

## **GOD'S JUSTICE CHALLENGED, BUT MESSIAH WILL TRIUMPH** (Malachi 2:17-3:5)

### **V. GOD'S MESSAGE TO THE PRIESTS REGARDING HIS WORD (2:1-9)**

### **VI. GOD'S MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE REGARDING HIS INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE (2:10-16)**

### **VII. GOD'S APPEAL TO ISRAEL BASED ON THEIR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP (3:1-4:6)**

#### **A. The Wretched Spiritual Condition of the People (2:17)**

1. Malachi accused the people of wearying Yahweh with \_\_\_\_\_ prayer and consequently, \_\_\_\_\_ worship. (v. 17a, cf. Isa. 40:28)
  
2. The Jews in Judah \_\_\_\_\_ and even \_\_\_\_\_ God's evaluation of them by asking, "*in what way have we wearied Him?*" (v. 17b)
  
3. The people's cynical complaints against the Lord were just more proof they were faithless and they needed divine discipline.
  - a. With a \_\_\_\_\_ they said, "*Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them*" (v. 17c)
  
  - b. While looking for \_\_\_\_\_ in their blatant sin, they \_\_\_\_\_ asked, "*Where is the God of justice?*" (v. 17d)

#### **B. God Promised His People a Coming Judgment (3:1-5)**

1. God Will Send His Messenger. (v. 1a)
  - a. This messenger was not \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 3:3; 11:10; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4; John 1:23)
  
  - b. John was to "*prepare the way*" of the obstacles of \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_, spiritual lethargy, and \_\_\_\_\_ behavior (all characteristic of the people of post-exilic Judah). (Isa. 40:3-5)

2. Messiah Will Come (v. 1b)

- a. The “*Messenger of the covenant*” is a reference to the \_\_\_\_\_ Himself. (Exod. 23:20-23; 33:15; Isa. 63:9)
- b. The statement “*will suddenly come*” (in 3:1) is a prophetic blending of the Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Advents. (Isa. 61:1-3; Luke 4:16-21; Ezek. 43; Zech. 8:3)

3. Messiah Will Judge, Refine, and Purify at His Second Coming (vv. 2-5)

- a. Malachi’s two rhetorical questions (*Who can endure ...? Who can stand ...?*) expressively reveal in metaphoric terms that Messiah will \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ nation. (v. 2, cf. Ezek. 20:33-38)
- b. The objective for \_\_\_\_\_ the nation is so “*that they may \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord an offering \_\_\_\_\_.*” (v. 3, cf. Isa. 1:25; Jer. 6:29-30; Ezek. 22:17-22)
- c. After this cleansing of the priests, all Israel will once again be able to offer sacrifices that will \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_; it will be reminiscent of the offerings the priests once offered earlier in Israel's history, \_\_\_\_\_ the priesthood had become corrupt. (v. 4)

4. The list of sins in v. 5 were probably prevalent in Malachi’s day; in the future the Messiah will administer \_\_\_\_\_ and He will execute the evildoers, and stand as an \_\_\_\_\_ for the oppressed. (v. 5)

\* What can you personally apply from this passage today?