

# Malachi: Return to Me

## Love God's Word

Malachi 2:1-9



2025.01.12

Sermon 4 of ?

1. Intro
  - 1.1 Turn to **Malachi 2**, continuing series **Return to Me**
  - 1.2 We will be taking communion together at end of service
  - 1.3 Let's read our text and get right into it
  - 1.4 **Malachi 2:1-9**
  - 1.5 Pray
2. Message
  - 2.1 **Malachi 2:1**
    - 2.1.1 End of chapter 1 was directed at anyone offering sacrifices
      - 2.1.1.1 Specifically bringing the lame, sick
      - 2.1.1.2 Making vows that require male but bringing something blemished
    - 2.1.2 God turns His attention back to the priests specifically
  - 2.2 **Malachi 2:2a**
    - 2.2.1 "Take it to heart" - very similar to "Consider your ways" in Haggai
    - 2.2.2 "To My name" - 10 times in this book
      - 2.2.2.1 God's reputation, representation
    - 2.2.3 God has made a covenant with Israel
      - 2.2.3.1 Great blessing and abundance - IF
      - 2.2.3.2 Covenant is everlasting
      - 2.2.3.3 Blessing is conditional
    - 2.2.4 God reminding them of the condition of blessing
  - 2.3 **Malachi 2:2b**
    - 2.3.1 God is faithful - He keeps His promises/covenants
      - 2.3.1.1 He promised to bless them in obedience and curse them in disobedience
      - 2.3.1.2 It's their choice
    - 2.3.2 Indeed, already begun to work against Israel
  - 2.4 Whenever talking about God bringing judgment, we need perspective
    - 2.4.1 God is sovereign - He has the right
    - 2.4.2 God is love - His nature
      - 2.4.2.1 Everything God is and does is love
      - 2.4.2.2 God wants to bring life and abundance and blessing
      - 2.4.2.3 But if the people lose sight of where those come from, He'll bring strife and trial to remind them
      - 2.4.2.4 People make a choice
        - Give Him glory for the blessing
        - Experience His power in the pain
      - 2.4.2.5 Pharaoh could have let the Israelites leave to worship their God
        - He chose to experience God's power in the plagues
    - 2.4.3 Not prosperity gospel
      - 2.4.3.1 Bad things happen to righteous people
      - 2.4.3.2 We live in a sinful world
      - 2.4.3.3 Blessing and trial do not reflect righteousness or unrighteousness
      - 2.4.3.4 But if we are experiencing trouble, we should pause to ask if God is trying to get our attention
        - Maybe to turn away from some sin
        - Maybe to learn to trust Him more

2.4.3.5 We can't make judgment calls based on our circumstances

- Job's friends and wife did, and they were wrong

## 2.5 **Malachi 2:3**

2.5.1 As disgusting as we think that is - it's worse to them

2.5.2 Cleanliness laws dictated clean from unclean

2.5.2.1 Anyone who came near to God's things absolutely need to be clean

2.5.3 Refuse on the face disqualifies from service to God

2.5.3.1 Also humiliating

2.5.4 "One will take you away with it"

2.5.4.1 Strong words

## **Exodus 29:14a**

<sup>14</sup> **But the flesh of the bull, with its skin and its offal, you shall burn with fire outside the camp.**

2.5.4.2 Taken away to be burned

## 2.6 **Malachi 2:4**

2.6.1 Third son of Jacob - not the person, but the tribe

2.6.1.1 Did not receive land in Canaan

2.6.1.2 God Himself is their portion and inheritance

## **Numbers 18:20**

<sup>20</sup> **Then the LORD said to Aaron: "You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel.**

2.6.2 They would direct worship, God would provide for them

2.6.2.1 Malachi 1:10 - God suggested they shut the doors of the temple

2.6.2.2 How can the priests be provided for if there are no sacrifices given?

2.6.3 Remove the current priests, replace them with God fearers and restore the covenant

2.6.4 God reminds them what the priesthood should look like

## 2.7 **Malachi 2:5-6**

2.7.1 Turn to **Numbers 25**

2.7.2 v5, Covenant of "life and peace"

