

**“IS GOD PAYING ATTENTION?”  
NEW BEGINNING COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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**SEVEN ISSUES**

**I. GOD REMINDED THE PEOPLE OF THEIR UNIQUENESS.**

**Malachi 1:2** *“I have always loved you,” says the LORD.*

- A. Due to their uniqueness, they were held to a higher STANDARD.
- B. Christians are now the PEOPLE of God. **1 Peter 2:9** *But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession.*
- K.T.: The blessings of God are accompanied with great RESPONSIBILITIES.

**II. GOD REPRIMANDED THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD.**

- A. The priests were offering DEFILED sacrifices. **Malachi 1:7** *“You have shown contempt by offering defiled sacrifices on my altar. . .*
- B. The priests were setting a BAD example. **Malachi 1:12** *“But you dishonor my name with your actions. By bringing contemptible food, you are saying it’s all right to defile the Lord’s table.*
- C. The priests were watering down God’s WORD. **Malachi 1:13** *You say, ‘It’s too hard to serve the LORD,’ and you turn up your noses at my commands,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. . .*
- D. The priests were issued a WARNING. **Malachi 2:1–3** *“Listen, you priests—this command is for you! <sup>2</sup> Listen to me and make up your minds to honor my name,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, “or I will bring a terrible curse against you. I will curse even the blessings you receive. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you have not taken my warning to heart. <sup>3</sup> I will punish your descendants and splatter your faces with the manure from your festival sacrifices, and I will throw you on the manure pile.*
- E. The priests had corrupted the Levitical PRIESTHOOD. **Malachi 2:7–8** *“The words of a priest’s lips should preserve knowledge of God, and people should go to him for instruction, for the priest is the messenger of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. <sup>8</sup> BUT YOU PRIESTS have left God’s paths. Your instructions have caused many to stumble into sin. You have corrupted the covenant I made with the Levites,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.*
- F. The priests had shown FAVORITISM. **Malachi 2:9** *“So I have made you despised and humiliated in the eyes of all the people. For you have not obeyed me but have shown favoritism in the way you carry out my instructions.”*

**III. GOD EXPOSED THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD MARRIAGE.**

- A. The Jews were marrying PAGAN women. **Malachi 2:11–12** *The men of Judah have defiled the LORD’s beloved sanctuary by marrying women who worship idols.*
- K.T.: The principle is taught in the NEW Testament. **2 Corinthians 6:14** *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.*

- B. The Jews were making a mockery out of MARRIAGE. **Malachi 2:15–16** *So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. <sup>16</sup> “For I hate divorce!” says the LORD, the God of Israel. “To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. “So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife.”*
- C. God’s purpose in marriage is GODLY children. **Malachi 2:15** *And what does he want in marriage? Godly children from your union.*

**IV. GOD EXPOSED THEIR UNFAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP.**

**Malachi 3:8** *“Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! “But you ask, ‘What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?’ “You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. . .”*

- A. Disobedience leads to God’s CURSE. **Malachi 3:9** *You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me.*
- B. Obedience leads to God’s BLESSINGS. **Malachi 3:10** *“I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!”*

**V. GOD CONDEMNED THE JEWS FALSE ASSUMPTIONS.**

**Malachi 3:13–15** *“You have said terrible things about me,” says the LORD. <sup>15</sup> From now on we will call the arrogant blessed. For those who do evil get rich, and those who dare God to punish them suffer no harm.’ ”*

- K.T.: The Psalmist almost fell into this TRAP. **Psalms 73:17** *Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked.*
- K.T.: It is better to suffer for doing GOOD than to enjoy pleasure for doing BAD.

**VI. GOD WARNED OF A DAY OF ACCOUNTABILITY.**

**Malachi 4:1–2** *The LORD of Heaven’s Armies says, “The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. On that day the arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw. They will be consumed—roots, branches, and all. <sup>2</sup> “But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.*

- A. There are ALWAYS days of accountability as we go through life. **Galatians 6:7** *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.*
- B. There will be a FINAL day of accountability in which the lost will be cursed, and the saved will be blessed.

**VII. GOD IS LOOKING FOR A REMNANT OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BE FAITHFUL TO HIM TO THE END.**

**Malachi 3:16** *Then those who feared the LORD spoke with each other, and the LORD listened to what they said. In his presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared him and always thought about the honor of his name.*

- Fear him: profound respect that leads to FULL obedience!
- Honor his name: to fulfill their ROLE of uniqueness!
- The LORD listened: God is listening for our RESPONSE!