

Questions:

1. **Maybe you are questioning God's plan in your life.** Have you have been apathetic in your worship and obedience because you have lost hope. Do you feel like your expectations haven't been met by God. Really God, how have you loved me? -"I sent my Son to die on the Cross for you. It pleased me to bruise Him - Jesus - on your behalf."

2. **For believers today, we must realize by faith what God has done for you in Christ.** The people were almost begging God to throw the mud around with them. How have you loved us - it sure doesn't show in our bank accounts, it doesn't show in our cattle or in our businesses. God is not concerned with winning man's applause but He is speaking to the choir and he is interjecting the truth to them. I have loved you, i love you now and will always love you. Wont you turn back to your first love?

Answers to blanks

corrections

Burden

leads

expectations

chose

compared

compared



THE BOOK OF MALACHI

Hopelessness leads to Apathy

Text: Malachi 1:1-5

Malachi is the very last book of the 12 minor prophets and is the last book of the Old Testament. The name Malachi means **"Messenger of Yahweh"**. Nothing is known of him beyond what is contained in his book of prophecies. Some have supposed that the name is simply a title descriptive of his character as a messenger of Jehovah, and not a proper name. Malachi is the last prophetic word of the Old Testament before the silent years which are 400 years between the Old & New Testaments and the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus. The last thing God says through Malachi is the first thing that takes place on the prophetic calendar.

The Book of Malachi was written to correct the lax religious and social behavior of the Israelites – particularly the priests. In fact, Malachi **consists of a series of _____** by God and the various groups within the Israelite community. In the course of the book's four chapters, God is vindicated while those who do not adhere to the law of Moses are rebuked and corrected. In Malachi, God will attack the root of their issues - **hopelessness** - by reminding them of His promises of the coming Messiah to close out the book.

Malachi 1:1-2 “The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi. 2 I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the Lord: yet I loved Jacob,”

Verse 1 begins with the “_____” of the word of the Lord. The Hebrew word for burden is significant. Anytime you read the burden of the word of the Lord before the beginning of a prophecy it meant God was going to confront and correct something in His people.

God sets the foundation for His rebuke and for the Israelite's obedience - love.

CR: Proverbs 3:11-12

God will correct in love and He desires us to respond out of love! What a great reminder as we deal with each other and our children.

CR: John 14:15

When God corrects us we know that when God speaks to us from His Word or from godly counsel and rebukes us it is an expression of His love for us!

CR: Hebrews 12:6-11

Remember the theme is apathy _____ to hopelessness and when you are ready to discipline somebody with no hope you have to be careful. Consider how God begins His correction.

Quote: God in essence is saying “I have loved you, I love you now and will love you forever!”

When you are talking to someone who hasn't had their _____ fulfilled and you say you love them they are going to say “oh yeah, how have you loved you me?” That is exactly how the Israelites responded. God begins to tell them how He has loved them.

The Hebrew words for loved and hated lend themselves to the idea of accepted and rejected.

CR: Romans 9:10-13

Rebecca prays to the Lord about this movement happening in her womb and God pretty much says it feels like a civil war happening in your womb because in fact there are two nations that are going to come from these babies. And the older will serve the younger. Before the boys were even born God told her that by His will He had already chosen Jacob and rejected Esau.

In Malachi, God is explaining that I _____ Jacob and not Esau to drive home the point that he has chosen you and me to be His people.

His choosing them is a declaration of His love for them. God didn't choose them because they brought something to the table. He didn't choose them because they were wealthy, pretty or intelligent. He chose them out of love!

CR: Deuteronomy 7:7-8

When the people of Israel _____ themselves to their neighbors the Edomites (the descendants of Esau), they saw that God chose to preserve Israel and He punished the Edomites.

Quote: “Malachi isn't teaching double predestination. “Malachi is not speaking of the predestination of the one brother and reprobation of the other; he is contrasting the histories of the two peoples represented by them... Both nations sinned; both are punished; but Israel by God's free mercy was forgiven and restored, while Edom was left in the misery which it had brought upon itself by its own iniquity”

Malachi gives a great reassurance of God's love for Israel and since the finished work of Jesus we have a new demonstration of love: But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)

God tells them to just hold onto his _____ by faith. I know you don't see it now Israel but soon your eyes shall see it and you will say “The Lord will be magnified!”

Even when you don't see it and life just seems to going on and on, this is where the rubber meets the road when it comes to your faith.

CR: 1 Corinthians 13:12

One day we will see how all the pieces of the puzzle go together. Now we must live by faith that is predicated on the character of God and the purity of His Word.

