



GLC PRESENTS:  
▲BOOK STUDIES

# MALACHI

## GIVE GOD YOUR BEST

### Sessions 7 and 8

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**MALACHI: GIVE GOD YOUR BEST**

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## SCHEDULE

### August 10

1 — Introduction

Chapter 1:1

2 — First Dispute: **Doubting God's Love**

Chapter 1:2 to verse 5

### August 17

3 — Second Dispute: **Dishonoring God's Name**

Chapter 1:6 to Chapter 2:9

4 — Third Dispute: **Disloyalty to God's Design**

Chapter 2:10 to verse 16

### August 24

5 — Fourth Dispute: **Defying God's Justice**

Chapter 2:17 to Chapter 3:5

6 — Fifth Dispute: **Denying God's Due**

Chapter 3:6 to verse 12

### August 31

7 — Sixth Dispute: **Despising God's Service**

Chapter 3:13 to verse 18

8 — Epilogue and Conclusion

Chapter 4:1 to verse 6

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## SESSION 7

# The Sixth Dispute: DESPISING GOD'S NAME

## INTRODUCTION

After pointing out five issues God had with the Israelites Malachi brings up the sixth and final dispute. The temple had been rebuilt for decades and the city walls were also already repaired. Yet many of the people and their leaders were living as if they were still in exile because their hearts were still very far from God. This is evident in how they talk to each other about God.

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## MALACHI 3:13–18

<sup>13</sup> “You have spoken arrogantly against me,” says the Lord.

“Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’

<sup>14</sup> “You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty?’

<sup>15</sup> But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly evildoers prosper, and even when they put God to the test, they get away with it.”

<sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> “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. <sup>18</sup> And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

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- **God:** “You are arrogant towards me.”
  - **The People:** “How?”
  - **God:** “You say it is useless to serve God. You say it is better to do evil.”
  - **Proof:** The people were still religious but they were not righteous. They still practiced rituals but they had no relationship with God.
  - **Problem:** Rebuilding the temple and the wall is not the same as rebuilding the people.

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## ROMANS 10:1–4

<sup>1</sup> Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup> For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. <sup>3</sup> Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

## ROMANS 10:9–13

<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

## ROMANS 10:14–15

<sup>14</sup> How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? <sup>15</sup> And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”



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## SESSION 8

# Final Warning: THE DAY TO BEHOLD

### MALACHI 4:1–6

<sup>1</sup> For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff;

and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says the Lord of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”

<sup>2</sup> “But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

<sup>3</sup> You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing,” says the Lord of hosts.

<sup>4</sup> Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup> “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> He will restore the hearts  
of the fathers to their children  
and the hearts of the children to their fathers,  
so that I will not come  
and smite the land with a curse.”



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## What is Israel to behold?

- ▶ The Day/ Judgment Day/ The Day of the Lord

<sup>1</sup> For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says the Lord of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”

<sup>2</sup> “But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

<sup>3</sup> You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing,” says the Lord of hosts.

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## What are they to remember?

- ▶ The Law of Moses.

<sup>4</sup> Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel.

### DEUTERONOMY 4:10–13

<sup>10</sup> Remember the day you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, when the Lord said to me, ‘Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.’ <sup>11</sup> You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the very heart of the heavens: darkness, cloud and thick gloom.

<sup>12</sup> Then the Lord spoke to you from the midst of the fire; you heard the sound of words, but you saw no form—only a voice.

<sup>13</sup> So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.

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## Who will God send them?

► Elijah the prophet.

<sup>5</sup> “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.”

### LUKE 1:16–17

<sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.

<sup>17</sup> It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

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### **Malachi's final warning:**

- 'That Day' will surely come.
- His Word is our light in this dark world.
- And our hope is in Jesus Christ and his Gospel alone.
  - ▶ We must share it.

### **REVELATION 22:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, <sup>2</sup> in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

<sup>3</sup> There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;

<sup>4</sup> they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

## **Jesus Christ**





