

Do the Prophets Speak to Us?

Malachi 1:1-5

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What will we learn?

- ❖ God is sovereign over history.
- ❖ The Lord loves his people.



God reveals himself to humanity:

- ❖ General revelation

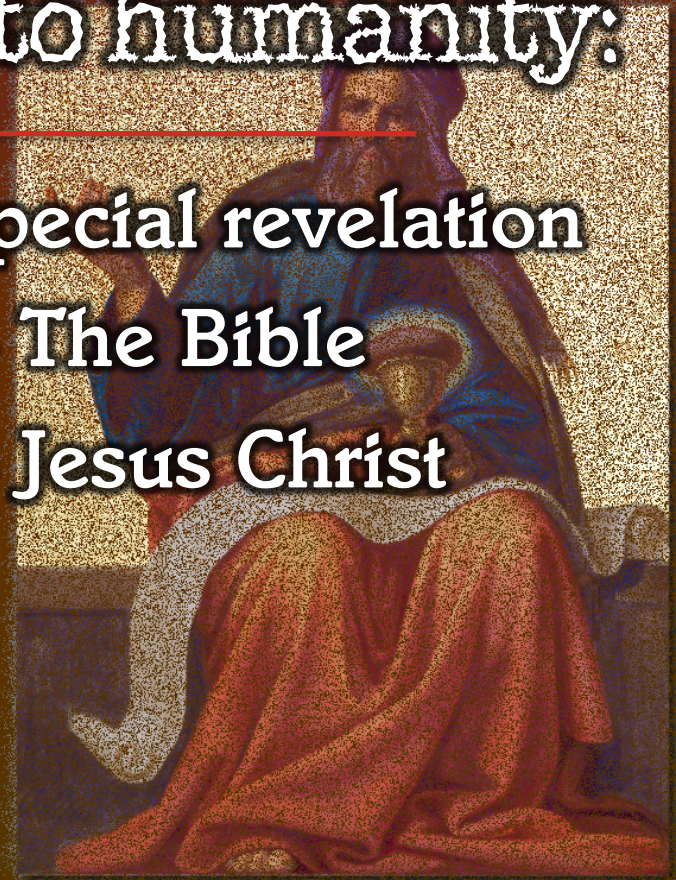
- ❖ Nature

- ❖ Conscience

- ❖ Special revelation

- ❖ The Bible

- ❖ Jesus Christ



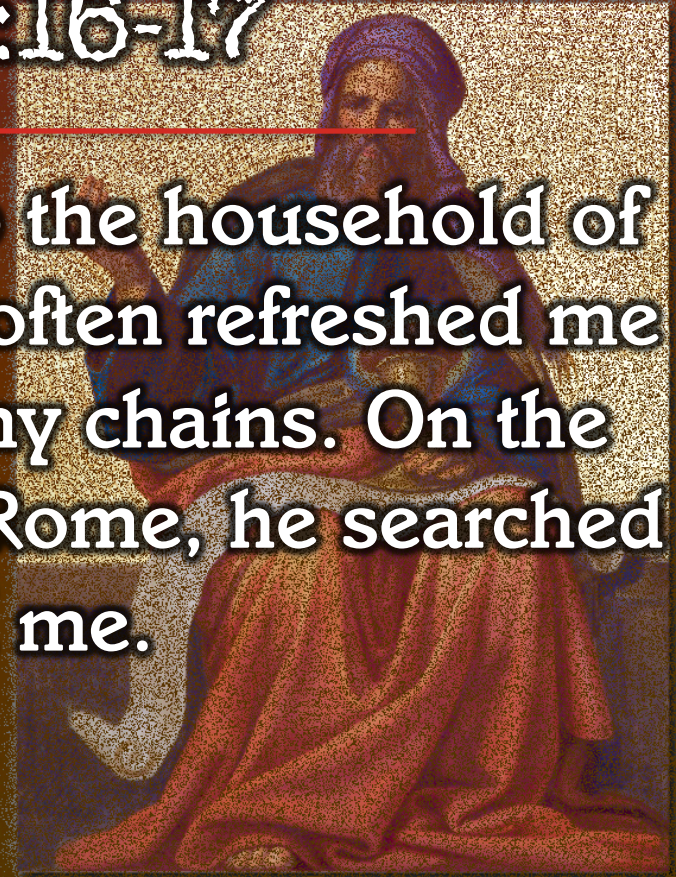
Reflecting Christ =

- ❖ Receiving his love
- ❖ Showing his love



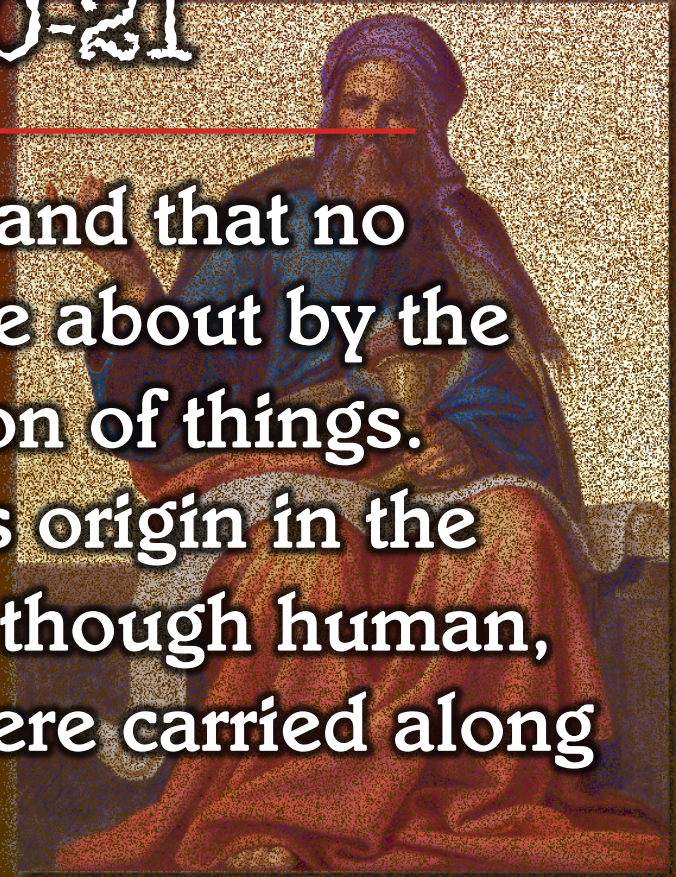
2 Timothy 3:16-17

May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me.



