

Great Among the Nations

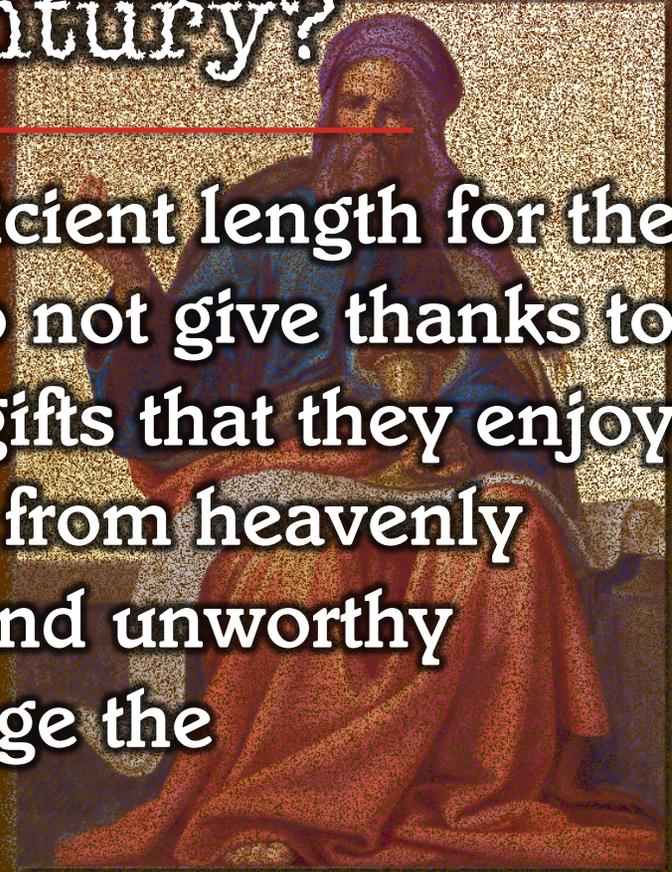
Malachi 1:6-2:9

Jared Smith
Melbourne Community Church
July 22, 2018



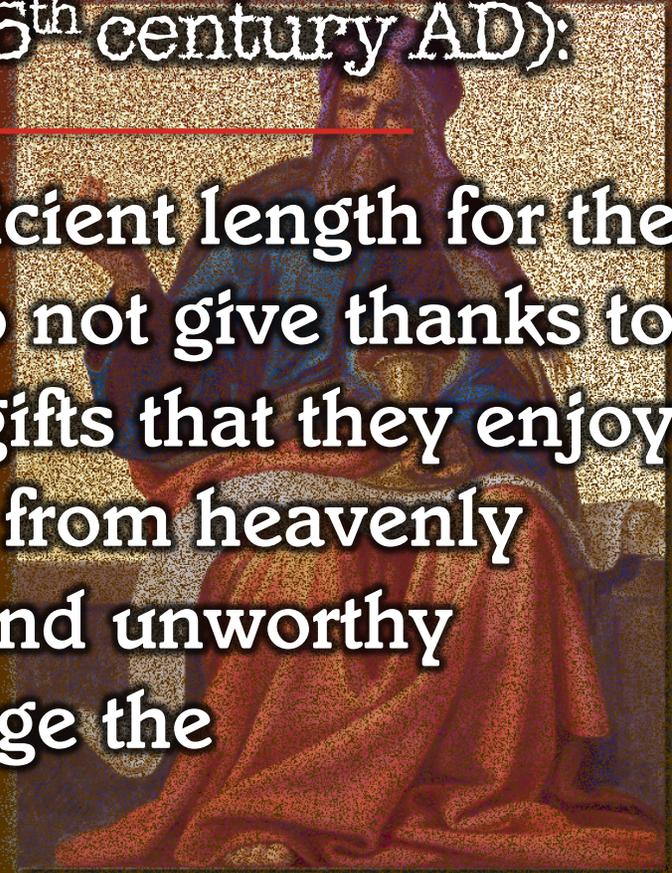
Guess the century?

“Last Sunday I spoke at sufficient length for the correction of those who do not give thanks to the Creator for the divine gifts that they enjoy and who, while benefiting from heavenly kindness, like ungrateful and unworthy persons do not acknowledge the author of kindness.”



Maximus of Turin (5th century AD):

“Last Sunday I spoke at sufficient length for the correction of those who do not give thanks to the Creator for the divine gifts that they enjoy and who, while benefiting from heavenly kindness, like ungrateful and unworthy persons do not acknowledge the author of kindness.”



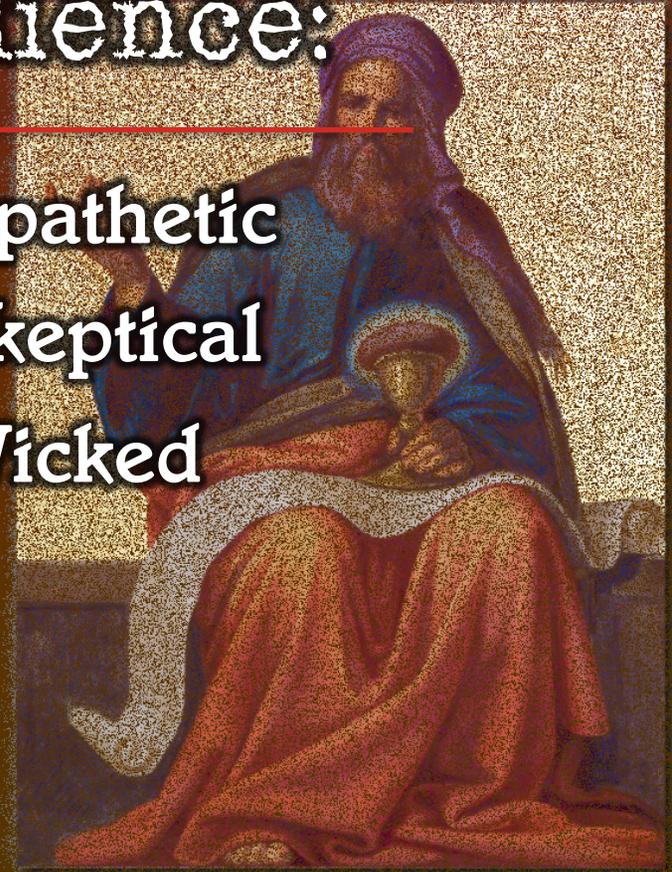
Old Testament prophecy:

- ❖ 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.



