

A quill pen with a white shaft and a dark, pointed nib lies horizontally across a piece of aged, yellowed parchment paper. The paper has a textured, fibrous appearance and some darker spots. The quill's feathers are dark and fan out to the right.

THE MAJOR
MESSAGE

OF THE MINOR
PROPHETS

Dr. Gregg Marutzky

Malachi: Questioning God

MAJOR
STUFF

FROM THE

minor prophets

Dr. Gregg Marutzky

Malachi

Questioning God

THE BOOK OF

Malaachi

OUR AWESOME GOD

WHO GOD IS AND WHAT HE EXPECTS FROM US

Author & Background

- ✦ Malachi was a prophet during the time of Nehemiah between **432-425 B.C.** in Jerusalem.
- ✦ The prophet uses the Socratic method of asking questions and providing answers to help the people see how they are committing many of the same sins committed before captivity including: **idolatry, coveteousness, mixed marriages with pagans, abuse of the poor and greed.**

THE BOOK OF

MALACHI

Have we lost touch with the living God?

Author & Background

- ✦ Malachi's name means "messenger of Yahweh." The book contains warnings of curses and promises of blessings.
- ✦ Malachi deals with the problems of disbelief, disappointment, and discouragement which are not excuses for sin against God.
- ✦ Malachi marks the beginning of **400 years of silence.**

Malachi

THE PROMISE OF COVENANT

Messianic Prophecies

How have you loved us? Malachi 1:2 "You don't love me"

How we shown contempt for your name? Malachi 1:6

How have we defiled you? Malachi 1:7 "Sacrifice is a burden"

How have we wearied the Lord? Malachi 2:17 Why? 2:14 "It is not fair"

How are we to return? Malachi 3:7 "I cannot do it."

How do we rob you? Malachi 3:8 "I can't give"

What have we said against you? Malachi 3:13 "It is not

#1: How have you loved us?

✦ **Malachi 1:2-3** *"I have loved you," says the Lord. "But you ask, 'How have you loved us?' "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the Lord. "Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his hill country into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals."*



God Chose Us!

- ✦ God chose Israel. God chose Jacob the younger brother and not Esau the older, rightful heir.
- ✦ Look at how life would be if we were not loved by God—Example: Desert, Edom (*Malachi 1:3-5*)
- ✦ “Jacob I loved, Esau I Hate” Blessed/Cursed
- ✦ **God loves us!** Be grateful! (*1 Peter 2:9*) Chosen People, Royal Priesthood, Holy Nation, God’s People

*#2: How have we shown contempt for
your name?*

✦ **Malachi 1:6** *"A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the Lord Almighty. "It is you priests who show contempt for my name. "But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?'"* Place defiled food on my altar. How have we defiled you? **Offering unacceptable sacrifices.**

God Expects Our Best

- ✦ God wants our first fruits, not leftovers. A tithe is a beginning.
- ✦ Priest lowered the expectations of God! They wanted to eat.
- ✦ Priests thought the sacrifices God wanted would be a burden! (Matthew 1:13) Sniffed contemptuously.
- ✦ **False prophets – Lower God's expectations; minimum requirements – legalism**

THE FIGHT AGAINST
SPIRITUAL
BOREDOM

A Study of Malachi

#2: How have we shown contempt?

✦ **Malachi 1:7-8** *"By offering defiled food on my altar. "But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?' "By saying that the Lord's table is contemptible. When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the Lord Almighty."*

Unacceptable Offerings

- ✦ How have we shown contempt for your name?
- ✦ *Malachi 1:6,7* Place defiled food on my altar.
How have we defiled you?
- ✦ Offering unacceptable sacrifices and
complaining about tithing *"It is a burden!"*

#3: How have we wearied the Lord?

✦ **Malachi 2:17** *"You have wearied the Lord with your words. "How have we wearied him?" you ask. By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and he is pleased with them" or **"Where is the God of justice?"***

✦ Broken faith, God's judgment for **breaking the covenant** God established for marriage.



ReAligning
our LIVES
in GODS
way

THE BOOK OF MALACHI

GOD CANNOT BLESS SINNERS!

- ✦ Israel – divorced wives, intermarriage with foreigners
- ✦ Covenant relationships – sin is serious!
- ✦ Malachi 2:16 ***“The man who hates and divorces his wife,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,” says the LORD Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.”***

#4: How are we to return? How do we rob you?

✦ **Malachi 3:7** *“Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’”*

✦ Trust God with whole tithe and he will bless.
Blessings or Curse!

✦ **GOD WILL BLESS THE SACRIFICIAL!**

Malachi

Empty Religion or *Vibrant Faith?*



Rewards

Malachi 3:16-18 *“Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. “On the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty, “they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”*

Promise

Malachi 4:1-6 *“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty.*

“I hate divorce.”

**GOD
UNBOXED**

UN **CONDITIONAL**

Malachi

Malachi Morals

- ✦ How have you loved us? **“God doesn’t love us”** God loves us! Look at the cursed.
- ✦ How have we shown contempt and defile you? Unacceptable sacrifices, what a burden!
- ✦ Why? How have we wearied God? Broken faith but expect blessings **“Not fair!”** “God is evil, evil is good. No justice”
- ✦ How should we return? How have we robbed God? Not give whole tithe and offering.
- ✦ What have we said against God? **“It is not worth it,”** said harsh things, complain