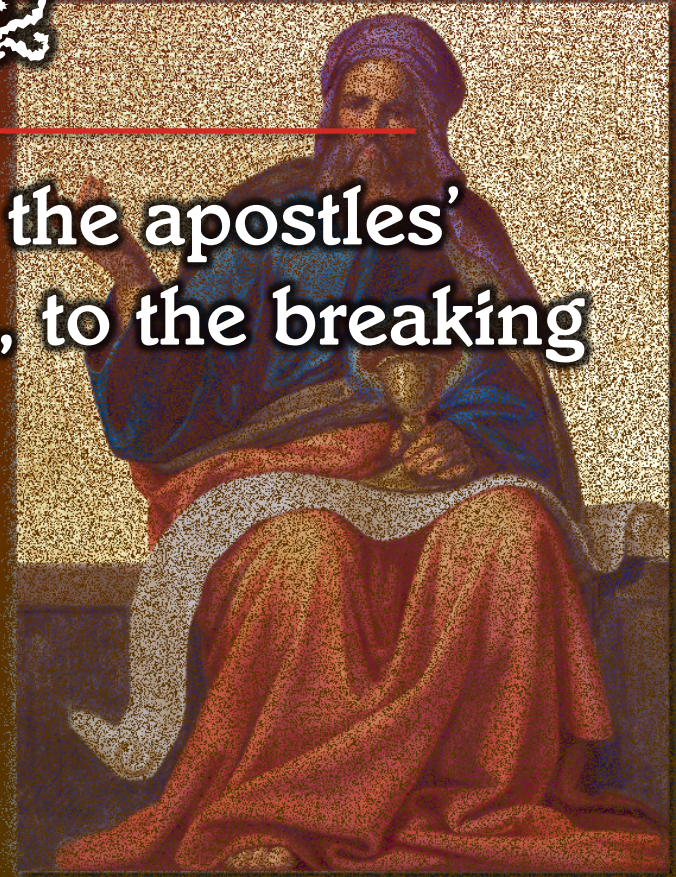
2 Peter 1:20-21

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.



Acts 2:42

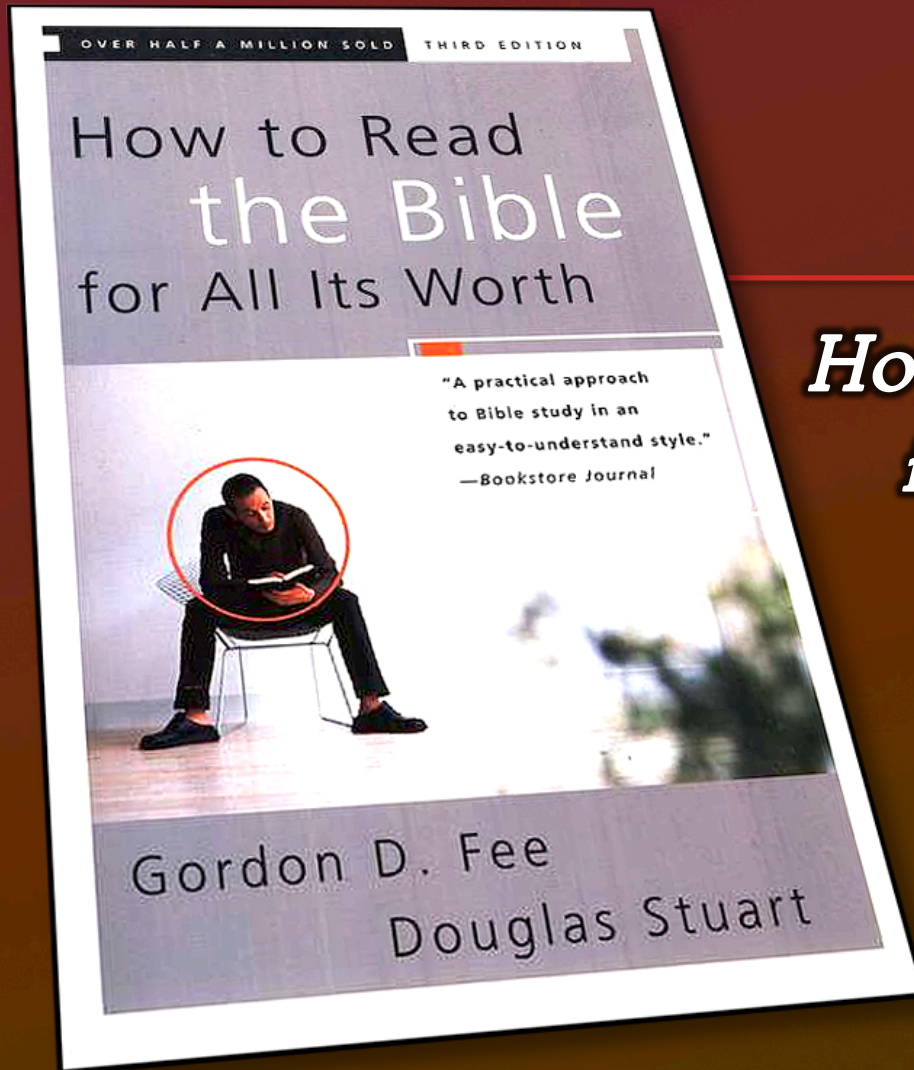
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.



The importance of doctrine:

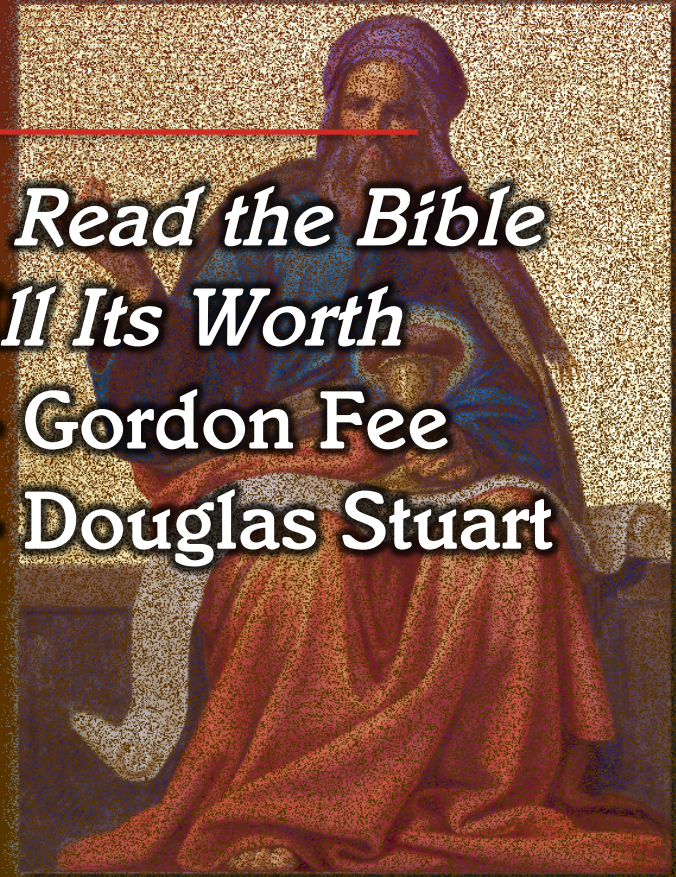
- ❖ Orthodoxy = right belief
- ❖ Orthopraxy = right conduct





