

JUDGMENT, SALVATION, AND HOPE

The Message of the Minor Prophets

Malachi: *“The Messenger of the Covenant Will Come”*

Outline

1. Covenant Love
2. Covenant Violations
3. Covenant Renewal

JUDGMENT,
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1. Covenant Love

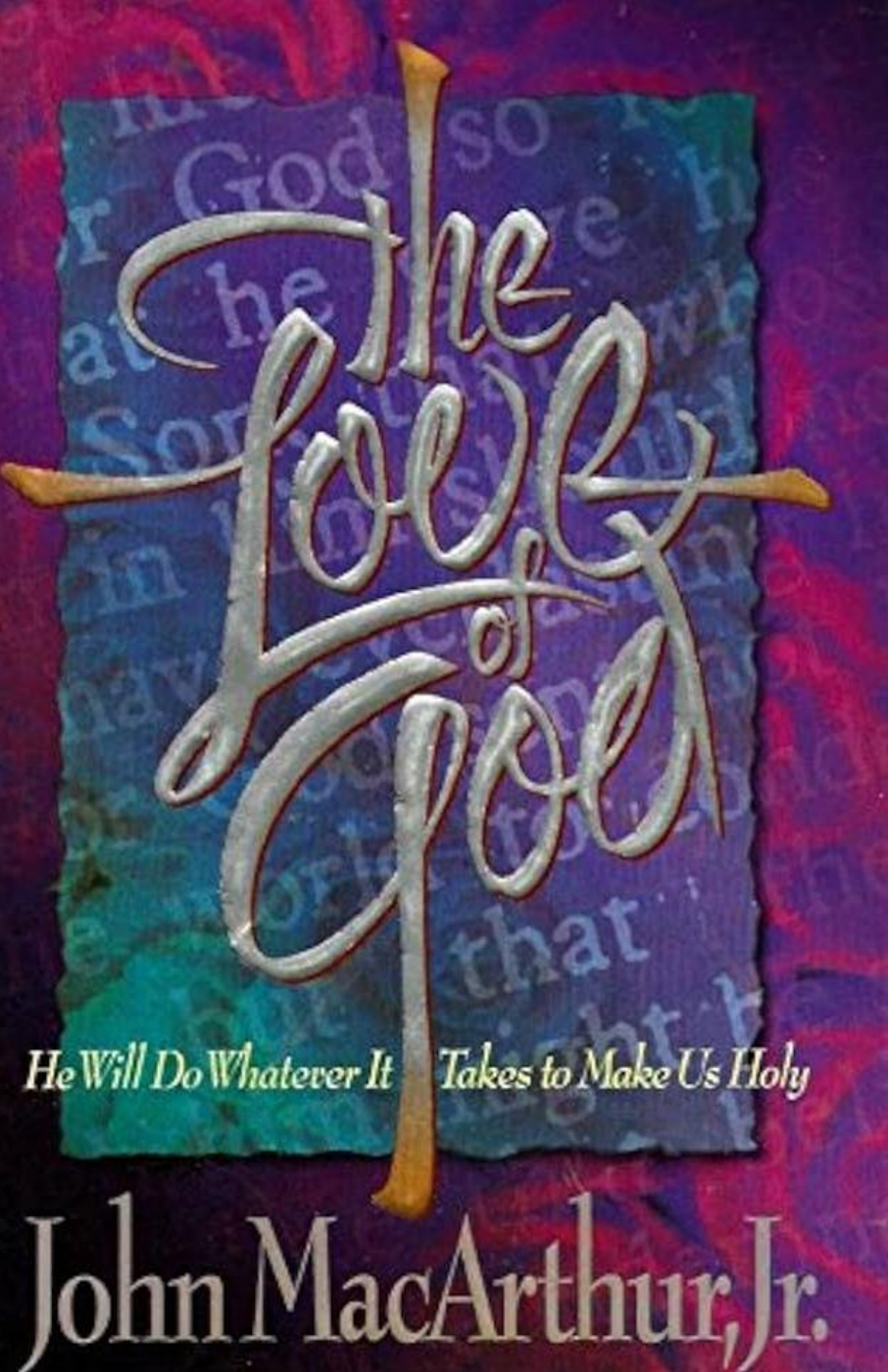
Malachi 1:1-3

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Malachi 1:1-3

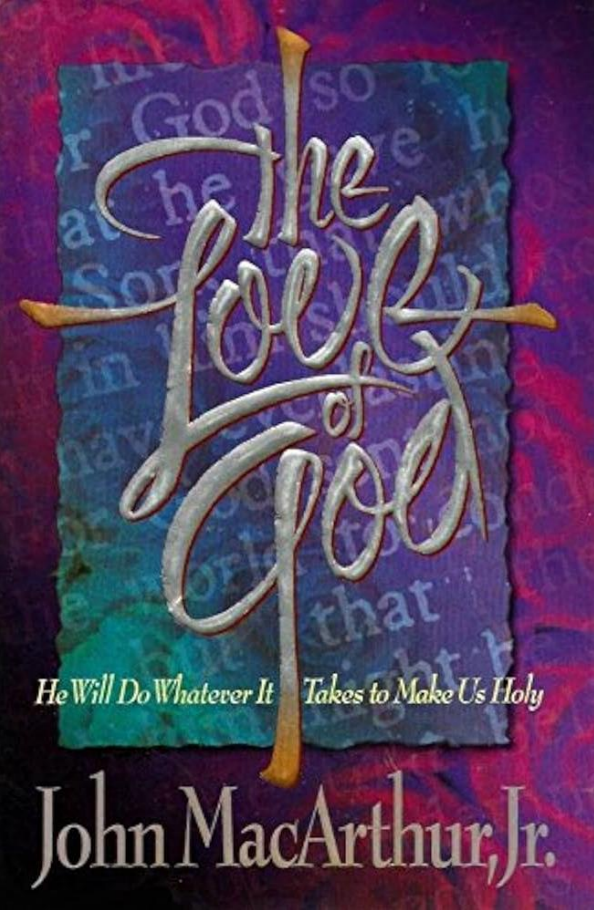
A prophecy: The word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi. ² “I have loved you,” says the Lord. “But you ask, ‘How have you loved us?’ “Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the Lord. “Yet I have loved Jacob, ³ but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his hill country into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals.”