Malachi's audience:

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



Malachi's concerns:

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



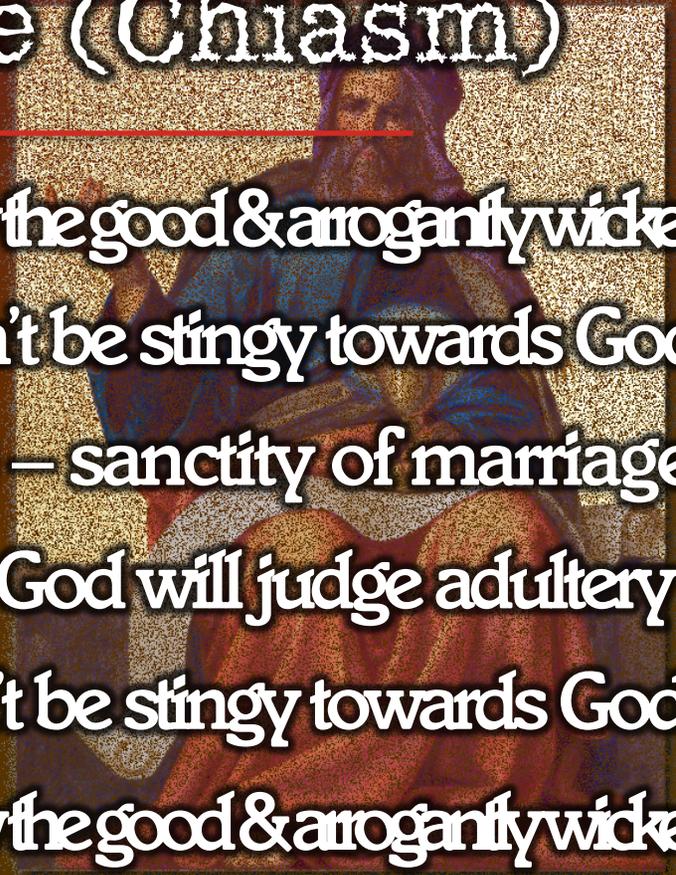
Malachi's disputations:

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



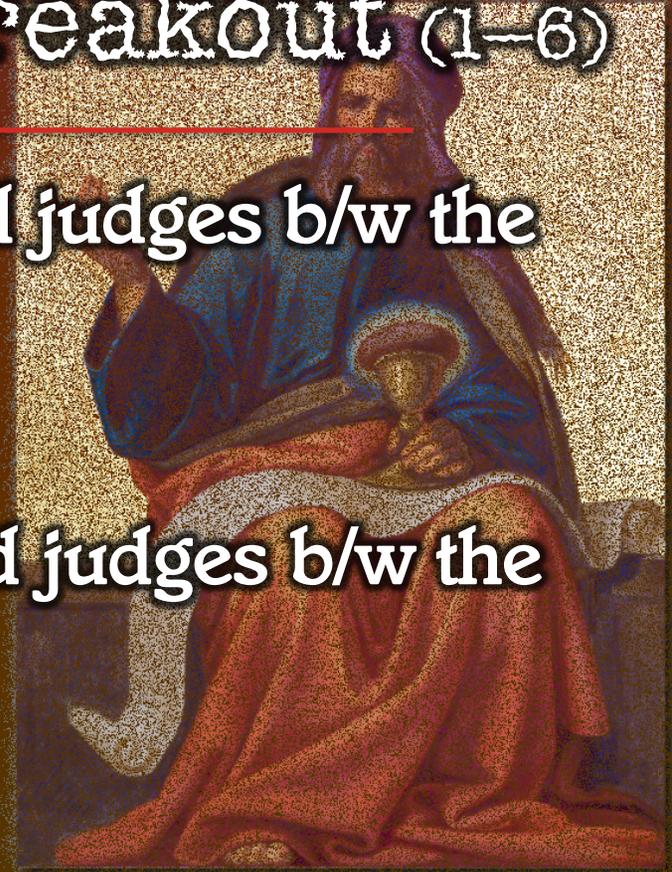
Malachi Structure (Chiasm)

- ❖ 1st disputation (1:2-5) – God judges b/w the good & arrogantly wicked
 - ❖ 2nd disputation (1:6-2:9) – don't be stingy towards God
 - ❖ 3rd disputation (2:10-16) – sanctity of marriage
 - ❖ 4th disputation (2:17-3:5) – God will judge adultery
 - ❖ 5th disputation (3:6-4:3) – don't be stingy towards God
 - ❖ 6th disputation (4:4-6) – God judges b/w the good & arrogantly wicked



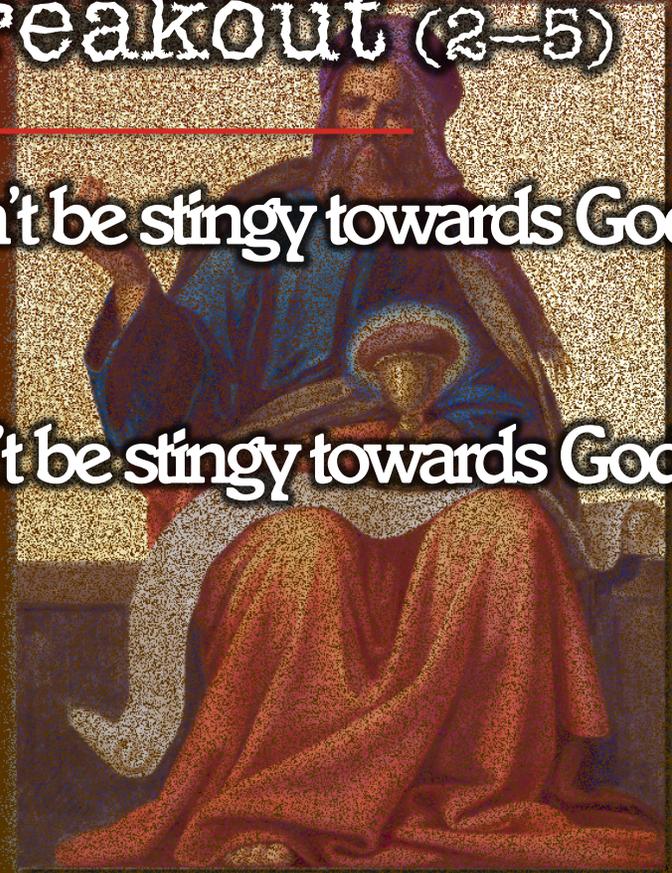
Malachi Chiasm Breakout (1-6)

- ❖ 1st disputation (1:2-5) – God judges b/w the good & arrogantly wicked
- ❖ 6th disputation (4:4-6) – God judges b/w the good & arrogantly wicked