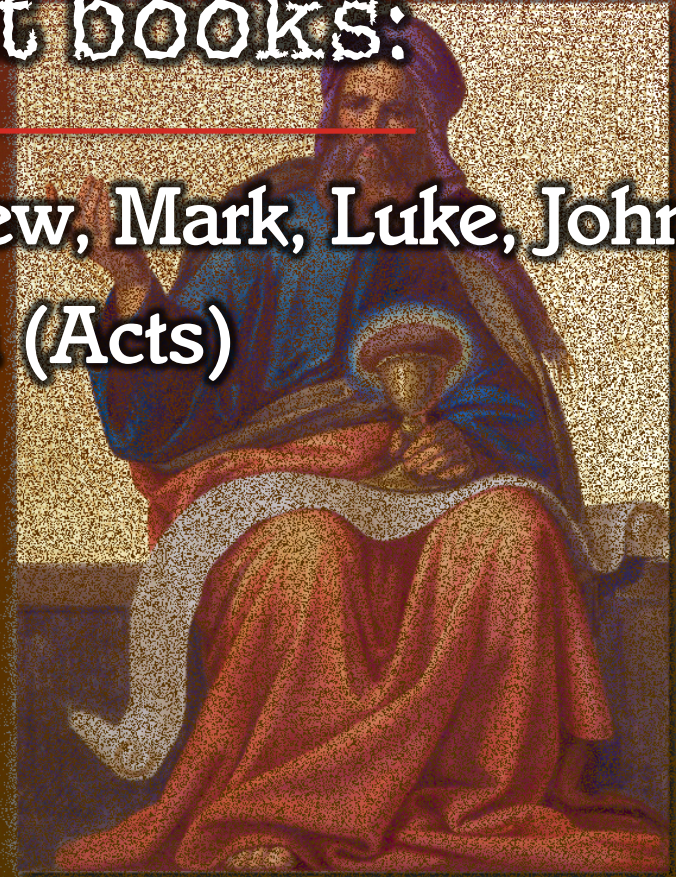
*How to Read the Bible
for All Its Worth*

- Gordon Fee
- Douglas Stuart



New Testament books:

- ❖ Biographies of Jesus (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
- ❖ History of the early church (Acts)
- ❖ Letters
 - ❖ By Paul (13)
 - ❖ To churches
 - ❖ To individuals



New Testament books:

- ❖ Letters
 - ❖ By other apostles (James, Peter, John, Jude, author of Hebrews)
- ❖ Revelation



Old Testament categories:

- ❖ Law
- ❖ History
- ❖ Wisdom
- ❖ Prophets
- ❖ Poetry



Old Testament history:

- ❖ Genesis, Exodus, Numbers
- ❖ Joshua, Judges, Ruth
- ❖ 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings
- ❖ Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther



Israel's ancient history:

- ❖ Call of Abraham – c. 2000 BC
- ❖ Exodus – c. 1500 BC
- ❖ Golden Age (David and Solomon) – c. 1000 BC
- ❖ Fall of Northern Kingdom to Assyria, 722 BC
- ❖ Fall of Southern Kingdom (Judah) to Babylon, 586 BC



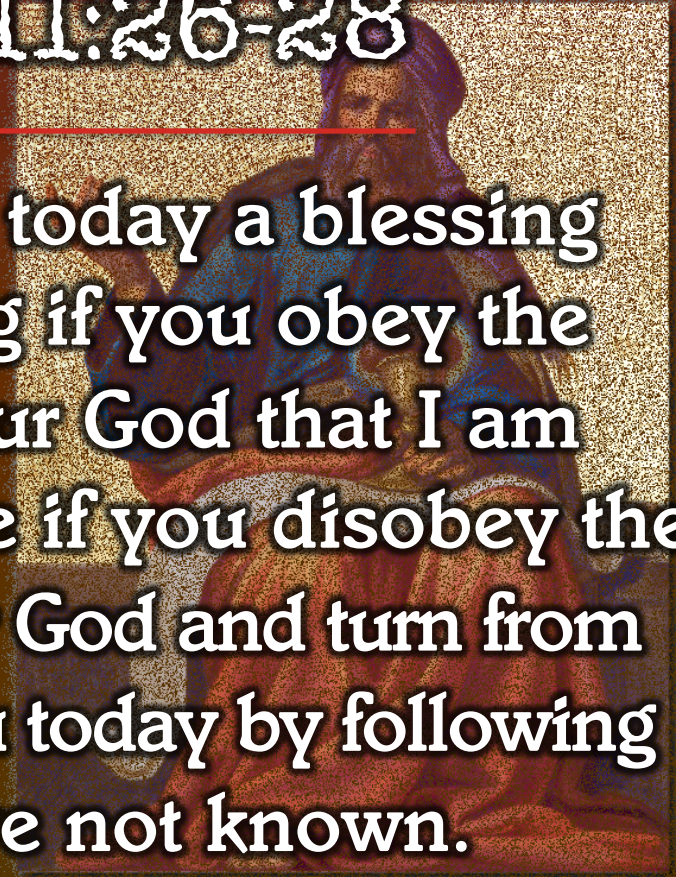
Old Testament prophecy:

- ❖ The prophets were mediators of God's covenant with Israel.
- ❖ The prophets' message was not their own, but God's.
- ❖ The prophets were God's direct representatives.
- ❖ The prophets' message is unoriginal, a restatement of the original Mosaic message from God.



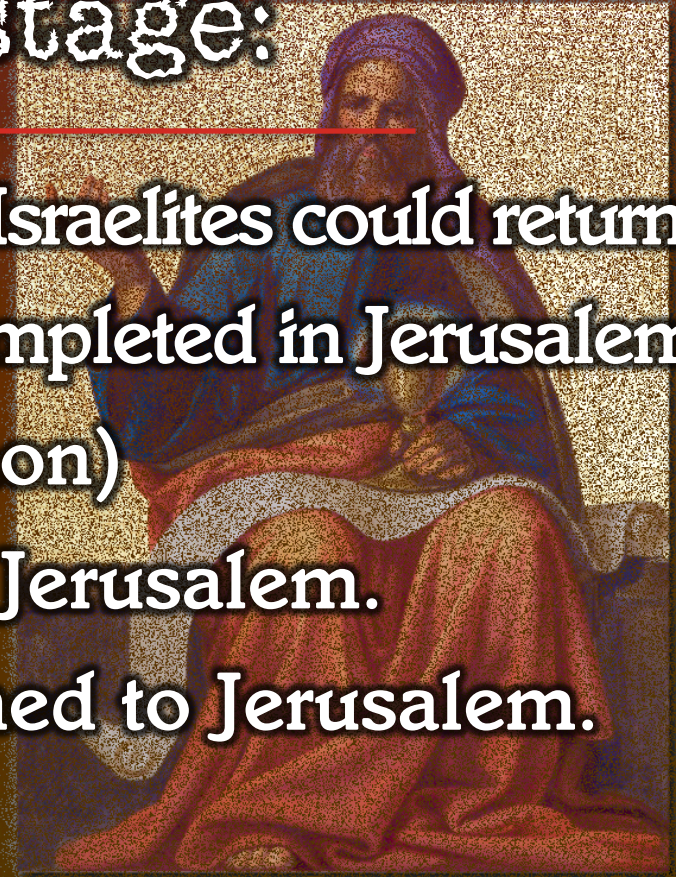
Deuteronomy 11:26-28

See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse — the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.