2.7.2.1 Isaiah 54 and Ezekiel 37 both talk about a covenant of peace

2.7.2.2 Future when peace is constant and everlasting

2.7.3 This verse - God has made a covenant of peace

2.7.3.1 There is only one mention of an existing covenant of this type

## 2.8 **Numbers 25:6-13**

2.8.1 Phinehas was a Levite

2.8.2 His zeal for the Lord was such that he limited iniquity

2.8.2.1 Feared and revered God

2.8.2.2 Believed God when He says He hates sin

2.8.3 Mention of covenant brings to mind Phinehas, but God is speaking of Levi's role more broadly

## **Deuteronomy 33:9b-10a**

<sup>9</sup> **...they have observed Your word and kept Your covenant.** <sup>10</sup> **They shall teach Jacob Your judgments, and Israel Your law.**

2.8.3.1 The Levites were the only ones who stood on Moses' side regarding the golden calf

2.8.4 v6, priests would know and profess God's Law and truth

- 2.8.4.1 “No injustice” - God’s Law is perfect and just
- 2.8.4.2 “Walked with Me” - God’s Word draws us close to Him
- 2.8.4.3 “Turned many away from iniquity” - God’s Word keeps us from sin
- 2.8.4.4 Turn to **Psalm 19**

### **Psalm 119:11**

**<sup>11</sup> Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.**

### **2.9 Psalm 19:7-11**

- 2.9.1 Turn back to **Malachi 2**
- 2.9.2 Priesthood should know and love God’s Word
- 2.9.3 Special relationship with God, a closeness that no one else could have
- 2.9.4 This was supposed to cultivate a special relationship with everyone outside the tribe

### **2.10 Malachi 2:7**

- 2.10.1 Through the priests that people knew God’s Law
- 2.10.2 They were to keep it and teach it
- 2.10.3 People would seek truth from them, look up to them
- 2.10.4 “Messenger of the LORD of hosts”
  - 2.10.4.1 This term in the old testament is usually used for angels or Christ
  - 2.10.4.2 Sometimes used in reference to prophets
  - 2.10.4.3 Here used generally for the priesthood
  - 2.10.4.4 They were to be God’s messengers on the regular
  - 2.10.4.5 God sent prophets “messengers” to bring their attention back to Him
  - 2.10.4.6 If the priests didn’t neglect their calling, there would be no need for special messengers
- 2.10.5 This is the calling of the priesthood, but they clearly aren’t walking it

### **2.11 Malachi 2:8**

- 2.11.1 “Departed from the way”
  - 2.11.1.1 Covenant of Levi was to walk with God
- 2.11.2 “Caused many to stumble”
  - 2.11.2.1 Those beautiful psalms must’ve been forgotten
  - 2.11.2.2 Instead of limiting iniquity, they are bringing it
- 2.11.3 “Corrupted the covenant”
  - 2.11.3.1 Their end of the deal
  - 2.11.3.2 God’s end is not compromised
- 2.11.4 The dereliction of priestly duties affects the relationship with the nation

### **2.12 Malachi 2:9**

- 2.12.1 People don’t seek truth and look up to the priesthood
  - 2.12.1.1 Contemptible = despise, base = view as low
- 2.12.2 “Show partiality in the law”
  - 2.12.2.1 Injustice - accepting bribes, or arbitrating toward personal gain
  - 2.12.2.2 Their inheritance and portion was God - that wasn’t good enough
  - 2.12.2.3 They wanted more, not satisfied with what the sacrifices provided
- 2.12.3 Abandonment by priests affects the whole nation