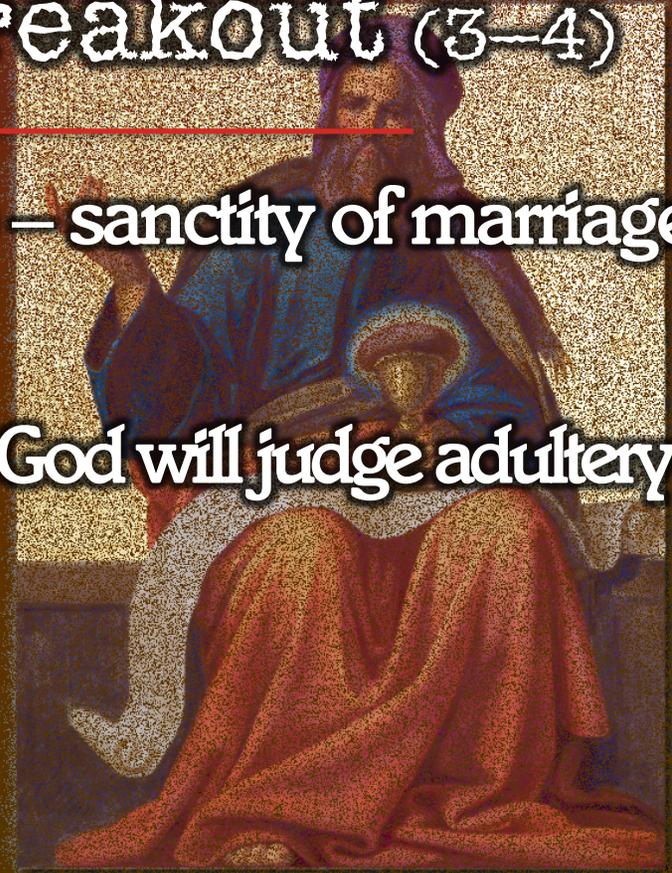
Malachi Chiasm Breakout (2-5)

- ❖ 2nd disputation (1:6-2:9) – don't be stingy towards God
- ❖ 5th disputation (3:6-4:3) – don't be stingy towards God



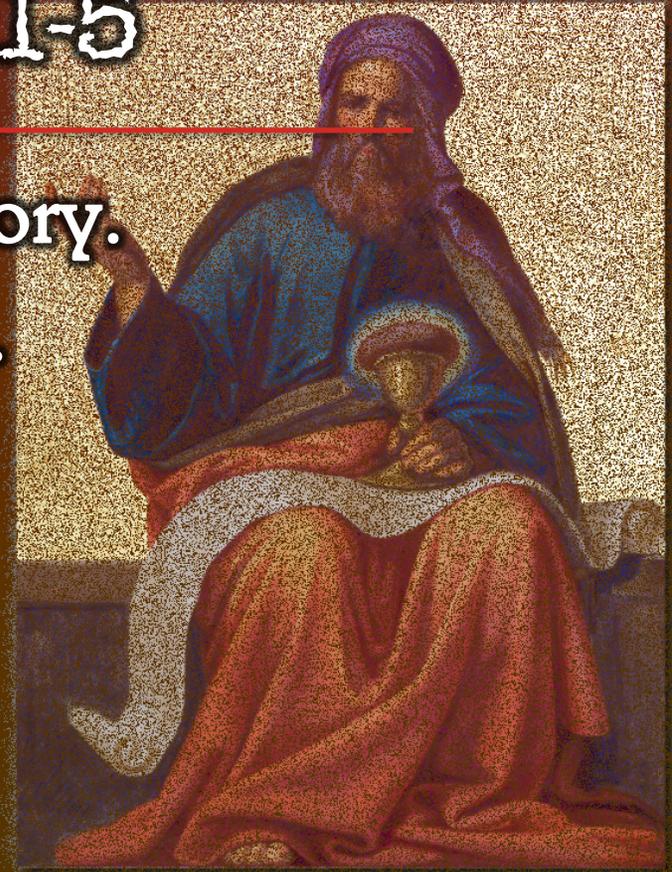
Malachi Chiasm Breakout (3-4)

- ❖ 3rd disputation (2:10-16) – sanctity of marriage
- ❖ 4th disputation (2:17-3:5) – God will judge adultery