Setting the stage:

- ❖ 538 BC – Cyrus decreed that Israelites could return.
- ❖ 515 BC – 2nd temple was completed in Jerusalem.
- ❖ (490 BC – Battle of Marathon)
- ❖ 458 BC – Ezra returned to Jerusalem.
- ❖ 444 BC – Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem.



From Malachi to Jesus:

- ❖ Greeks
 - ❖ Hellenic Age (507 – 323 BC)
 - ❖ Hellenistic Age (323 BC – 31 BC)
- ❖ Ptolemies
- ❖ Seleucids
- ❖ Romans



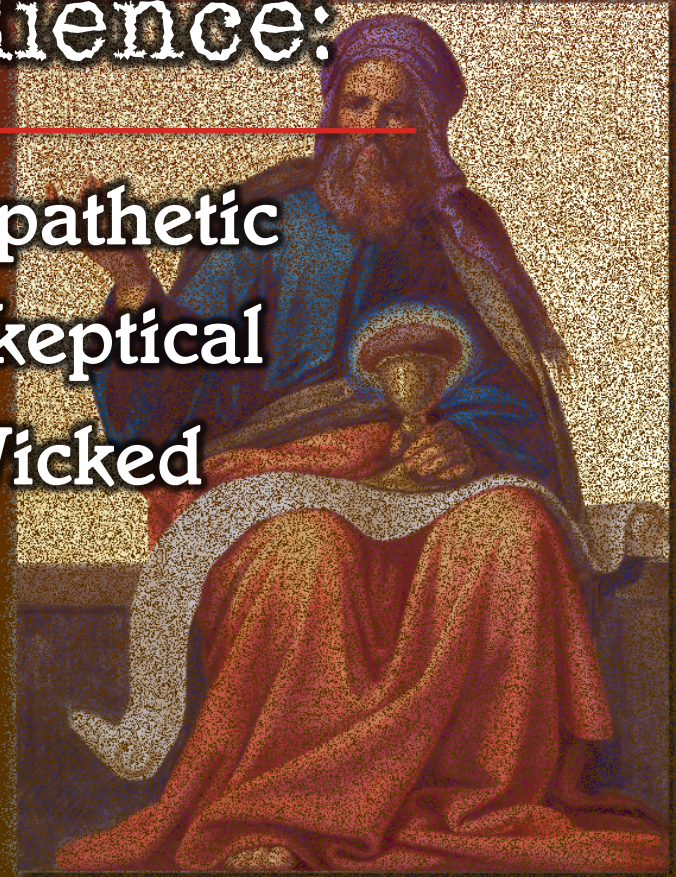
Post-exilic prophets:

- ❖ Haggai
- ❖ Zechariah
- ❖ Malachi



Malachi's audience:

- ❖ Disillusioned
- ❖ Cynical
- ❖ Callous
- ❖ Dishonest
- ❖ Apathetic
- ❖ Skeptical
- ❖ Wicked



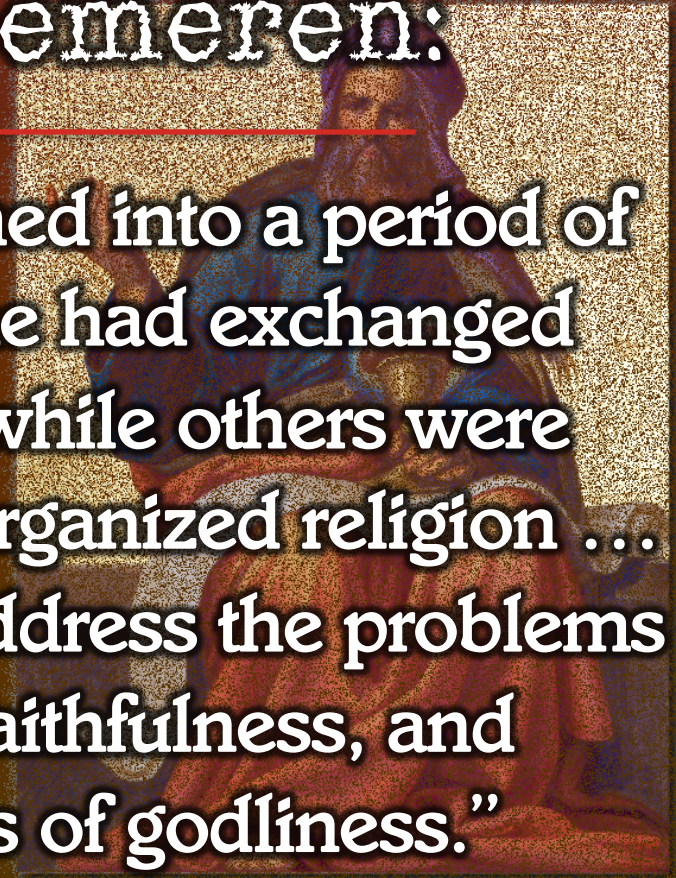
Malachi's concerns:

