

YAHWEH'S LOVE FOR ISRAEL (Malachi 1:1-5)

I. INTRODUCTION

II. SUPERScription (1:1)

A. The superscription identifies several key features of this inspired book

1. The author considered this work a “_____” because it was a message of _____ and _____.
2. The content of this book was ultimately “the _____” from “the _____” which is a technical expression in prophetic literature indicating divine revelation.
3. Surprisingly the intended audience was _____ merely Judah, but to the nation of _____ as a whole.
4. The chosen mouthpiece who was to deliver this oracle was _____.

B. Malachi's style is one of _____ and _____; it is as if two parties (who have known each other for a long time) were having an intensely personal conversation and there is great _____ between them.

III. ORACLE ONE: GOD'S APPEAL TO ISRAEL BASED ON THEIR PAST RELATIONSHIP (1:2-5)

A. First Question: “*How have You loved us?*”

1. God has a _____ for the nation of Israel that has _____ been annulled, He still loves them today.

* What kind of love does God have for Israel?

* What kind of love does God have for you as a believer and a member of the Church?

2. By the fact that Israel questioned God's love (1:2b) demonstrated that they were no longer walking by _____ in God's _____ for the nation. (Deut. 4:37; 7:6-8; 10:15; Isa. 43:4; Jer. 31:3; Hos. 11:1, 4)

* When your health is failing and your money is tight, can you be susceptible or capable of doubting God's love for you?

* How do Calvinists often misinterpret Malachi 1:2c-3a and Romans 9:6-13?

3. These verses have _____ to do with individuals; God is expressing His love for _____ (as represented by Jacob), and His hatred for the nation of _____ (as represented by Esau). (Gen. 25:19-26)

* What is God's attitude towards all lost sinners? (1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:9)

4. While God promises Israel a future restoration and earthly kingdom, in Malachi 1:3-5 He promises Edom _____ and _____ based on Edom's treatment of _____. (Ps. 137:7-9; Isa. 11:14; 34:6; 63:1-6; Jer. 49:7-22; Ezek. 25:12-14; 35:1-15; Amos 1:11-12; Obad. 1:10-14)

* As a believer, what can you take away from Malachi 1:1-5?