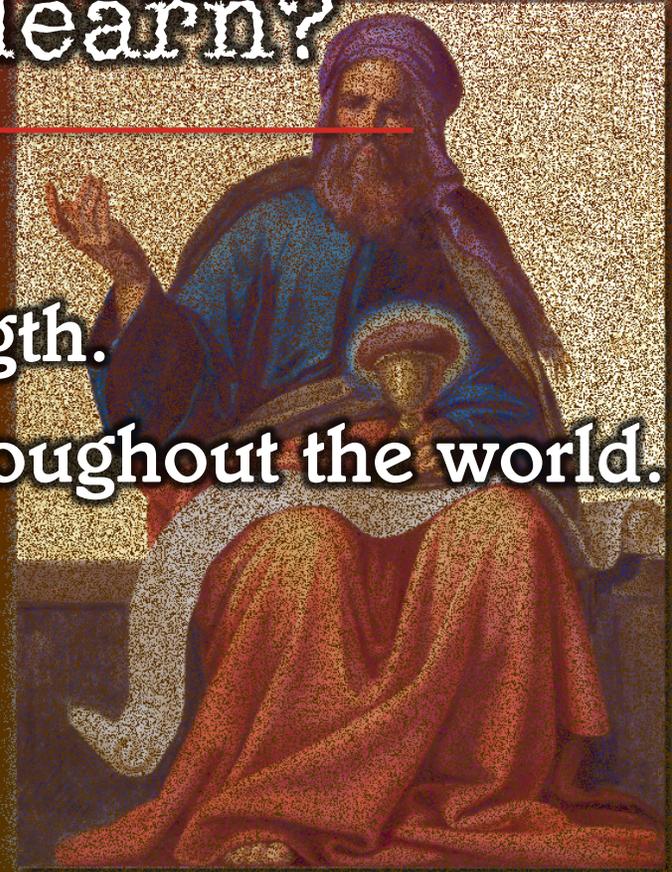
Malachi 1:1-5

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



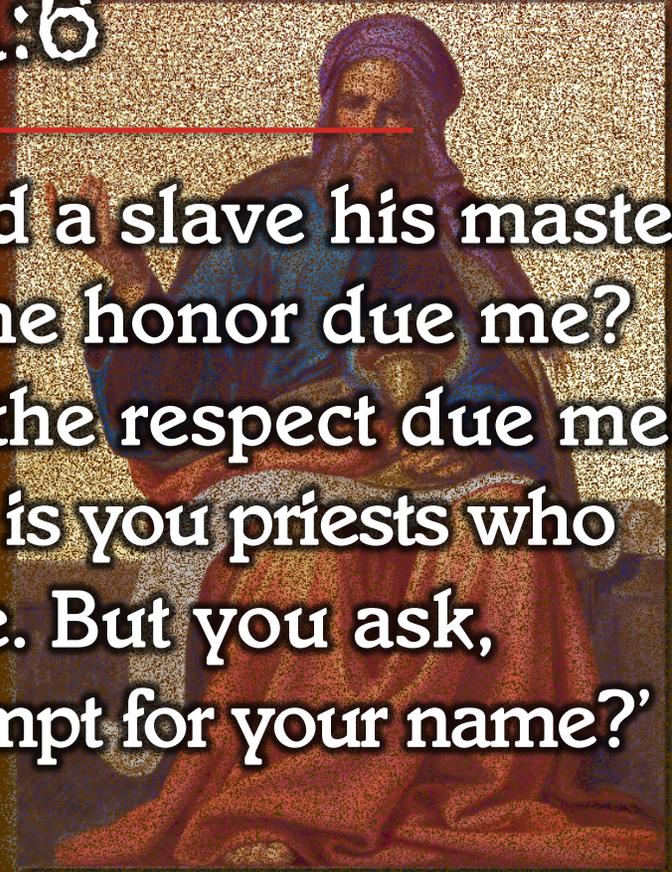
What will we learn?

- ❖ God deserves our best.
- ❖ God is our source of strength.
- ❖ God will be worshiped throughout the world.
- ❖ We reap what we sow.



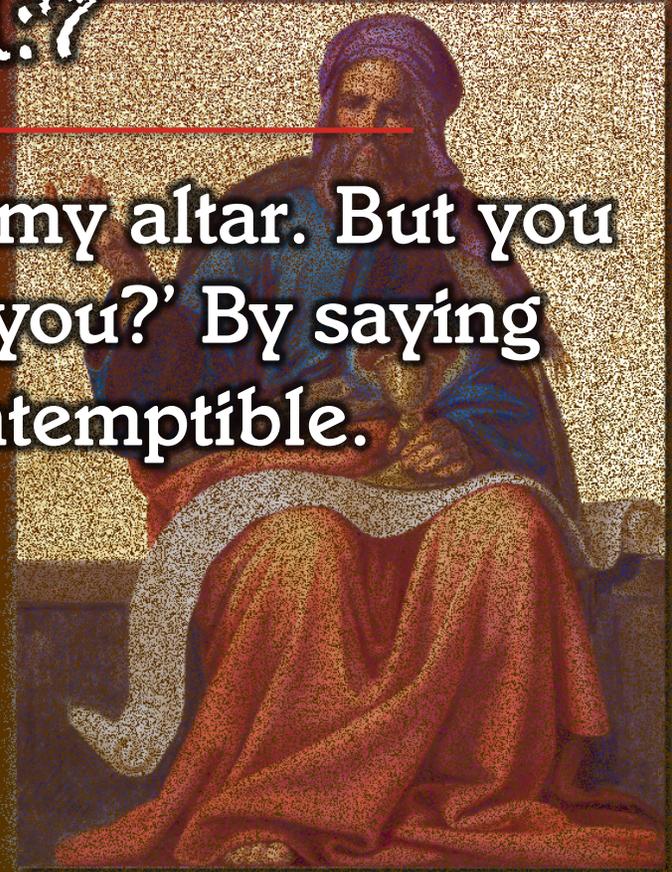
Malachi 1:6

“A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the LORD Almighty. It is you priests who show contempt for my name. But you ask, ‘How have we shown contempt for your name?’



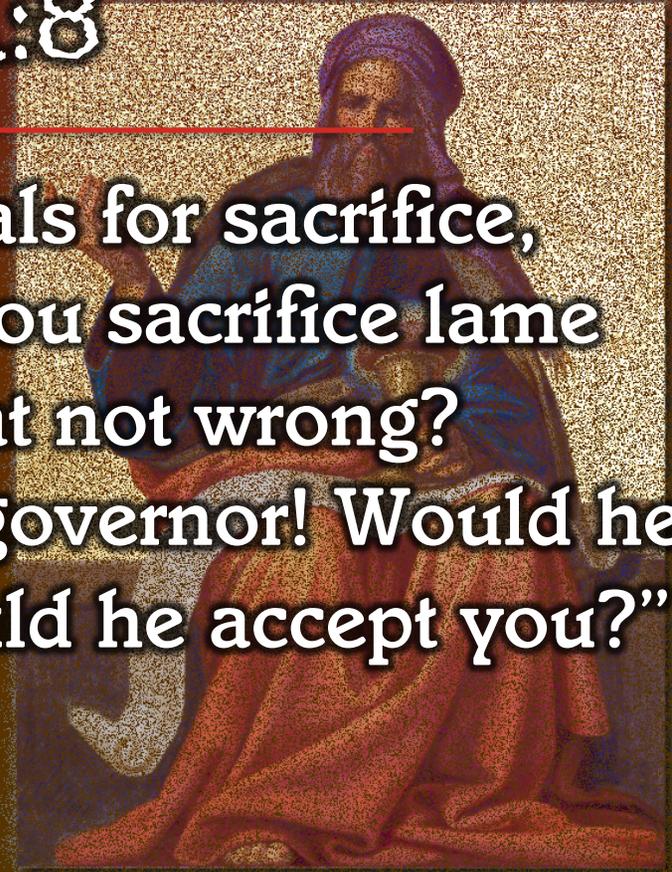
Malachi 1:7

“By offering defiled food on my altar. But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’ By saying that the LORD’s table is contemptible.



