

Malachi's structured in the form of six disputations or arguments. In the first five verses, the first one deals with God's love for His people. Here, in this section, the disputation surrounds the priests and their offerings. The focus is really more about worship and how the people are called to honor God.

# Malachi 1:6-2:9

Proper

Worship of

the

LORD

## I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

“Worship” can take on a myriad of meanings. Even as Christians, when we refer to worship within the church, different images can come to mind. We can tend to think of music or the kind of songs we sing, or our minds go to the Lord's Supper, perhaps baptism, or even tithing. However, worship ought not be limited to just events or ceremonies we participate in on Sundays.

**MY EXPERIENCE...**

**YOUR EXPERIENCE...**

## II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

**WHAT** is the hardest truth you've ever received from a friend?

**WHEN** you receive correction that is uncomfortable, but likely true, **WHAT** tends to be your initial reaction?

**SHARE** of a time when you had to change a significant course in your life due to some kind of Biblical principle that was brought to light. **HOW** did you make things “right” in the situation?

**CAN** you describe a time when you did not respond to a spiritual correction the way you should have? **HOW** did that situation end?

Malachi 1:6-2:9

# Proper Worship of the LORD

Malachi 1:6-2:9

## OBSERVATION

What is the first comparison the Lord makes with Israel in vs. 6?

Describe the kind of offerings the people were bringing to the Lord in vs. 7-9?

According to vs. 10, what would be a better solution than offering such sacrifices?

What is the promise given in vs. 11?

In vs. 12-14 what does God accuse Israel of? What is their response?

In 2:1-3 If Israel refuses to listen, what does God say He will do? Explain how the Lord contrasts what the covenant with Levi was supposed to do, and what the current priests have caused it to do (vs. 5-6).

## INTERPRETATION

Read Leviticus 1:3-6, 9; Deuteronomy 15:21; and Genesis 4:3-5, then consider why the Lord was so concerned with the offerings brought to Him by the priests.

Why does the Lord suggest closing the doors of the temple as a better option than offering sacrifices such as were being given? Consider 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 for insight.

What do the terms “profane” and “polluted” mean in 1:12 (ESV)?

How will God ultimately restore His name among the nations (vs. 11)? Consider Ezekiel’s explanation in 36:23-27.

Why was God so concerned with the details of the sacrifice in Malachi? How does Hebrews 9:11-14 reveal the answer?

What kind of sacrifice is God actually looking for from His people? Consider Psalm 51:16-17 for insight.

Read Romans 12:1-2 and describe what a “proper” offering or sacrifice looks like for us today?

## APPLICATION

How would you describe the kind of offering you’re bringing to the Lord today?