

How Can We Return?

Malachi 3:6-12



Section 1

Introduction: The Unchanging Nature Of Israel's Covenant God



I, Yahweh, Do Not Change!

He remembers His promises

He is faithful to His Covenant



Section 2

Israel's Checkered History and the Reality of Her Rebellion



They are called the “Descendants of Jacob”



Deceiver
Supplanter
Cheater



Section 2

God's Indictment of Israel for Withholding Their Tithes And Offerings



Return to God?

How?

Quit Robbing God!



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Which of the following best describes your relation to God?

Snug as a bug in a rug

Lord, I'm coming Home

As up and down as a yo-yo

Drifting away

Never the twain shall meet



Anyone can
Repent
And
Return
To God!



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What do we do that is similar to Israel?

We attend church weekly

Well I bring my kids to Awana

I go to church on Christmas and Easter

During the summer I'm on vacation

God will reply to you as you live for Him.



If Israel had offered poor,
sick, lame and stolen
animals. What did you
expect in their tithes?
It's a Heart Issue.



It's a Question of:

Ownership



Section 3

On Tithes And Offerings



Tithing is part of the
Old Testament Law and we
are under the Grace of
Christ!
True!

But Grace demands more from the Law.



Zacchaeus

vs.

Rich Young Ruler

Zacchaeus

Repentant

Restored Money

RJR

Walked Away

Kept His



A Closed Hand Cannot Receive a Blessing.



Section 4

God Challenges Israel to Test His Immeasurable Generosity



Malachi 3:10

“Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this way, says the LORD of Hosts. See if I will not open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.”



To “Test”

Meant to encourage and
enlist faith.



“Floodgates”

Same word used in
Genesis 7:11
For the flood.



“Rebuke the devourer”

Whatever is hindering and
hurting Israel
God will STOP!



Section 5

God's Blessings upon Israel Will Result in a Good Reputation Among the Nations



“Delightful Land”

God is able to restore
Anyone or Anything
To any condition He wishes.



Section 6

Conclusion: Christ as the Climax of the Covenant



What Can We Learn?

When we obey God, He blesses.

What defines us is not what we have, but what we do with what we have.

God is always faithful to His promises to His people.



How Can I Return?

Confess Sin

Repent of Sin as a way of life

Ask Christ for forgiveness

“Return to Me and I will return to you?”