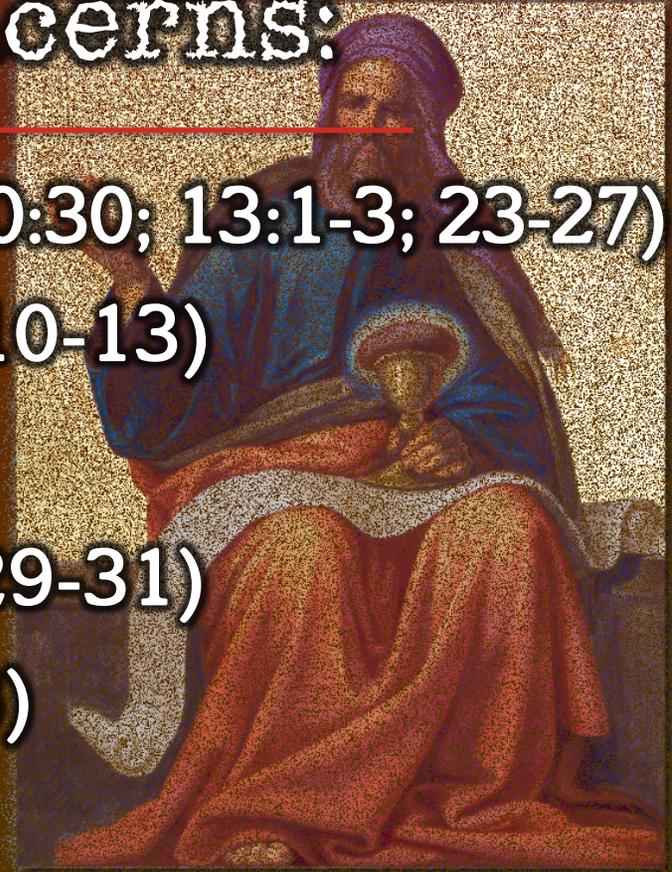
Malachi 1:8

“When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?” says the LORD Almighty.



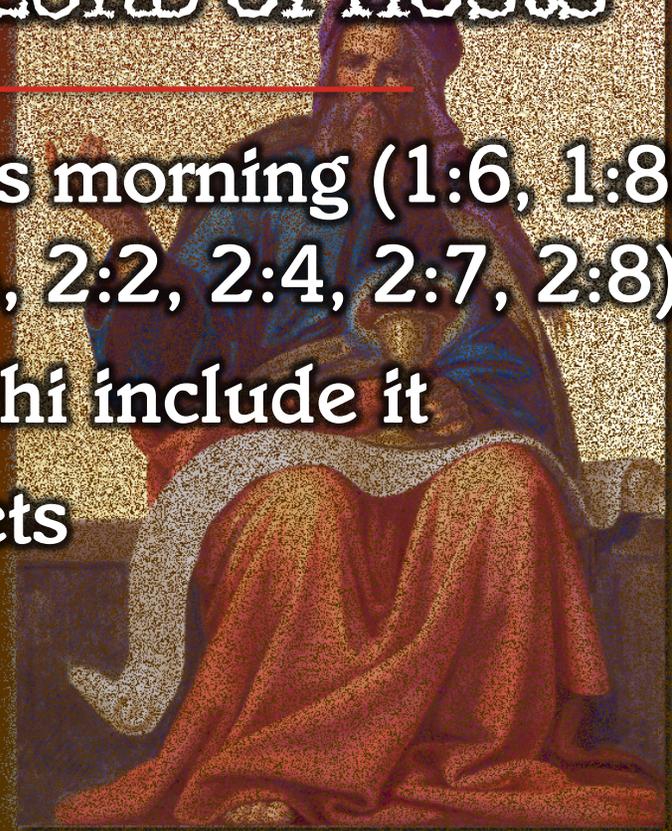
Malachi's concerns:

- ❖ Marriage (Ezra 9-10; Neh. 10:30; 13:1-3; 23-27)
- ❖ Tithe (Neh. 10:32-39; 13:10-13)
- ❖ Sabbath
- ❖ Priesthood (Neh. 13:4-9; 29-31)
- ❖ Social justice (Neh. 5:1-13)



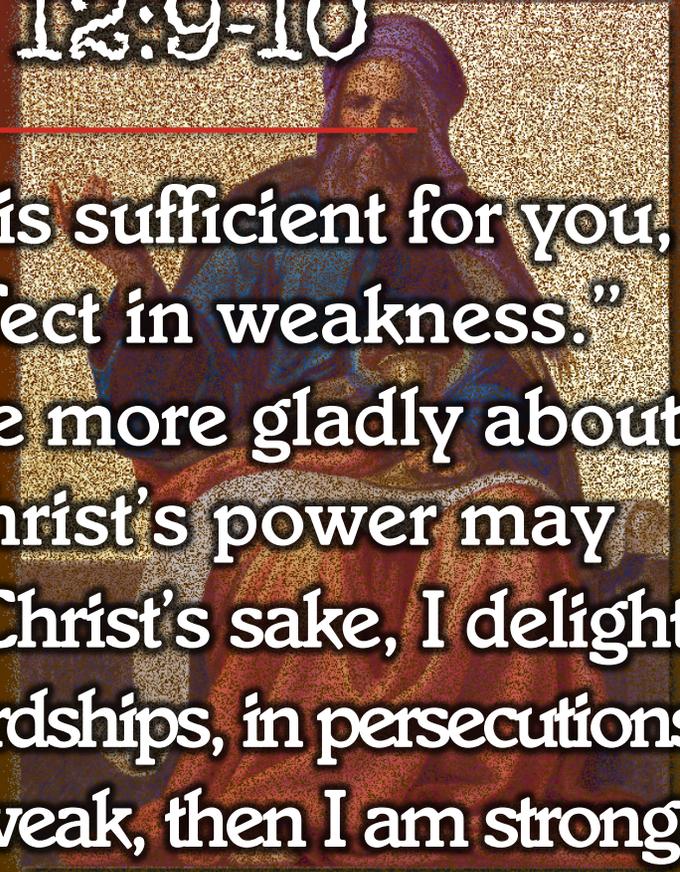
“LORD Almighty” or “LORD of hosts”

- ❖ 11 times in our passage this morning (1:6, 1:8, 1:9, 1:10, 1:11, 1:13, 1:14, 2:2, 2:4, 2:7, 2:8)
- ❖ 44% of all verses in Malachi include it
- ❖ Occurs more in the prophets than anywhere else