- ❖ Marriage
- ❖ Tithe
- ❖ Sabbath
- ❖ Priesthood
- ❖ Social justice



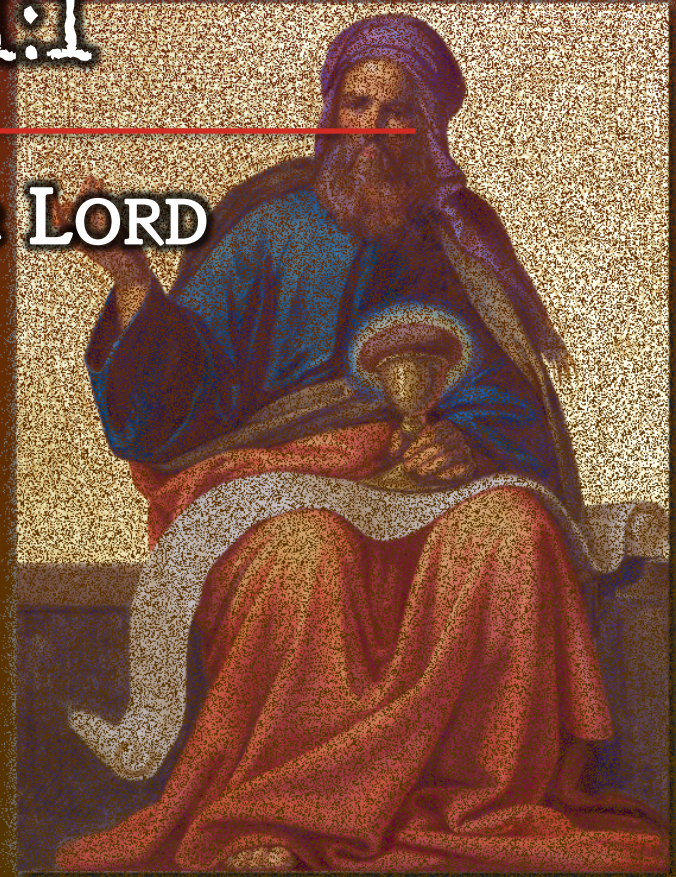
Willem A. VanGemeren:

“The era of fulfillment had turned into a period of waiting. While waiting, some had exchanged their beliefs for the fast life while others were cynical about the value of organized religion ... God raised up Malachi to address the problems of cynicism, formalism, unfaithfulness, and questions about the benefits of godliness.”



Malachi 1:1

A prophecy: The word of the LORD
to Israel through Malachi.



“a prophecy”

- ❖ Oracle
- ❖ Burden



Old Testament prophecies:

- ❖ Indictment
- ❖ Threat
- ❖ Instruction
- ❖ Promise



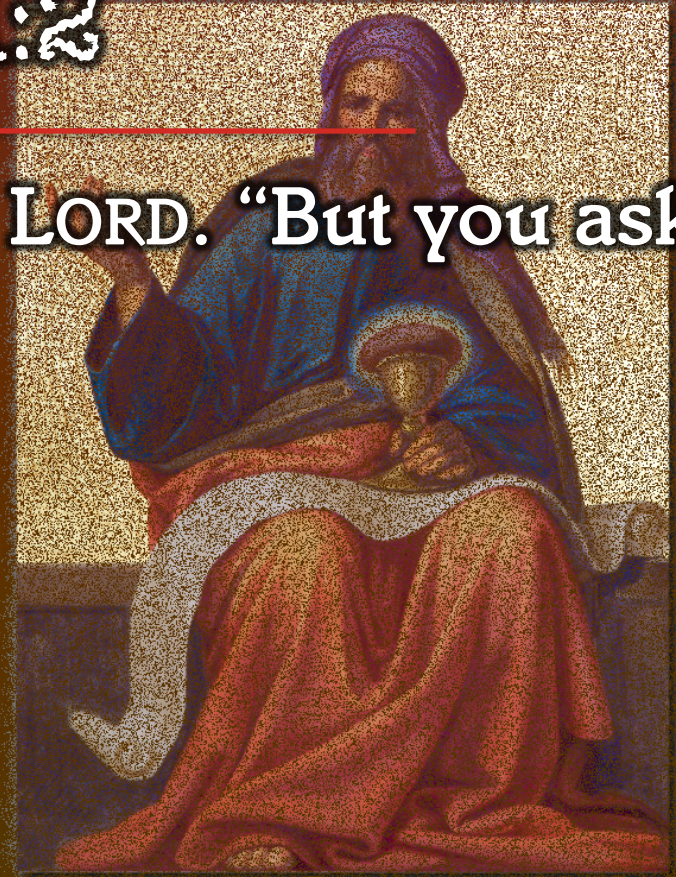
Malachi's disputations:

- ❖ “The Lord says ...”
- ❖ “But you say ...”



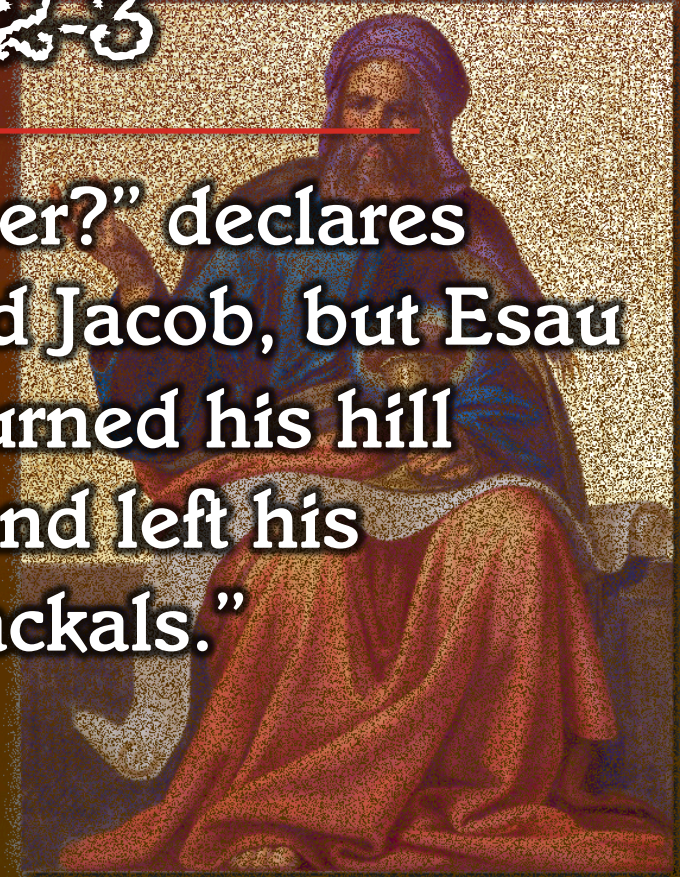
Malachi 1:2

“I have loved you,” says the LORD. “But you ask,
‘How have you loved us?’”



Malachi 1:2-3

“Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his hill country into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals.”



