



GLC PRESENTS:
▲BOOK STUDIES

MALACHI

GIVE GOD YOUR BEST

Sessions 3 and 4

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MALACHI: GIVE GOD YOUR BEST

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SCHEDULE

August 10

Session One — Introduction

Chapter 1:1

Session Two — First Dispute

Chapter 1:2 to verse 5

August 17

Session Three — Second Dispute

Chapter 1:6 to Chapter 2:9

Session Four — Third Dispute

Chapter 2:10 to verse 16

August 24

Session Five — Fourth Dispute

Chapter 2:17 to Chapter 3:5

Session Six — Fifth Dispute

Chapter 3:6 to verse 12

August 31

Session Seven — Sixth Dispute

Chapter 3:13 to verse 18

Session Two — Epilogue and Conclusion

Chapter 4:1 to verse 6

SESSION 3

The Second Dispute: DISHONORING GOD'S NAME (Malachi 1:6–2:9)

INTRODUCTION

- The Kingdom of Judah was defeated by the Babylonian Empire and most of its citizens were deported from 597 B.C. to 581 B.C.
- When the Babylonians were conquered by the Persians in 539 B.C. the Jewish exiles were allowed to return to their homeland.
- Reconstruction of the Temple began in 537 B.C. and was finished in 515 B.C.
- The Levitical priesthood was re-established and the sacrificial system was re-instituted.
- A few decades later, the LORD sent the prophet Malachi to express His displeasure and correct the malpractices of both the leaders and the people.

BACKGROUND

- Moses' brother Aaron (along with his sons) were chosen by God to serve Him as priests (**Exodus 28:1–4**).

- The tribe of Levi was appointed by God to serve at His tabernacle (**Numbers 1:47–53**) and eventually at His Temple.

- Since Aaron was from the tribe of Levi, then all official priests were Levites. However, not all Levites served as priests. Only those descended from Aaron were designated priests.

- **The priestly duties were:**
 - To offer sacrifices (**Deuteronomy 33:10b**)
 - To function as judges (**Deuteronomy 17:8–13**)
 - To teach God's law (**Deuteronomy 33:10a**)

Leviticus 22:17–22

Leviticus 22:17–22

- **Burnt Offerings** – effected atonement and emphasized total devotion to God.
- **Grain Offerings** – expressed a person’s petition for God’s bestowal of covenantal blessings, as well as dedication of the fruit of his labor to God.
- **Fellowship Offerings** – for thanksgiving or fulfillment of vows.
- **Purification Offerings** – for ritual impurity.
- **Guilt Offerings** – atonement for sins against God’s commandments.

1 Samuel 2:12–17

- **God:** “You priests dishonor and disrespect me.”
- **The Priests:** “How have we dishonored and disrespected you?”
- **God:** “Your sacrifices are not acceptable.”
- **Proof:** The people could have given acceptable offerings yet chose to offer unacceptable ones (1:14) and the priests did not bother to correct them (1:12-13).
- **Problem:** When leaders have no high regard for God in their hearts (worship) it is manifested through the low regard for God with their hands (works).

Why were the sacrifices so important to God?

Because the sacrificial system...

- Demonstrated the people’s need for forgiveness
- Demanded that sin must be punished
- Determined the people’s attitude towards God
- Depicted Christ’s future sacrifice

Hebrews 9:1-5

Hebrews 9:6-10

Hebrews 9:11-14

Hebrews 9:15

Hebrews 9:24-28

SESSION 4

The Third Dispute: DISLOYALTY TO GOD'S DESIGN

Malachi 2:10–16 (NASB)

¹⁰ Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our ancestors by being unfaithful to one another?

¹¹ Judah has been unfaithful. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the Lord loves by marrying women who worship a foreign god.

¹² As for the man who does this, whoever he may be, may the Lord remove him from the tents of Jacob—even though he brings an offering to the Lord Almighty.

¹³ “This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand.

¹⁴ You ask, “**Why?**” It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

¹⁵ Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth.

¹⁶ “For I hate divorce,” says the Lord, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says the Lord of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”

What were the grave implications of these acts?

- Israel was 'cut off' from 'tents of Jacob'. (v.12)
- God did not accept their offerings to Him. (v.13)
- Placed a great risk on godly off-springs; The Promise. (v.15)

How do we respond to this in our current times?

- Marry to honor God. (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- Be Faithful; To God and to your spouse. (Proverbs 5:18-19)
- Raise godly children. (Proverbs 2:26; 17:6)

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- **Prophet:** Yahweh will not accept your offerings.
 - **People: “Why?”**
 - **Prophet:** Because you have profaned the Lord by breaking the marriage covenant; by marrying wrongly and leaving the wife of your youth.
 - **Proof:** God has designed, established and instituted marriage; giving it guidelines to follow which were broken by Israel.
 - **Problem:** Unfaithfulness to God is disobedience;
Which leads to ungodly off springs...
to ungodly families...inevitably, to ungodly societies.

What does this mean to us?

How should we view Marriage and Divorce?

The way God sees *it*.

Marriage:

God loves *it*.

Why?:

- ✓ Because He designed, established and instituted it as a reflection of His covenant with His people. (Genesis 2:24)

Genesis 2:24

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”

Divorce:

God hates it.

Why?:

✓ Because it is sin against a Holy God.

Mark 10:9

“What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

Let us consider The Marriage Covenant as:

The Ultimate picture of ‘Christ and His Church’.

Ephesians 5:25–27

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.”