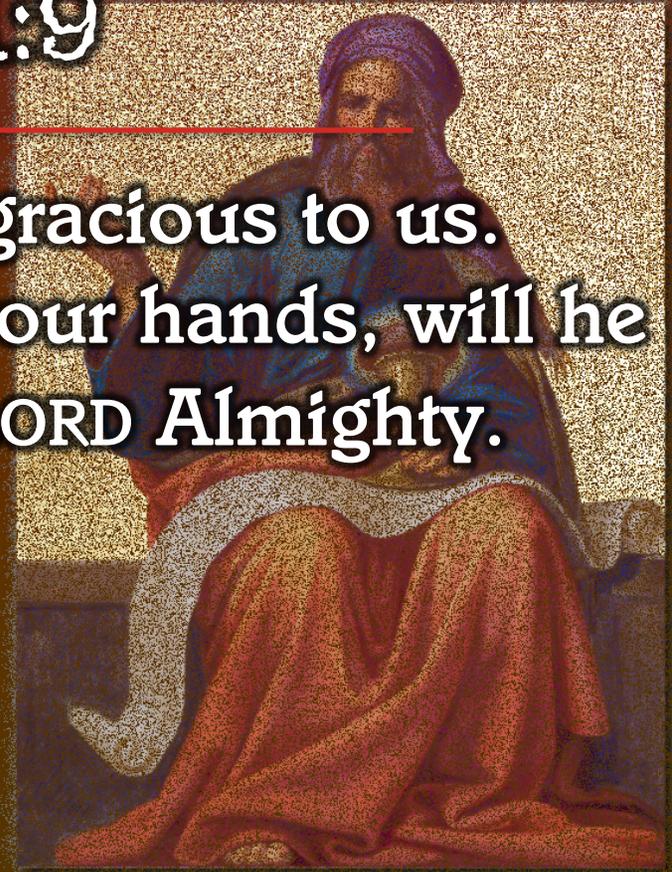
2 Corinthians 12:9-10

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.



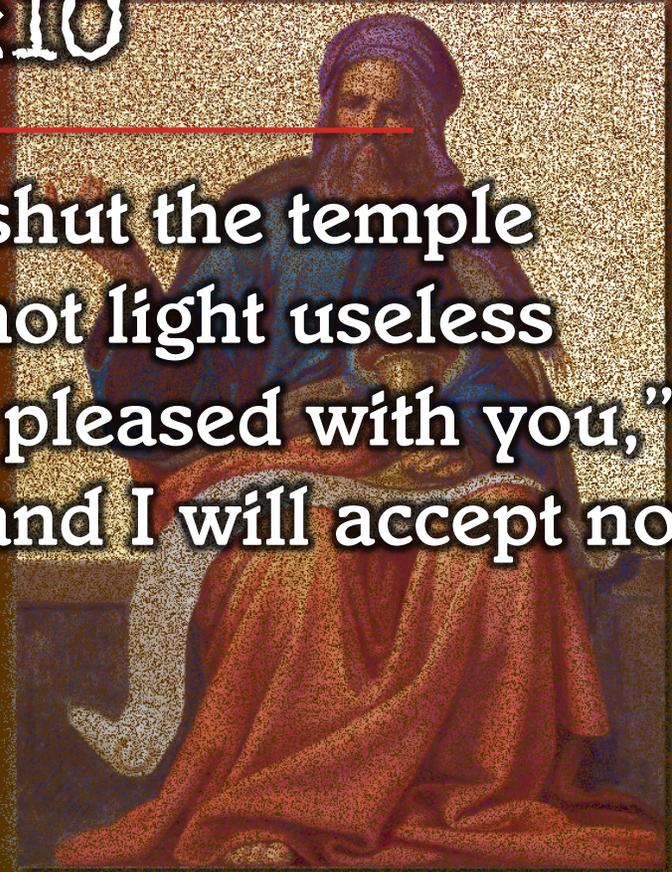
Malachi 1:9

**“Now plead with God to be gracious to us.
With such offerings from your hands, will he
accept you?” — says the LORD Almighty.**



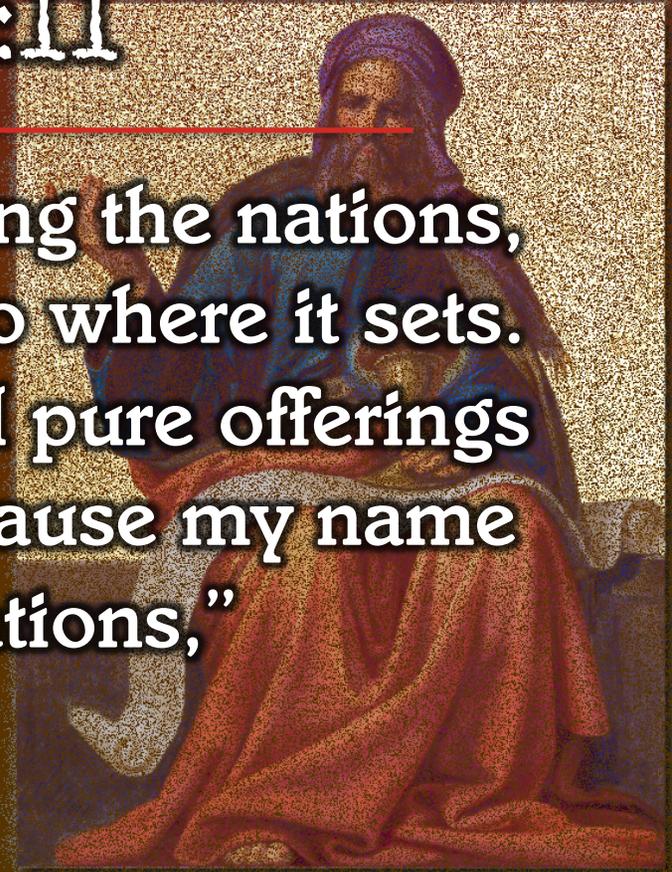
Malachi 1:10

“Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you,” says the LORD Almighty, “and I will accept no offering from your hands.”



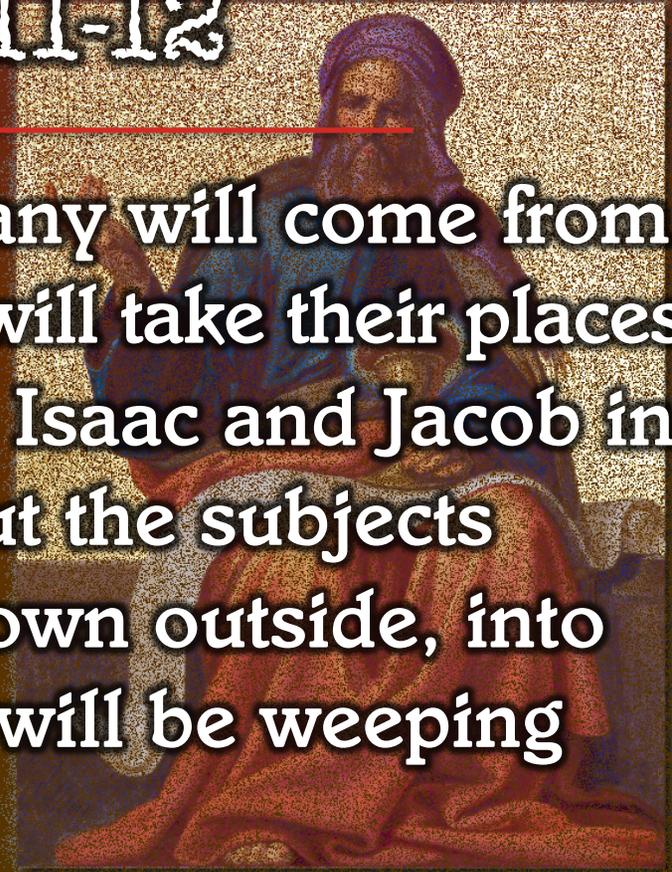
Malachi 1:11

“My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the LORD Almighty.