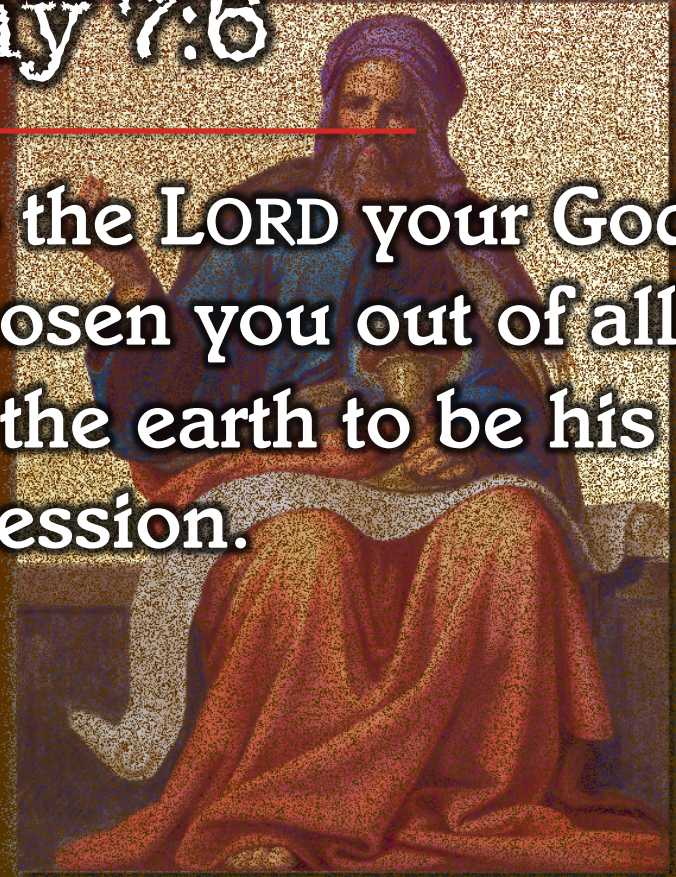
“I have loved you.”

- ❖ Deuteronomy 4:37-40
- ❖ Deuteronomy 7:6-15
- ❖ Isaiah 43:4
- ❖ Hosea 3-4
- ❖ Hosea 11:1



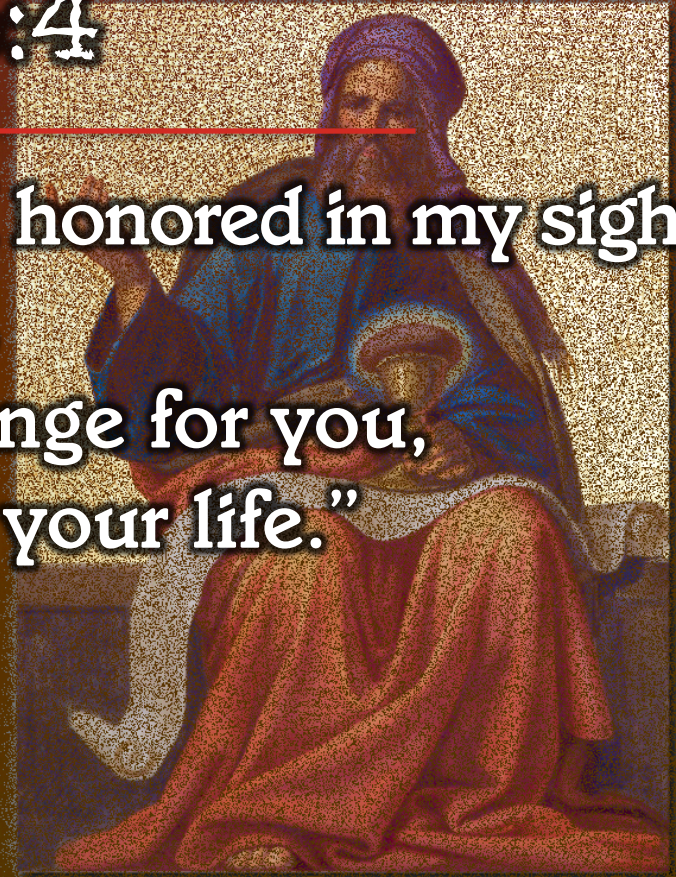
Deuteronomy 7:6

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God.
The LORD your God has chosen you out of all
the peoples on the face of the earth to be his
people, his treasured possession.



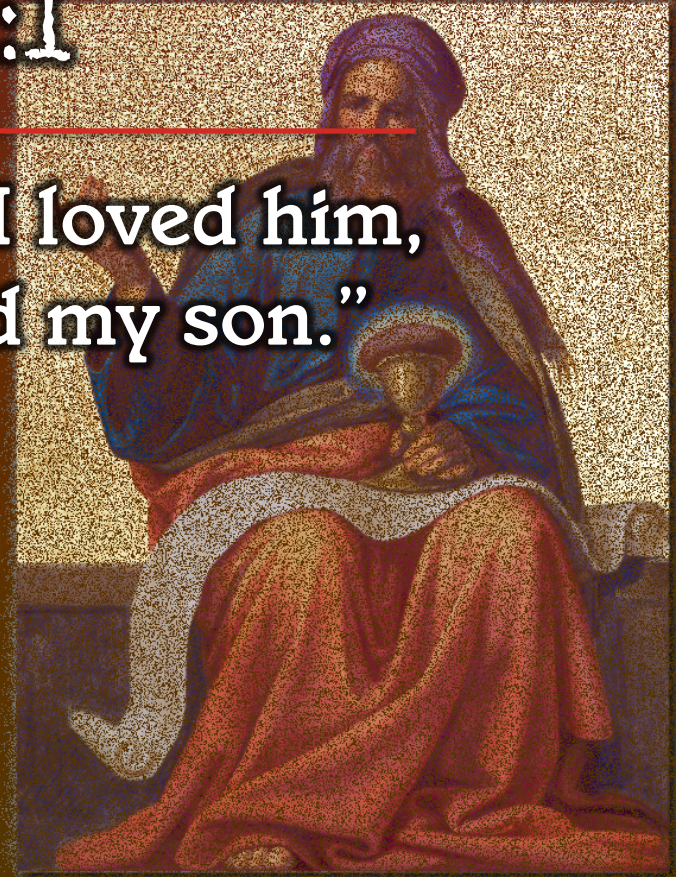
Isaiah 43:4

“Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,
nations in exchange for your life.”



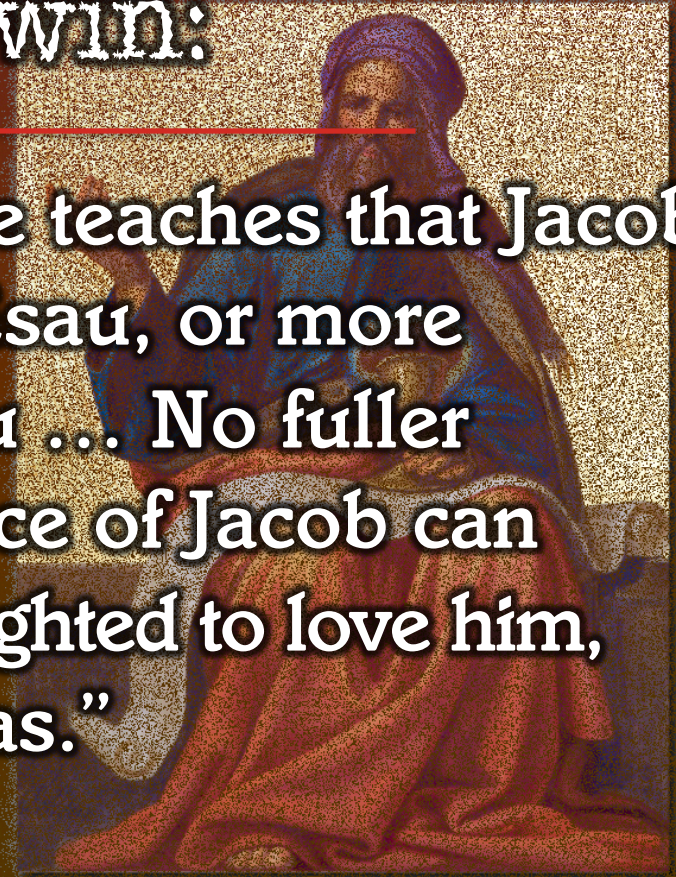
Hosea 11:1

**“When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.”**



Joyce Baldwin:

