

The Story of God: The Bible as Narrative

Act 4: Repairing The Kingdom Malachi

Act 4

Repairing the Kingdom

Key Dates:

- 722 BC = Israel in North Falls to Assyria
 - Hosea, Amos, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Obadiah
- 612 BC = Assyria Falls to Babylon
- 587/586 BC = Judah Falls to Babylon
 - Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Esther, Hab.
- 70 years = Babylon Falls to Persia, Remnant returns to Promised Land
 - Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah

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Key Dates:

- 538 BC = First Return
 - 516 BC = Temple Restored
 - 458 BC = Ezra the Priest returns
 - 445 BC = Nehemiah returns & rebuilds walls
 - 432 BC = Nehemiah's reforms
 - 333 BC = Greece gains control over Israel
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Malachi:

- Marriages are failing (2:11-15, Neh. 13:23-27)
 - Failing to give (3:8-10, Neh. 13:10-14)
 - Not honoring Sabbath (2:8-9, Neh. 13:15-22)
 - Priests are corrupt (1:6-2:9, Neh. 13:7-9)
 - Deep social concerns (3:5, Neh. 5:1-13)
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Malachi: Within the 6 Disputes

1. Introduction to the Issue
2. A Question directed towards God
3. God's Answer to their Question

Goal = Redefine God to them

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Dispute 1: Over God's Character (1:2-5)

- Malachi 1:2-5
 1. Intro – God has deeply loved Israel
 2. Question – “How have you loved us?”
 3. Answer – YOUR STILL HERE!!!
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”...If statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of stardust lost in the blaze of the Milky way. properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk.

The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greek and the Roman followed; and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other people have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?”

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Dispute 2: Contempt the Priests show God

- Malachi 1:6
 1. Intro – God is their Father & Master & King
 2. Question – “How have we shown contempt?”
 - Malachi 1:7a, 8
 3. Answer - By offering defiled food on the alter
 - Malachi 1:11-12a, 2:4-9
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Dispute 3: Israel's covenant breaking

- Malachi 2:10
 1. Intro – God is the Father & Creator of ALL
 2. Question – “How is it we profane the covenant of our ancestors?”
 - Malachi 2:11
 3. Answer – By divorcing your wife from your youth you are unfaithful to each other
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Dispute 4:

- Malachi 2:17

1. Intro – God is worn out by their words
2. Question – “How have we worn you out?”
3. Answer – By accusing God of honoring evil

- Malachi 3:1-3
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Dispute 5:

- Malachi 3:6-7
 1. Intro – God’s character doesn’t change, but you need to
 2. Question – “How do we change & return?”
 3. Answer – By showing it with your actions & not robbing God of what is His (tithe)

- Malachi 3:8-12
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Dispute 6: Over harsh words against God

- Malachi 3:13

1. Intro – God accuses them of harsh words

2. Question – “What have we said against you?”

3. Answer – You said it is worthless to follow God

- Malachi 3:14, 4:1-3
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