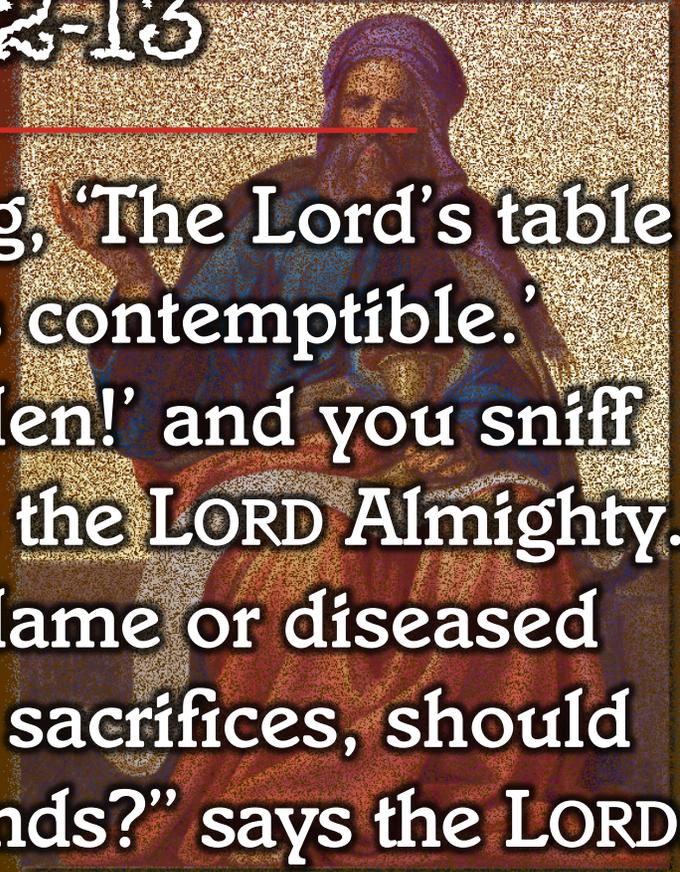
Matthew 8:11-12

[Jesus]: “I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”



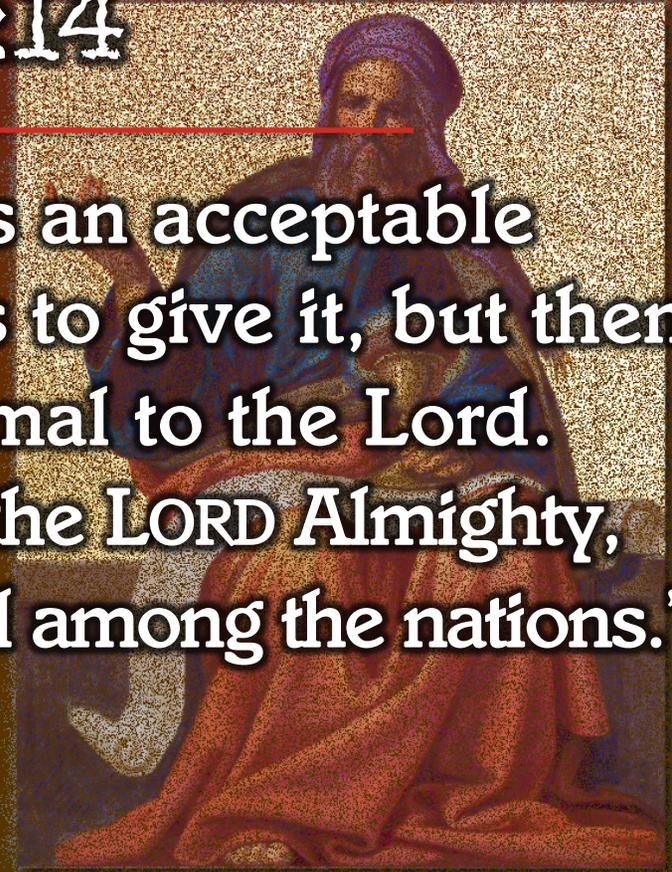
Malachi 1:12-13

“But you profane it by saying, ‘The Lord’s table is defiled,’ and, ‘Its food is contemptible.’ And you say, ‘What a burden!’ and you sniff at it contemptuously,” says the LORD Almighty. “When you bring injured, lame or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?” says the LORD.



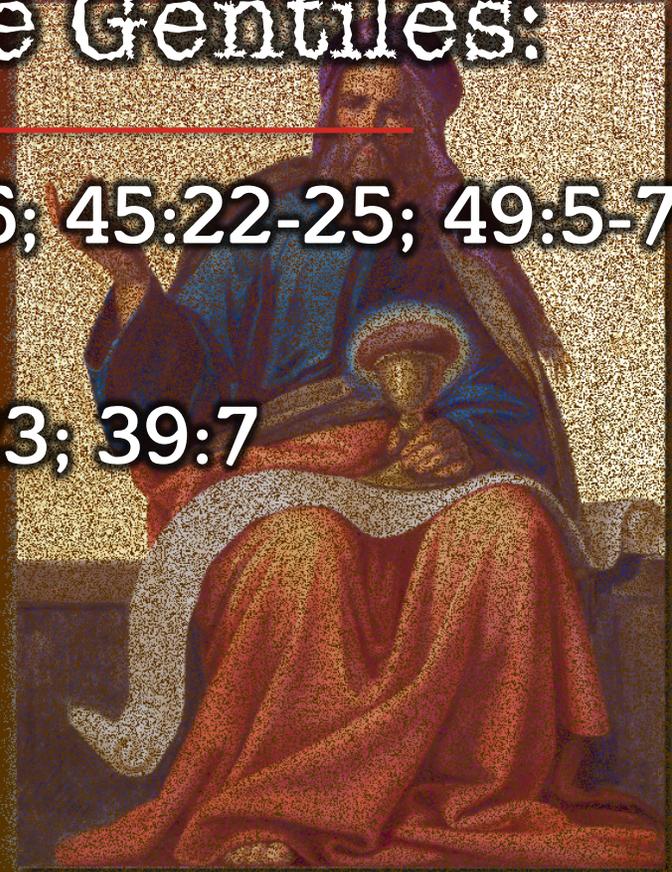
Malachi 1:14

“Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king,” says the LORD Almighty, “and my name is to be feared among the nations.”



