

Lesson 2 Malachi

Ice Breaker: When you play games- board, cards, video, outside – do you usually follow the rules or like to be inventive and make up rules or how to play the game? Do you like to learn/teach others how to play games?

Suggestion: Read Nehemiah 13 and see just how far the people have fallen since they first came back to the promised land and rebuilt the temple.

A. Read through the **whole** book and underline in two different colors: (Hint: NLT does show the back and forth clearer)

a.) “says the Lord of hosts or says the Lord “ these are when God speaks

b.) “but you say, or when you have said, or by saying” when the people speak

B. Circle “Lord of Hosts” (Ps. 24:10) used to show the sovereign control of God over every power, domain, force and realm. (other translations use “Commander of heaven’s army”)

As you read through the book, what do you notice overall? What ‘tone’ do you pick up from the people (think rebellious teen)? What do you learn about God as you read through?

V1- The word ‘oracle’ is also translated BURDEN. Malachi had to share very serious matters to the people who have gone through a lot.

1. What is Malachi sharing and by whose authority is he speaking these words? To Whom?

2. App How do you approach a situation when you have to rebuke or scold someone- on your behalf or someone else’s?

V2a 1. What does the Lord say first to His people? Deut. 7:7-8 (see NLT)

2. How do the people answer? Look at the sweet verses that God has given the prophets of the past. How long has He loved them?

Jeremiah 31:3 Hosea 11:3-4

APP How does God keep that promise to us now? Do we miss the blessings of God? Romans 5:8, Ephesians 1:3

APP What life situations might lead us to think God doesn’t love us? How would you answer your child if they asked how have you loved them?

(The discipline of being a child Hebrew 12:3-11)

APP How about those times when you know you didn't deserve any mercy or grace or even wondered if God was there, yet God was so faithful. (Read Mark 4:35-41-Where was Jesus all that time?)

Deuteronomy 7:1-12 See God has shown His love

* The importance of keeping a journal of those times when God was there for us... He was faithful when we were not. It is good to share those joys with others and be an encouragement to all.

V 2b-4 Let's go to Gen 25:19-34 and review the story of Jacob and Esau.(see why Esau is also called Edom)

Edom continued to be an enemy of God's chosen people Numbers 20:20-21, and all of **Obadiah see: 1:10-16**

Thoughts or comments on this section?

Edom is totally wiped out eventually and this is also foretold in Jeremiah 49:7-22

After the Edomites were driven from their land by the Nabateans, they migrated to the southern part of Israel and became known as Idumeans. Much later in biblical history, [Herod the Great](#), an Idumean, appears on the scene. It was Herod who tried to kill the infant Jesus in Bethlehem—through Herod, the rebellion of Edom continued. Got Questions

(Paul in Romans 9:6-16 uses the story of Esau and Jacob to share that God chooses His people. But Malachi is using this illustration to show how God chose Jacob- the Israelites- to be His people and that He has kept His covenant love to His people . Here is a good example of knowing who the book was written to and how they would have understood it) Lee Gattis

V5 Who will see and what will they see?

Where is God sovereign?

APP We can see that God is Sovereign and will give justice. Who are our enemies today? Eph 6:12, Who protects us Col 2:15.... Our victory is secure in Christ Rev. 18:21-24, 20:10

V 6-14- Circle where you see "my name"

(New Living Translation helps make this clear on who is talking)

⁶ The Lord of Heaven's Armies says to the priests: "A son honors his father, and a servant respects his master. If I am your father and master, where are the honor and respect I deserve? You have shown contempt for my name!

"But you ask, 'How have we ever shown contempt for your name?'

⁷ "You have shown contempt by offering defiled sacrifices on my altar.

"Then you ask, 'How have we defiled the sacrifices?'

"You defile them by saying the altar of the Lord deserves no respect. ⁸ When you give blind animals as sacrifices, isn't that wrong? And isn't it wrong to offer animals that are crippled and diseased? Try giving gifts like that to your governor, and see how pleased he is!" says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

⁹ "Go ahead, beg God to be merciful to you! But when you bring that kind of offering, why should he show you any favor at all?" asks the Lord of Heaven's Armies. ¹⁰ "How I wish one of you would shut the Temple doors so that these worthless sacrifices could not be offered! I am not pleased with you," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "and I will not accept your offerings.

V6 What was God's complaint against the priests?

What does it mean to Honor, respect a Father or a master? Is there a difference? How? Deut. 32:6, Psalm 29:1-2, Isa 8:13

What were the priest's reaction?

Lee Gatiss- The priests were now in a poorly built "new temple". Nothing like the majestic Solomon's temple they had before. Perhaps they were thinking it was such a poor substitute, what did it matter what or how they sacrificed. Does God really care?

V7 God's response? Why would God use these question forms?

How do the Priests reply? Do you think they really didn't know?

V8 Why were the sacrifices unacceptable? Deut 10:12-13 , Isa. 5:18-19

Who else wouldn't even accept these kinds of sacrifices? Leviticus 22:17-33

Hebrews 10:1-25... Jesus the perfect lamb of God We see how important these "perfect sacrifices" God expected was leading to Jesus, the perfect sacrifice.

V9 What was the purpose of these sacrifices? (see both ESV and NLT)

V10 What would God rather they do if they continue to offer these kinds of sacrifices? Jeremiah 14:12

Does God Need sacrifices? Psalm 50: 10, 23

V11 What does God say WILL happen? Revelation 2:17, 19:12-16

V12- 13 What does God say the priests are doing? **Micah 6:3**

V14 What is God's verdict on their behavior? (the people as well are doing this but priests are accepting what they bring) What is their true "heart" in the sacrifices? To Cheat would be a deliberate action Acts 5:1-11

Why? How are they treating the Lord of Hosts?

Isaiah 6:1-9, Psalm 102:15, Rev. 15:4, Rev 7:9-17

APP How do we fail to give God full glory and honor Him? How do we serve God and obey His Word? Do we ever cheat God? **Do we ever feel "entitled" to the blessings of God without obedience as the Israelites seemed to do?**

Conclude: Ephesians 5:6-20 Song: Holy Holy Holy

Extra:

What sacrifices does God want? Micah 6:7-8, Luke 6:35-36, 9:57-61, Philippians 4:18, Hebrews 13:15

We **Rest** in God through grace and are **Responsible** to obey His Word