

MINISTRY OF MALACHI  
POLUTION OF THE PRIESTHOOD  
(Malachi 1:1-14)

- I. The FAVOR of the LORD (Malachi 1:1-5)
  - A. The message is an “ORACLE of the WORD of the LORD” (1:1)
  - B. God’s LOVE for them (1:2-3)
    - 1. He AFFIRMS His love
    - 2. They CHALLENGE His love
    - 3. He ILLUSTRATES His love
  - C. His PLAN for their FUTURE (1:4-5)
    - 1. Edom will NEVER PROSPER
    - 2. The Lord will be magnified BEYOND the borders of ISRAEL
  
- II. The FAILURE of the PRIESTS (Malachi 1:6-14)
  - A. Their SERVICE was DISRESPECTFUL (1:6-7)
    - 1. God says they’ve not HONORED or RESPECTED Him
    - 2. They DENY that they have DESPISED His name
    - 3. They had presented “DEFILED FOOD” on His altar
    - 4. They treated “Lord’s TABLE” as “CONTEMPTIBLE”

- B. Their SACRIFICES were DISQUALIFIED (1:8-9; cf. Deut. 15:21)
  - 1. They were bringing UNWANTED animals for sacrifice
  - 2. Their offerings would be UNACCEPTABLE to the governor and to God
  - 3. He may be URGING them to REPENT
  - 4. He's probably ACCUSING them of PRESUMPTION
  
- C. Their ATTITUDES were DISDAINFUL (1:10-14)
  - 1. He'd rather they CLOSE the temple and QUENCH the altar's fire
  - 2. The PRIESTS themselves were UNACCEPTABLE
  - 3. The "NATIONS" would worship Him TRULY
  - 4. He DENOUNCES their offerings
  - 5. He pronounces a CURSE upon one who KEEPS what he promised to GIVE
  - 6. God alone is the "GREAT KING," feared "among the NATIONS"

### III. Lessons

- A. Intimate familiarity with GOD and His WORD can lead to INDIFFERENCE and DISHONOR
- B. Many prefer the praise of MEN to the praise of GOD
- C. It is far better to CLOSE THE CHURCH than to DISHONOR God
- D. He gave His PERFECT SON for us; how can we give Him LESS than our BEST?