

DESPISING GOD

An Overview of Malachi

We see in Malachi that discouraged and disobedient people despised God.

- This morning we'll look at the downfall and then their deliverance.

I. THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL

A. DISCOURAGEMENT

1. Initial Hopefulness (538-445 BC)
 - a. In 538 BC Ezra leads Israel back to their homeland
 - b. By 515 BC the Temple was rebuilt
 - c. In 445 BC Jerusalem's walls were rebuilt
2. Current Hopelessness (430 BC)
 - a. Their leader, Nehemiah, has left - See Neh. 13:6
 - b. Their freedom is limited - See Mal. 1:8
 - c. Their fields are unproductive - See Mal. 3:11

B. DISOBEDIENCE

1. Rudeness (1:2)
2. Selfishness (1:7-8)
3. Carelessness (2:8)
4. Intermarriage (2:11)
5. Divorce (2:14)
6. Blasphemy (2:17)
7. Waywardness (3:7)
8. Indifference (3:8)
9. Bitterness (3:14)

C. CONTEMPT

1. Their disillusionment produces a calloused and combative response to God.
2. Note their defiant disrespect
 - a. How have you loved us? (1:2)
 - b. How have we despised Your name? (1:6)
 - c. How have we defiled You? (1:7)
 - d. How have our words wearied You? (2:17)
 - e. How shall we return to You? (3:7)
 - f. How have we robbed God? (3:8)
 - g. What have we spoken against God? (3:13)

D. APPLICATION:

1. We can hardly imagine speaking to God in this manner ... "What are You talking about?"
2. Have you been there?
3. Have these put into words what some of us may think but fear to say?!

II. THE CURE FOR CONTEMPT**A. REMEMBER GOD'S JUDGMENT (3:5-6)**

1. His witness (5)
2. His consistency (6)

B. RETURN TO GOD'S WAYS

- A spiritual relationship and not a ceremonial religion

1. Marvel at God's grace (1:5)
2. Plead for God's favor (1:9)
3. Require God's instructions (2:7)
4. Heed God's Spirit (2:15)
5. Obey God completely (3:7)
6. Give to God sacrificially (3:10-11)
7. Regard God highly (3:16)
8. Remember God's Word (4:4)

CONCLUSION:**Where are you today?****1. *Are you headed down?***

- a. Have you sunken to the place where you despise God?
- b. Are you floundering in your walk with God?
- c. Are you discouraged and disobedient?

2. *Or, are you looking up?*

- a. Confessing your sins to God.
- b. Committing to a spiritual relationship and focused on worship and obedience.

I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear And will trust in the LORD.

- Psalm 40:1-3

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