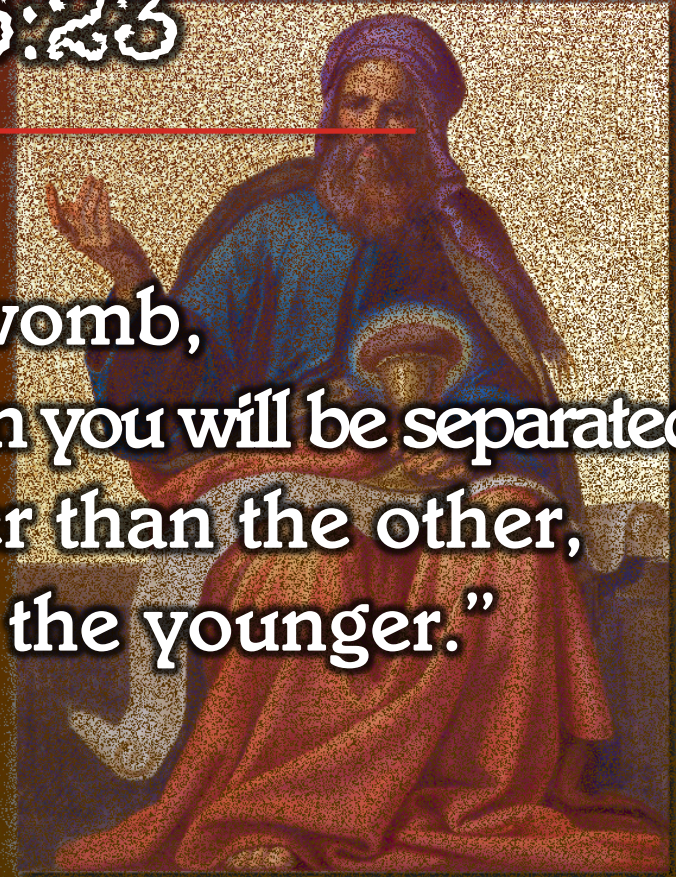
“The Old Testament nowhere teaches that Jacob was more loveable than Esau, or more pleasing to God than Esau ... No fuller explanation of God’s choice of Jacob can be found than that God delighted to love him, insignificant though he was.”



Genesis 25:23

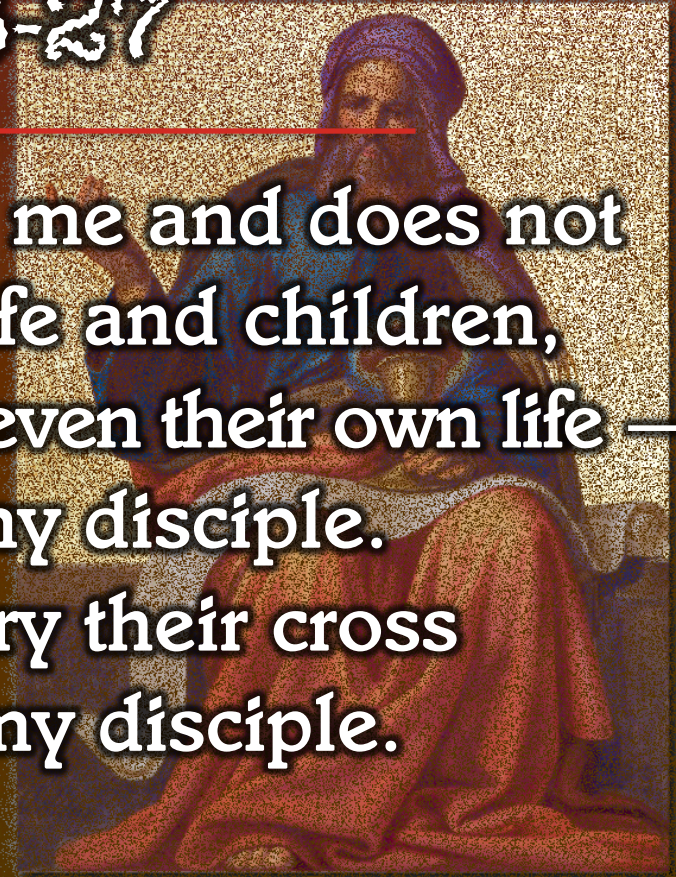
The LORD said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger.”



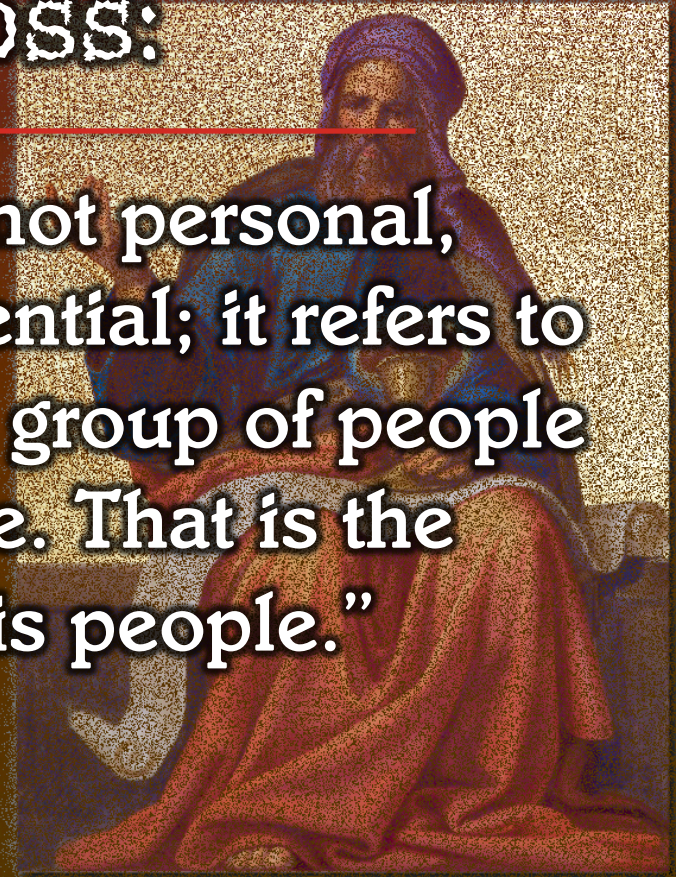
Luke 14:26-27

[Jesus]: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters — yes, even their own life — such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.



