

## **Malachi 01 - I Have Loved You**

Whenever you study a book by an Old Testament prophet, you must meditate on it two ways. First, it applied to them under their covenant at the time. In this case, they were under the law of Moses, including the blessings and the curses of the law. God was dealing with people who were not born again. God loved them. God made covenant with them. The law was given as a schoolmaster to teach mankind that he needed a Savior.

**Galatians 3:24** Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Second, you must understand that EVERYTHING in the Old Testament points toward Jesus Christ. When you understand that, then you see the types and shadows all through every single book. There is a definite application for how we are to live today under the new covenant. As we study the book of Malachi, the Holy Spirit is definitely going to speak to you about how it applies to you today.

A Brief History: The book of Malachi was written after the seventy years of captivity. It is after king Cyrus issued an edict allowing them to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. After long delay, the temple was finished, and the priests began offering sacrifices again. Nehemiah is in the process of rebuilding the walls around the city of Jerusalem. It is during this time period that the prophet Malachi speaks the word of the Lord.

You would think that after seventy years of captivity, and the Lord graciously allowing them to return to their homeland, to rebuild the temple, and to rebuild the walls of the city ... that the people would be so thankful to the Lord for His mercy and His grace to them. You would think they would have learned their lesson. You would think they would be offering up pure worship from grateful hearts. Such was not the case.

After this final warning from the prophet Malachi, there is not heard the voice of a prophet in Israel again for roughly four hundred years. The next prophet on the scene is John the Baptist declaring, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." Now we begin the book of Malachi:

**Malachi 1:1-5** The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. (2) I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast

**thou loved us? *Was* not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, (3) And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. (4) Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever. (5) And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel.**

For many years I did not understand why God said He loved Jacob and hated Esau, even before they were born or had done anything good or bad. It seemed so out of character concerning God. Remember, everything in the Bible points to Jesus Christ and the new covenant. The types and shadows are everywhere, including the book of Malachi. Esau and Jacob point to the two sons of God, fallen Adam and risen Jesus. Esau and Jacob are types and shadows of the two covenants.

Esau and Jacob = fallen Adam and risen Jesus = 1<sup>st</sup> Covenant based on performance and 2<sup>nd</sup> Covenant based on faith = Works vs Grace

Salvation based on performance failed again and again, from Adam on throughout the history of mankind. Because God loved fallen man, He devised a different way of being able to save man than by his own works ... It is salvation based on the perfect work of one man ... Jesus Christ. This is THE [singular] WORK of God.

**John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**

"I have loved thee" = If God had not provided this different method of salvation, nobody would be saved because:

**Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**

Esau ... man of the earth, earthy, we bear that image when we are born from our mother's womb.

Christ ... man of the spirit, heavenly, we bear that image when born of God's Spirit. At present we bear that image in our spirit.

We already bear the image of Christ in our spirit.

**Ephesians 4:24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

**1Corinthians 15:45-49** And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. (46) Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. (47) The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. (48) As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. (49) And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

We are progressively bearing that image outwardly as our minds are renewed with the Word of God.

**Romans 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Eventually, we will bear that image in our glorified bodies also.

**Philippians 3:20-21** For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: (21) Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Both Edom and Israel were conquered and destroyed by other nations. Edom is the land of the descendants of Esau. Israel is the inheritance of the descendants of Jacob.

**Malachi 1:4-5** Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever. (5) And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel.

Both were destroyed. Edom was not rebuilt. Israel was rebuilt because God permitted it, beginning with the prophecy of Isaiah regarding Cyrus.

Everything the first Adam ever touched will be destroyed and there will be a new heaven and a new earth for the sons of God who were born through faith in Jesus Christ. The Old earth and heavens will never be rebuilt.

**2 Peter 3:10-13** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. (11) *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, (12) Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? (13) Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

God is not a quitter. I have loved you. For all who put their faith in Jesus Christ and are born again, I am going to make a new heaven and a new earth for you. It will not be like it was before. Let me tell you what it will be like:

**Revelation 21:1-5** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. (2) And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. (4) And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (5) And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

This is the promise of our God, our Father. I have loved you. I have something wonderful prepared for you. Live holy and clean by the power of Christ's life in you on this earth now, so that you will also get to live on the new earth for all eternity with Me. I have loved you, saith the Lord.