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John MacArthur on God's universal love for all and his saving love for his people:

- God's general love for all humanity is seen in common grace (Matt. 5:45), his goodness (Rom. 2:4), his compassion (Ps. 145:9), and the free offer of the gospel to save all who believe (John 3:16).
- But the Scriptures also speak of God's special, saving love.



“...while there is a genuine sense in which God’s love is universal in its extent, there is another sense in which it is limited in degree. The love of God for all humanity is not the sort of love that guarantees everyone’s salvation. It is not a love that nullifies His holy abhorrence of sin. It is not a saving love . . . There is an even greater love of God, however, that does accomplish the salvation of sinners. It is a special love, bestowed from all eternity on those whom He has chosen as His own. God’s love for those who believe – His love for the elect – is infinitely greater in degree than His love for humanity in general . . . [the] universal aspect of God’s love is important to affirm. But it is even more crucial that we see that God has a special love for His own, His chosen people, and the He loves them with an eternal, unchanging love.” (p. 129)

1. Covenant Love

Application: Consider how God has shown his love for you

- In creation
- In providence
- In redemption

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2. Covenant Violations

Malachi 1–3

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Malachi 2:1-9

“And now, you priests, this warning is for you. ² If you do not listen, and if you do not resolve to honor my name,” says the Lord Almighty, “I will send a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not resolved to honor me. ³ “Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will smear on your faces the dung from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it.

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Malachi 2:1-9

⁴ And you will know that I have sent you this warning so that my covenant with Levi may continue,” says the Lord Almighty. ⁵ “My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. ⁶ True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin.

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Malachi 2:1-9

⁷ “For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, because he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty and people seek instruction from his mouth.

⁸ But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; **you have violated the covenant with Levi,” says the Lord**

Almighty. ⁹ “So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law.”

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2. Covenant Violations

Covenant breaking in three dimensions:

- a) Worship (1:6-14)
- b) Marriage (2:10-16)
- c) Giving (3:6-12)

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Malachi 1:8-14

⁸ When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the Lord Almighty. ⁹ "Now plead with God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?"—says the Lord Almighty.

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Malachi 1:8-14

¹⁰ “Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you,” says the Lord Almighty, “and I will accept no offering from your hands. ¹¹ My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord Almighty.

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Malachi 1:8-14

... ^{13b}“When you bring injured, lame or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?” says the Lord. ¹⁴“Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king,” says the Lord Almighty, “and my name is to be feared among the nations.

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2. Covenant Violations

Application: Give God your best in worship

- Prepare your heart and mind for worship
- Be fully engaged when in gatherings for worship
- “I will not offer to the Lord...that which cost me nothing” (King David in 2 Sam. 24)

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2. Covenant Violations

Covenant breaking in three dimensions:

- a) Worship (1:6-14)
- b) **Marriage (2:10-16)**
- c) Giving (3:6-12)

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Malachi 2:10-16

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.

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Malachi 2:10-16

¹³ Another thing you do: You flood the Lord's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 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.

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Malachi 2:10-16

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 “The man who hates and divorces his wife,” says the Lord, the God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,” says the Lord Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.

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2. Covenant Violations

Application: Uphold the sanctity of marriage

- Singles: marry only a believer; don't live together before marriage
- Married: stay faithful even when marriage is difficult

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2. Covenant Violations

Application: Uphold the sanctity of marriage

- Singles: marry only a believer; don't live together before marriage
- Married: stay faithful even when marriage is difficult
- About divorce: the Scriptures allow for divorce for serious, covenant-breaking sins, but not “no fault” divorce

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2. Covenant Violations

Covenant breaking in three dimensions:

- a) Worship (1:6-14)
- b) Marriage (2:10-16)
- c) **Giving (3:6-12)**

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Malachi 3:6-12

⁶ “I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ ⁸ “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’

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Malachi 3:6-12

“In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

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Malachi 3:6-12

¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the Lord Almighty.

¹² “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.

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2. Covenant Violations

Application → Let your giving be shaped by the gospel

- Give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1)
- Give generously (2 Cor. 9:6)
- Give cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7)
- Be motivated by the gospel (2 Cor. 8:9)

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3. Covenant Renewal

Malachi 3:1-4; 4:5-6

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Malachi 3:1-4

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty. ² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap.

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Malachi 3:1-4

³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

**Quoted in Mark 1:2*

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Malachi 4:5-6

“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

**Quoted in Matt. 11:14, Matt. 17:10-13 & Luke 1:17 in reference to John the Baptist*

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3. Covenant Renewal

Malachi 3:1-4; 4:5-6

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