### **Hosea 4:9**

**<sup>9</sup> And it shall be: like people, like priest.**

- 2.13 End of chapter 1, God is charging the people with bringing unacceptable sacrifices
  - 2.13.1 How did they come to think that was okay?
  - 2.13.2 The priests didn't demand righteousness in sacrifice - called it a weariness
- 2.14 This section is most directly applicable to today - more than anything in chapter 1
  - 2.14.1 As the priests go, so goes the nation
  - 2.14.2 I looked up 100 most influential pastor going into 2025
    - 2.14.2.1 Joel Osteen, Rick Warren, Steven Furtick (Top 3)
    - 2.14.2.2 Others on the list: Kenneth Copeland, Benny Hinn, Creflo Dollar, T.D. Jakes
  - 2.14.3 These men have a complete disregard for God's Word
    - 2.14.3.1 False teaching, ignoring parts of the Bible, using ministry for personal gain
  - 2.14.4 But the people sit there and listen to it and support it
    - 2.14.4.1 They have no regard for God's Word, and support the sham
  - 2.14.5 Look at our country
    - 2.14.5.1 Less christians at faster rate
      - 224m christians, 100m attend church regularly
    - 2.14.5.2 I didn't even mention all the churches that shouldn't even be called christian
- 2.15 Turn to **John 8**
- 2.16 The modern church doesn't have the same relationship with God as the Levites
  - 2.16.1 We are a royal priesthood, all of us
    - 2.16.1.1 Communion with God and gift of His Word is to all believers
    - 2.16.1.2 Paul tells Timothy to remind believers

## **2 Timothy 2:15-16**

**<sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

- 2.16.1.3 The psalms we read are for us too - to love God's Word
  - 2.16.1.4 To know how it applies to our lives - that it brings life and wisdom
- 2.16.2 So many congregates leave it to the pastor
  - 2.16.2.1 You all should be studying the Word so you can know that what I say, or what Pastor Rick says, is true
  - 2.16.2.2 Andy Stanley telling people to not let the Bible get in the way of their faith???
- 2.16.3 God does warn teachers though
  - 2.16.3.1 They will be held accountable for what they say
  - 2.16.3.2 Congregates are not free of accountability though
  - 2.16.3.3 Everyone will be judged for their own works
- 2.16.4 This is where the biggest failing of these churches comes in
  - 2.16.4.1 One of the points God made about the priests as well
  - 2.16.4.2 v8, "You have caused many to stumble"
  - 2.16.4.3 Not living under the law, we are in time of grace
  - 2.16.4.4 But so many modern churches and teachers will not talk about sin
  - 2.16.4.5 Won't talk about hell, atonement, wrath
    - Won't talk about end-times cause you can't get around it
  - 2.16.4.6 It's all feel-good Jesus
    - Love and acceptance
- 2.17 If God didn't love us, He wouldn't have sent His Son
- 2.18 If Jesus didn't care about holiness, He wouldn't have told us to stop sinning

- 2.18.1 Many people want us to believe that God doesn't care about sin anymore
- 2.18.2 Age of grace means age of doing whatever you want
- 2.19 God loves all people, and Jesus expressed that love in amazing ways
- 2.20 **John 8:2-11a**
  - 2.20.1 So many would have you believe the account stops there
  - 2.20.2 He protected this woman, He upended cultural expectation, He displays the love and patience and mercy of God so profoundly
    - 2.20.2.1 And He tells her it's okay, it isn't her fault, she had her reasons - NO!
    - 2.20.2.2 He tells her that it's wrong and to not continue in her sin

**Matthew 18:5-6**

**<sup>5</sup>Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. <sup>6</sup>“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.**

**James 5:19-20**

**<sup>19</sup>Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, <sup>20</sup>let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.**

3. Communion

- 3.1 Christ came to die for our sin
  - 3.1.1 He drank the cup of wrath in the garden to take it away from us
  - 3.1.2 He bore the stripes on His back and crown on His brow to save us from the pain and suffering of hell
  - 3.1.3 He shed His blood and gave up His life so that we could be washed clean
- 3.2 We have confidence and hope not because He said it's all okay
  - 3.2.1 But because He took the punishment

**1 Peter 2:24**

**<sup>24</sup>...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.**

- 3.2.2 Colossians 2 says we were dead, but are made alive again and forgiven - that the punishment for sin was meted out at the cross
- 3.3 Let a revival begin in us
  - 3.3.1 Love God's Word more
  - 3.3.2 Believe God hates sin and wants us to live holy lives in Christ
- 4. Pray, communion, last song