

## **08 – Malachi – They Shall Be Mine**

**Mal 3:12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.**

Under the law of Moses, the first covenant God made with Israel after coming out of the bondage of the Egyptians, they were blessed if they obeyed the law and cursed if they did not. During this time period when the prophet Malachi was speaking to them, they were in a rebuilding stage. The temple had been rebuilt. The walls were being rebuilt. The people were active in the process, but they were doing it only half-hearted and reluctantly.

If they had obeyed joyfully and given God the honor He was due, God would have done exactly what He had promised. They would have been blessed to the point the other nations would have taken notice ... as in the early days of Solomon's reign.

The prophet has been making them aware of their half-hearted, lukewarm, reluctant obedience over and over again. The saddest part is they were so blind to their own disobedience. They kept asking questions like, "How have we dishonored you? How have we robbed you?" No wonder God had to send them a prophet to show them the depth of their disobedience.

They were in a time of "barely making it" because they were "barely obeying God" and they were not giving the honor and glory due to Him. They were struggling in every way, yet they had lived for seventy years seeing the opulence of Babylon. Babylon most certainly did not worship Jehovah, nor did they give Him honor and glory. Yet they were so rich that the Hanging Gardens of Babylon were considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

In their mind ... before being rebuked by the prophet Malachi ... they actually thought they were obeying God and giving Him honor through their lukewarm, half-hearted obedience. So, the question arose, "Why are we struggling, and the wicked heathen are prospering?" Ignorant of their own disobedience to the covenant, they had concluded ... it does not benefit us to obey God. They were accusing God of not keeping His part of the covenant, when in truth they were not keeping their part in order for Him to bless them.

**Mal 3:13-15** Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken *so much* against thee? (14) Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit *is it* that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? (15) And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, *they that tempt God* are even delivered.

### **GOD IS NOT THE COVENANT BREAKER. THEY ARE!**

Laws of Meditation: Remember what they had said previously:

**Mal 2:17** Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied *him*? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil *is good in the sight of the LORD*, and he delighteth in them; or, Where *is the God of judgment*?

The subject has not changed. This is the prophet Malachi telling them why they should be grateful that the God of judgment has not judged the wicked ... because ... they would have been judged also ... for they were covenant breakers, thieves who robbed God by withholding their tithes and offerings.

**Malachi 3:6** For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

They should be extremely grateful that the Lord had withheld the kind of judgment they wanted. God is love. For His great love for the world, He passed judgment upon His Son in their place. We know this. They did not.

This is the dispensation of grace where you can receive the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ as the substitute who bore your sin and suffered your judgment. This season of grace will come to an end. If you do not receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then there is a second judgment day coming. You will stand before God and be judged for your own sins, and you will have nothing to pay your ransom. Your punishment will be eternal in the lake of fire. You can never pay the price for your sin. The punishment will never end. Receive Jesus today. He stands at the door of your heart, knocking and asking to come in. Please invite Him in and yield to Him as your Lord.

In the first covenant, the tithe was owned by God. It was His. How Do We Rob God Today? In the second covenant, what does God own? What belongs to Him?

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

YOU are not your own. YOU are bought with a price. Your BODY AND YOUR SPIRIT ARE GOD'S. **WILL A MAN ROB GOD?**

**Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

YOU present your BODIES a living sacrifice unto God, which is your reasonable service. Jesus taught STEWARDSHIP! He considered not His life to be His own, but rather the Father's. Say it with me,

I AM NOT MY OWN. I AM BOUGHT WITH A PRICE. MY SPIRIT AND MY BODY BELONG TO GOD. I GLORIFY GOD IN MY BODY AND MY SPIRIT. I PRESENT MY BODY TO GOD A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE TO HIM. I DO NOT ROB GOD OF THAT WHICH BELONGS TO HIM.

**Luke 14:26** If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

He didn't say you couldn't go to heaven ... He said you could not be His disciple because ... that's exactly what He did. He is the pattern for disciples! He laid down His entire life to do the Father's will. The day He went to the cross was not the only time He crucified His flesh. To be His disciple, you must take up your cross daily!

**Luke 9:23** And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

We belong to God. What does it mean to "belong to Christ?"

**Galatians 5:24** And they that ARE CHRIST'S have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

**2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**

These are just two verses of many that could be listed to show that those that "are Christ's" understand they are to present their bodies "holy" unto the Lord, just as Romans 12:1 admonishes us to do.

YOUR WORDS ARE STOUT AGAINST ME! God forbid! In all that Jesus ever spoke, you never once hear of Him speaking against the Father in any way. Let us never be found speaking in line with the accuser of the brethren, who also continually speaks doubt concerning God. Remember His continual message, "Hath God said?" He is always trying to get us to doubt God. Never join your mouth with his by speaking against God.

**Malachi 3:16-18 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. (17) And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. (18) Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.**

What we say concerning God is so important to Him, so treasured by Him, that He has commanded a "book of remembrance" to be made "for them that feared the Lord."

The subject is still OWNERSHIP ... "They shall be mine." It is so important that we speak the Word of God, or in line with the Word of God ... at all times. Remember His instruction to Joshua:

**Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy MOUTH; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for THEN thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and THEN thou shalt have good success.**

This dispensation of grace will not last forever. The Lord is coming a second time. He is not coming the second time as the Lamb, but as the Lion of Judah! You either receive the judgment He bore for you, or you will stand in judgment for yourself. He was qualified to pay the price for your sin. You are not. Your punishment will never end. Receive Jesus into your heart today. He is standing at the door and knocking.

Please invite Him into your heart like Zacchaeus did. Yield to His lordship the same way Zacchaeus did and once more it will be heard, "This day is salvation come to this house." [Luke 19:9]