

Malachi 2:1-9

Covenant: Promise of Levi Forgotten and Forsaken

Introduction: *The Pilgrim's Progress*, By John Bunyan

1. Christian and Interpreter
2. Picture on the Wall: Preacher of the Word
3. Motivation of this Passage: Malachi 1:2 – I Love You
4. God is Faithful – He will Eliminate Anything in the way of Him and His people
5. Function of the Priesthood: Sacrificial System and Teaching
6. Temptation: Abandon the Lord and His Word
(**Matthew 15:12-14, 2 Timothy 4:1-4**)

Main Idea of the Text:

**Spiritual Leadership must speak the Truth of the Word.
They must instruct the Lord's people in the Way of God.
One High Priest has done this perfectly. His name is Jesus.**

The Defective Priestly Ministry (vv. 1-4)

1. Priestly Apostasy – the spiritual leadership abandoned the Faith
2. God Confronts them with Alarming Terrors:
 - a. The Lord will Curse you – Because you do not listen (**Verse 2**)
 - b. The Lord will Curse your Blessings – Because your heart is not set to give Glory to God's Name (**Verse 2**)
 - c. The Lord will Rebuke your Offspring (Seed) – because you follow your own way and not the way of God (**Verses 3, 8-9; Prov. 10:29**)
 - d. The Lord will Spread Dung on your Face and Offspring – because you do not walk in the way of the Lord nor instruct His people without prejudice (**Verses 3, 9**)
3. The Priesthood was Greedy

The Demise of the People of God (v. 8)

1. False Instruction/Doctrine → False Practice = Stumbling
2. *Dung Spread on the Face*: Impurity and Unclean; was to be taken outside the camp and burned as a sin offering to the Lord (**Exodus 29:14**)
3. The priests were defiled, impure, unclean
4. Spiritual Leaders Guide the Flock into the Truth of God's Word

The Difference of the Past (vv. 5-7)

1. Covenant of Levi (**Verses 4, 5, 8**)
 - a. Possibility 1: **Exodus 32**
 - b. Possibility 2: **Numbers 25**
2. God's Grace and Mercy: The Covenant of Levi will Stand (**Verse 4**)
3. Early Years of the Nation of Israel – This Covenant was kept
4. Malachi's Day: The Covenant was Forgotten and Forsaken

The Description of the Pastoral Office (vv. 5-7)

1. Fear of the Lord (**Verse 5**)
2. Awe for God's Name (**Verse 5**)
3. Truth on His Lips (**Verses 6-7**)
4. Walk with God in Peace and Righteousness (**Verse 6**)
5. An Evangelist – A Messenger of the Lord of Hosts (**Verse 7**)

The Distinguished High Priest (vv. 5-7)

1. Jesus fulfilled the Covenant with Levi Perfectly
2. Jesus was the Sin offering – (**Hebrews 13:11-12**)
3. Jesus is the Mediator of a Better Covenant made in His Blood
4. Jesus is our Propitiation and Advocate (**1 John 2:1-6**)