
The outside
Look like
The inside.



Levi: The Role Model

(Malachi 2:4-7)



Malachi 2:4-7

⁴ “Then you will know that I sent you this decree so My covenant with Levi may continue,” says the Lord of Hosts.



Malachi 2:4-7

⁵ My covenant with him was one of life and peace,” and I gave these to him; it called for reverence and he revered Me and stood in awe of My name.



Malachi 2:4-7

⁶ True instruction was in his mouth, and nothing wrong was found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and fairness and turned many from sin.



Malachi 2:4-7

⁷ For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, because he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.”



Levi:

Revered God

Stood in awe of His name

Taught the truth

Walked in peace with God

Turned many people from sin



Priests:

Turned from the way

Caused many to stumble by their teachings

Violated the covenant of Levi

Showed partiality

Did not take the Word of God to heart

Despised and humiliated the people



Galatians 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us; because it is written; Everyone who is hung on a tree is cursed.



***Failure
To Follow
Levi's Example***

(Malachi 2:4-7)





Blessing or Curse?

As you consider the qualities of Levi listed in verses 5-6 write them in the left column. Then as you review the failings of the priests in Malachi's day (vv. 8-9), list those in the right column.

Levi

Priests



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List others who have led people away from God's word. What did they teach? How did they live?



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Why are leaders judged more strictly?



Conclusion:
Christ as the Image of God
Worthy of Spiritual
Worship
(Malachi 2:4-7)



Leaders are more accountable
Leaders are held to a higher
standard
Yet all have wandered away and
defiled our worship.



We fail to see who Christ is.

**He is the Image of God
And
Worthy of Worship**



Romans 12:1

Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship.



1 Peter 2:5

You yourselves, as living stones, are being built into a spiritual house for a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.



We All Are Priests Today

- Offer up our bodies
- Offer up our finances
- Offer up our praise
- Offer up our good works
- Offer up those we led to Christ



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How does the coming of Christ empower meaningful worship greater than was possible in the Old Testament?



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Read Deuteronomy 28:15-68.

How does this text resemble

Malachi's message?



Page 38

What does it mean to be a man or woman of godly commitment like Levi, and how do we see this perfectly manifest in Jesus?



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