

## **Malachi chapter 1**

What is the people's response to God's declaration of His love for them [2; see also 2:13-14, 2:17, and 3:13-15]? What attitude(s) toward God is revealed?

Verses 6-14 seem to be addressed to the priests of Israel. Do God's complaints apply only to the priests, or do they extend – through the priests, as the people's representatives before God – to all the people of Israel? These verses list some of the specific actions of the priests that God objects to; is He really concerned about their improper observance of the law, or is He upset about something more than that?

## **Malachi chapter 2**

The first nine verses continue God's complaints to the priests (He is really upset with them, see 2-3); why does He bother when they have so blatantly defied Him [4; and recall 1:2]? What example (who) does God contrast their behavior with [5-7]?

What charge(s) does God lay against His people in 10-12? How does God express his displeasure with the people in verse 13? What additional sins are listed in 13-16? What is God sick and tired of in verse 17?

## **Malachi chapter 3**

What is God's plan for dealing with the problems He pointed out in chapter 2 [1-5]?  
*Note well that the offenses God judges in 5 are not those against Him, they are against His people!*

Compare verse 6 with 1:2; has God given up on His people, as they accuse Him of doing? What does God require the people to do in order to accomplish their redemption [7]? What will be the result of all this complaining and striving between God and His people [16-18]?

## **Malachi chapter 4**

Have the events prophesied in 1-3 already occurred? What makes the difference between destruction and redemption [2 and 4]? God promises to send an agent – a prophet – to mediate this judgment; who is this agent? Does the final clause of this chapter suggest that God's judgment could be entirely avoided, dependent upon the people's response to the efforts of this prophet?

**Next week:** New Testament overview.