



Malachi

But what have we done wrong?

The Pentateuch or Torah

1. **Genesis** – The Book of Origins
2. **Exodus** – Leaving Egypt
3. **Leviticus** – Worship and Walk
4. **Numbers** – In the Wilderness
5. **Deuteronomy** – Terms of the Covenant

The Historical Books

6 – 8. Joshua, Judges, Ruth

9 – 14. 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles

15. Ezra The Exiles Return

16. Nehemiah Rebuilding Jerusalem

17. Esther God's Providence

The Books of Wisdom

18. **Job** Suffering Well

19. **Psalms** Prayer & Worship

20. **Proverbs** Mainly Wisdom

21. **Ecclesiastes** Under the Sun

22. **Song of Songs** The Bible's Love Song

The Major Prophets

23. **Isaiah** The Fifth Gospel

24. **Jeremiah** The Weeping Prophet

25. ---*Lamentations* *New Every Morning*

26. **Ezekiel** Exile and Restoration

27. **Daniel** Son of Man

The Minor Prophets

28. Hosea

29. Joel

30. Amos

31. Obadiah

32. Jonah

33. Micah

34. Nahum

35. Habakkuk

36. Zephaniah

37. Haggai

38. Zechariah

39. Malachi

But what have we done wrong?

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Malachi reminds us that a shallow, formal religion may be as bad as no real religion at all.

But what have we done wrong?

- The name **Malachi** means “my messenger”.
- He is the last of the writing prophets, coming after the captivity and after **Haggai** and **Zechariah**.
- He is a contemporary of **Ezra** and **Nehemiah** – in the time after the rebuilding of the temple.

But what have we done wrong?

- The nation was filled with a substandard, formal religion.
- But no one could see it.
- Their lives were riddled with spiritual blind spots.

But what have we done wrong?

- They were not experiencing the prosperity they desired – the prosperity the people felt they deserved.
- As God questions them, they question God.

But what have we done wrong?

- This book contains some of the sharpest rebukes and most pointed criticisms in the Old Testament.
- It ends with a threat of destruction and is followed by **400 years of silence**, lasting until the birth of Jesus Christ.

But what have we done wrong?

I think that none of the messages of these minor prophets fits the present age exactly as does this of Malachi.

*– G. Campbell Morgan (1863 – 1945),
British Evangelist & Bible Teacher*



But what have we done wrong?

- As we read through **Malachi**, we will highlight **Ten Defiant Questions** that the people throw at God.
- Their questions reveal the attitudes of the hearts.

Malachi 1

Malachi 1

Defiant Question #1

- 1:2 How have you loved us?
- The Edomites (Esau) were enemies of God and the nation of Israel throughout their shared history.
- God's love is unfailing toward his people – but he will also reject those who reject him.

Malachi 1

Defiant Questions #2 & #3

- 1:6 How have we despised your name?
- 1:7 How have we polluted you?
- The corrupt practices of the priests and people were dishonoring to God.

Malachi 1



You don't have to curse God openly to despise Him. All you need to do is tell Him that you don't think much of Him by giving Him your leftovers.

– Tony Evans, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas, TX

Malachi 1

- They were offering unacceptable sacrifices of blind, sick and lame animals that they didn't want any more.
- By their careless practices the priests and people were showing that they did not fear God.

Malachi 1



To fear God simply means to take God seriously, as opposed to taking God casually ... God wants to be your friend. But more than that, He demands to be your God.

– Tony Evans, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas, TX

Malachi 1

- It only makes sense to give God the highest place in all that we do – in every part of our lives.

Malachi 2

Malachi 2

- **2:1** God holds the priests more accountable than the people. They should know better.
- Compare **James 3:1** (ESV) **Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.**

Malachi 2

Defiant Question #4

- **2:14** Why does he not [regard or accept our offerings]?
- Divorce had become rampant.
- At this same time, **Ezra** and **Nehemiah** record an epidemic of marriages to non-Israelite women who worship other gods.

Malachi 2

- God considers marriage holy.
- It is intended to illustrate to the world the relationship between Christ and his church.
- It is intended for our benefit, but also for his glory.

Malachi 2

Defiant Questions #5 & 6

- **2:17** How have we wearied him?
- Where is the God of justice?
- The people tried God's patience by refusing to believe that He was truly good and just.

Malachi 3

Malachi 3

- Malachi means “my messenger.”
- The word “messenger” is also the word for “angel.”
- Jesus is the “messenger” or “Angel of the Lord.”
- God will judge those who treat others unjustly.

Malachi 3

Defiant Question #7

- 3:7 How shall we return?
- God was holding the door open for them to repent – to turn and come back to Him.
- The people refused to see their need for repentance.

Malachi 3

Defiant Question #8

- **3:8** How have we robbed You?
- The people were holding back on their required tithes and offerings.
- Giving is a part of true worship – and God will reward it.

Malachi 3

Defiant Questions #9 & #10

- **3:13** How have we spoken against You?
- **3:14** What is the profit of keeping his charge ...?

Malachi 3

- The nation now doubted the usefulness of serving God.
- They were grumbling about their own hardships and envying the perceived prosperity of the wicked.

Malachi 3

One Honest Question for Us

Malachi 3

One Honest Question for Us

- Do you see any of yourself in the questions the Israelites defiantly throw at God?

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One Honest Question for Us

- Do you see any of yourself in the questions the Israelites defiantly throw at God?
- **3:16** God remembers those who fear him.
- And the door for repentance is wide open.

Malachi 4

Malachi 4

- The Day of the Lord is coming.
- (But Elijah will come first.)

Malachi 4

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- Israel at this time imagined they were very righteous.
- They thought they were good and thought they were serving God – but God saw things differently.

But what have we done wrong?

- God is like a refiner's fire.
- When we seek him, we are seeking to be refined.

But what have we done wrong?

- Encountering him will reveal our impurities
- He shines a light into all those areas – those blind spots – that we cannot see.

But what have we done wrong?

- These people had lost their place in the land and had now been allowed to return.
- Still, the book ends with a threat of “utter destruction.”

But what have we done wrong?



Dr. Charles Feinberg

The book of Genesis shows how the curse entered the human race and Malachi indicates that the curse still threatens. The book of Matthew begins with the Son of David, the Son of Abraham who came to be made a curse for us by hanging upon a tree ... that we might have blessing, joy and eternal life through faith in His name. Only through Messiah Jesus the Lord can Israel escape the awful curse.

– Charles L. Feinberg (1909 – 1995)

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Malachi reminds us that a shallow, formal religion may be as bad as no real religion at all.

But what have we done wrong?

Christ deserves and desires so much more
than that from us.

He offers so much more than that to us.