

Malachi - what to do when it seems God has abandoned you.

Introduction - the source of our discontent **Malachi 1:1-5**

Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament

Name - Malachi - name of prophet or noun "My, God's, messenger"

Life - almost nothing is known of his life

Time - After Captivity (586 - 516 BC)

Approximately 100 years after return from exile

Style - Dialogue between God and man

Conditions - great disappointment with life - hopes not accomplished

Led to great sins: Indifferent and calloused to seeking God

Spirit of confrontation and argumentation

Defiant, contentious attitude toward God

12 times - "But you say" disputing God

Lived out in: Dishonoring God's Name, Presenting blemished offerings, Selfish withholding of tithes, Unfaithfulness to marriage - divorce, sorcery, impurity, oppression of poor

Promises

Messenger from the Lord

Malachi, Priests - even when corrupt

John the Baptist, Jesus Christ -Elijah to come

Outpouring of great blessings

Saints viewed as treasure of the Lord

New Day coming

God's blessings on the righteous

Source of our discontent **Malachi 1:1-5**

I. God's Pronouncement

Oracle, message, burden from God through Malachi to Israel

"I have always loved you"- says the Lord

II. Retort of the people

"Really, how have you loved us?"

III. God's reply

1. In my choice of Jacob over Esau

2. In my love for Jacob - favor

3. And my hatred for Esau - compared to love

Like contrast of love of Rachael and hatred of Leah

Like "hatred of parents" **Luke 14:26** comparison to love of Christ

4. In my blessings on Israel and rebuke of Edom

God despises a self-righteous attitude

5. In my rejection and destruction of the wicked

Lessons to learn

Rejection of the love of God leads to discontent with life

God has repeatedly proven His love to us

1. God's Providential Love over All That He Has Made

Seen as good at creation, sustained and provided for

2. God's Providential Love over All That He Has Made

Jesus spoke of every sparrow being loved Matthew 6

3. God's salvation given to His Fallen World **John 3:16**

Salvation is available to all who believe

4. God's Particular, Effective, Selecting Love toward His Elect

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:29 also 2 Timothy 1:9

5. God's Love Directed toward His Own People in a Provisional or Conditional Way—Conditioned, That Is, on Obedience

The Lord Jesus commands his disciples to remain in his love (**John 15:9**) and adds, "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love" (**v. 10**).

Psalm 103:8-11

What to do if you don't feel loved by the Lord

1. Search your heart and life for love blocking sin

2. Seek His love as seen in Christ's death for our sins

3. Saturate your mind with the Word of God (His love in Word)

4. Satisfy yourself in the love of God in all 5 ways

See Him in creation around you

Marvel at His love for all mankind

Accept the sacrificial death of Christ for your sins

Surrender your life to His call of love to you

Serve Him in obedience to His love