

## **Malachi 1:1-5 – Choice: Jacob I Loved, Esau I Hated**

### **Main Idea of the Text:**

**God's Love for his people is not trivial, or uninvolved. God's Love is pure, free, sovereign, and electing... and looks and sounds strange.**

### **The Prophet (v. 1)**

1. Noth much is known of the Prophet, Malachi (*My Messenger, Angel*)
2. He is not mentioned in any text of Scripture
3. Possible this is not a proper name, but traditionally this was taken as a proper name

### **The Context and Date: 430-50 BC**

1. 586 BC – Babylonians sacked Jerusalem, destroy temple, took most of the Jews into exile
2. October, 539 BC – Persians under King Cyrus, conquer Babylon
3. 538 BC – Cyrus decrees by the hand of God to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem (**Ezra 1:1-2**)
4. Exiles begin to return from Babylon
5. 415-444 BC Nehemiah made two trips to Israel – Malachi prophesied between his two visits

### **The Structure of Malachi**

1. The Love of God (**1:1-5**)
2. The Sin of the Priests (**1:6-2:9**)
3. The Sin of the People (**2:10-3:15**)
4. Book of Remembrance: Blessing/Judgment (**3:16-4:3**)
5. Promise and Warning (Day of the Lord) (**4:4-6**)

### **The Burden (Oracle) of Malachi (v. 1)**

1. Hebrew for Oracle: Burden of the word of the Lord
2. Speaking God's Word has a sense of Weightiness
3. Some will Believe and Others will Not
4. Some of what is Said can be Unpopular

## **God's Declaration of Love for Jacob (v. 2a)**

1. The Love of God: A time to rejoice and shudder
2. Divine Favor is Undeserved
3. Mixture of Love and Fear in Malachi (**1:6, 14; 2:5; 3:5**)
4. Reverence and Honor, Worship and Fear are the Appropriate Response to God's Love

## **The People's Skeptical, Doubting Question: How? (v. 2b)**

1. Spiteful, Skeptical
2. Small View of God's Love and Promises
3. Doubting and Indifferent
4. God is Faithful and Patient – He Answers them

## **God's Evidence: The Contrast of Twin Brothers (vv. 3-5)**

1. Divine Love
  - a. A Reminder of Israel's Origins
  - b. Sovereign, Unconditional, Selective Love
  - c. God Chose Jacob (No Coercion to do so)
  - d. Esau was Older – He had rights to inheritance and blessing over Jacob
  - e. God could have Chosen Esau
  - f. When did God Choose Israel (Jacob)?
    - i. **Genesis 25:21-23 – Chosen Nation**
    - ii. **Romans 9:10-13 – Elect Individual**
    - iii. Answer: In the Womb
2. Divine Hatred
  - a. God Passed Over Esau
  - b. God Countered Edom's Wealth/Success
  - c. God Frustrated Edom's Efforts/Works
  - d. God Handed Edom Over to Sin
  - e. God Set His Wrath on Edom – until they were called the Wicked Country
  - f. God was Angry at Edom Forever
3. Great is the Lord for His Mercy and Judgment