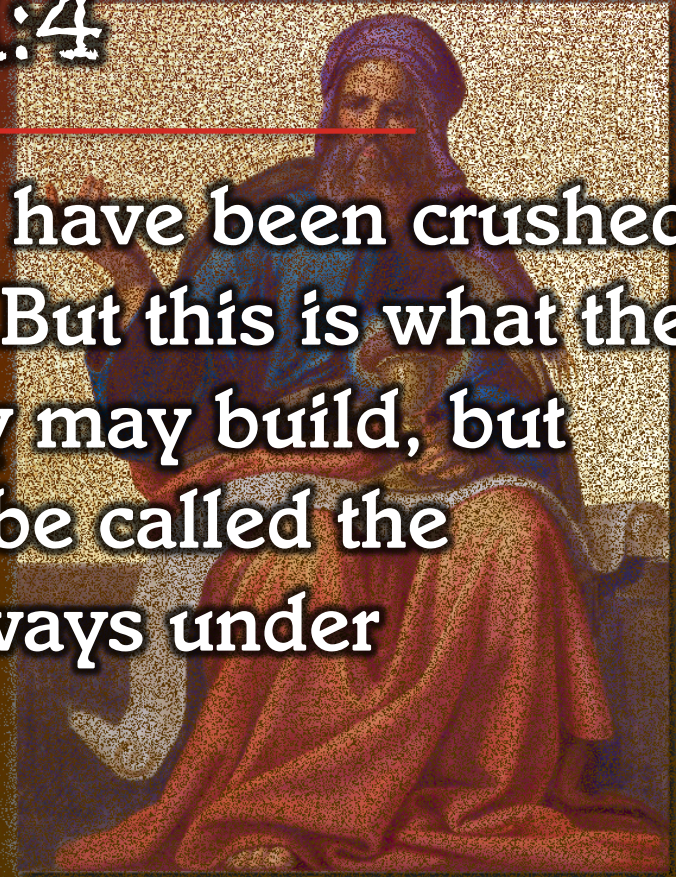
Allen P. Ross:

“The loving and hating was not personal, but sovereign and providential; it refers to the divine election of one group of people over another for a purpose. That is the nature of God’s love for his people.”



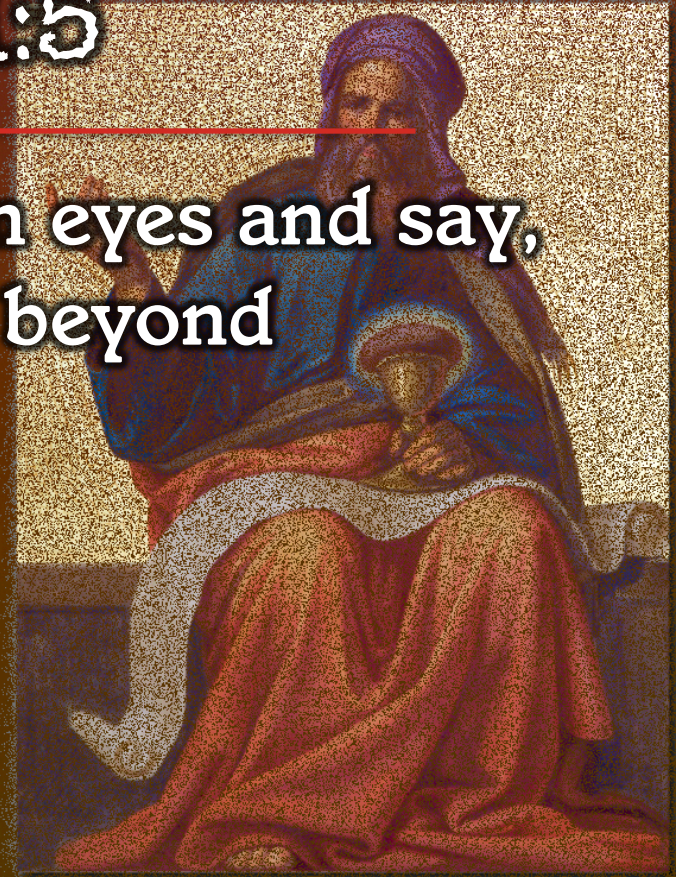
Malachi 1:4

Edom may say, "Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins." But this is what the LORD Almighty says: "They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the LORD."



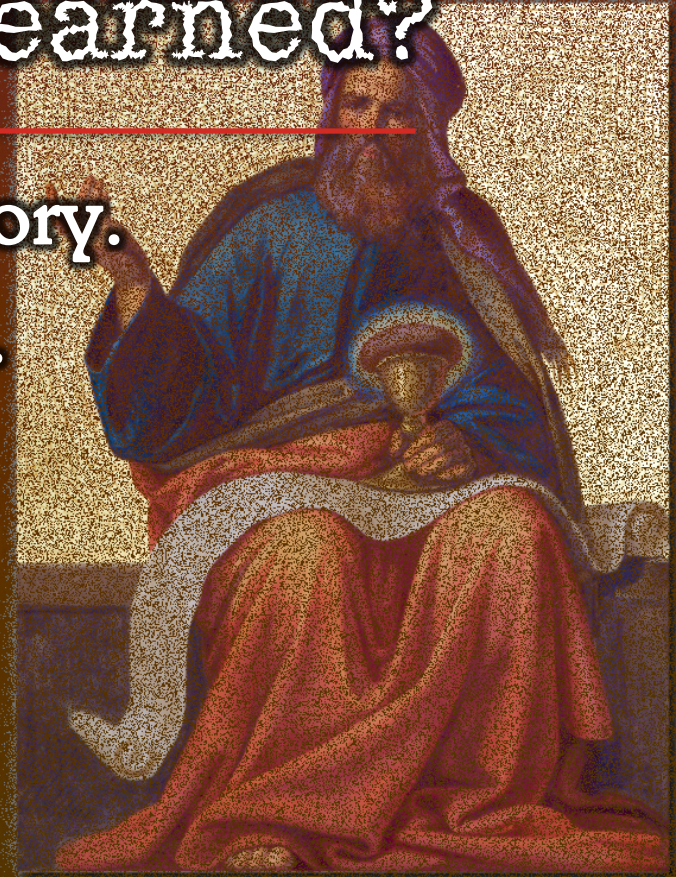
Malachi 1:5

You will see it with your own eyes and say,
'Great is the LORD — even beyond
the borders of Israel!'



What have we learned?

- ❖ God is sovereign over history.
- ❖ The Lord loves his people.





MALACHI

Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper



Two text boxes

❖ Xxxxxx

❖ Xxxxxx

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