



Love and Loyalty

Disputes 1-3: Doubts, Corrupt Worship, Idolatry

Dispute 1 (Mal 1:2-5)



God declares His enduring love for Israel; **they doubt** and ask "How have you loved us?" God reminds them He chose Jacob over Esau, exposing their mistrust.

Dispute 2 (Mal 1:6-2:9)

God accuses Israel's priests and people of despising Him by offering **blemished sacrifices**; they object, "How have we despised you?" God highlights their corrupt worship.



Dispute 3 (Mal 2:10-16)



God charges Israelite men with **idolatry and betrayal of their wives**; Israel denies wrongdoing. God condemns marriage to foreign idols and rampant divorce as covenant unfaithfulness.

Disputes 4-6: Accusations, Neglect, Grumbling

Dispute 4 (Mal 2:17-3:5)

The people accuse God of neglect, asking "Where is the God of Justice?" God responds that a Messenger will come to prepare His return and purify the people by fire.



Dispute 5 (Mal 3:6-12)



God calls the people to come back to Him; they ask "How?" He rebukes their neglect of the **tithe** to the temple and promises to pour out blessings if they faithfully give.

Dispute 6 (Mal 3:13-18)

The people **grumble** that it's worthless to serve God because the wicked prosper. God highlights the faithful remnant, decrees a "book of remembrance" for them, and vows to judge the arrogant.



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Malachi 2:17-3:5

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The Priesthood: Mediators

God

Humanity



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God

Humanity



3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

'A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him."'

- God will send a messenger to prepare a way for himself
(He sends John the Baptist)

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(He sends John the Baptist)
- The Lord himself comes to the temple
(The place of the priests)
- Then the Lord, who is the messenger of the covenant, has
shown himself to have arrived

Needed: A better priest



Needed: A better priest



Needed: A better sacrifice



The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”
¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

Sent: A better priest

Sent: A better sacrifice



Application

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- Remember the prefect priest and the perfect sacrifice has come!
- Remember who can stand when the God of justice appears...those in Christ
- So lean into the refining work of God