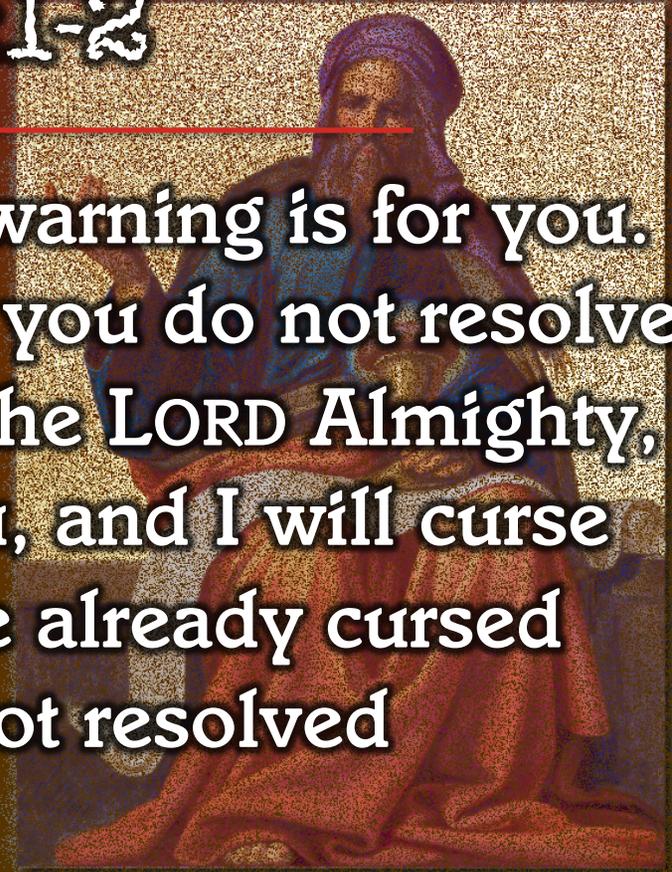
Good news for the Gentiles:

- ❖ Isaiah 2:2-3; 11:1-10; 42:6; 45:22-25; 49:5-7; 55:3-5; 59:19; 66:18-21
- ❖ Ezekiel 36:23; 37:28; 38:23; 39:7
- ❖ Daniel 7:13-14; 7:27-28
- ❖ Zephaniah 2:11; 3:8-11
- ❖ Zechariah 14:9; 14:16



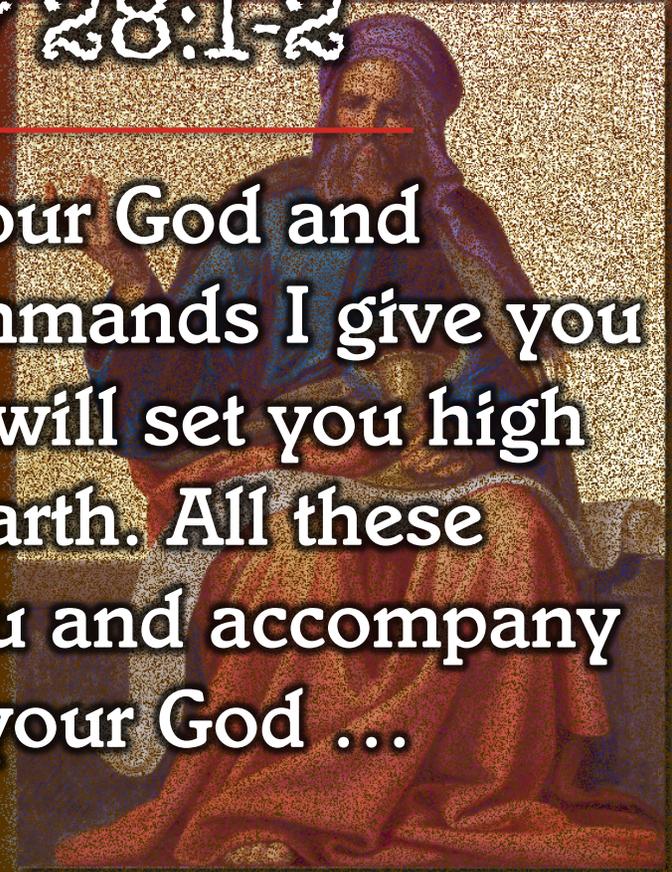
Malachi 2:1-2

“And now, you priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, and if you do not resolve to honor my name,” says the LORD Almighty, “I will send a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not resolved to honor me.”



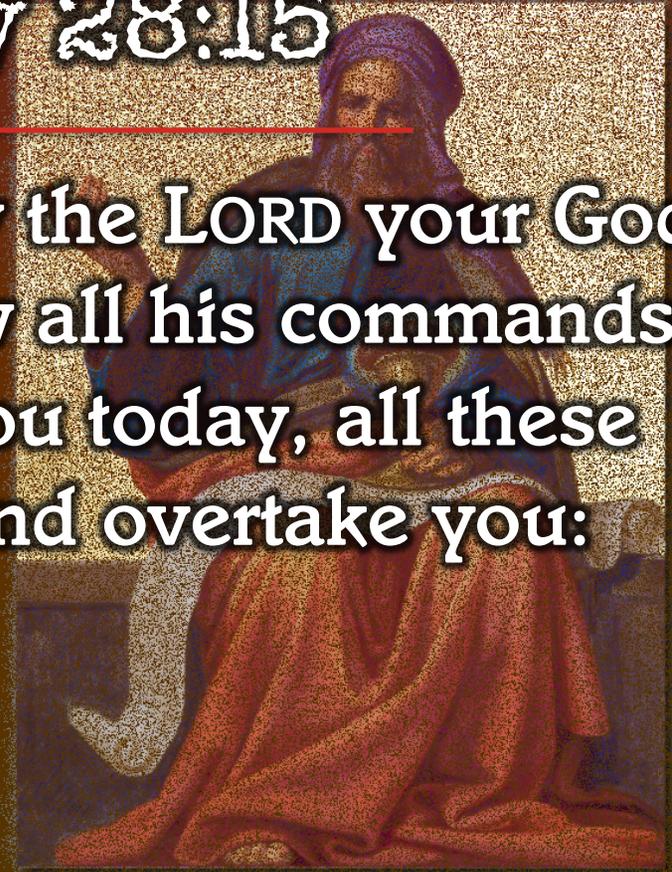
Deuteronomy 28:1-2

If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God ...



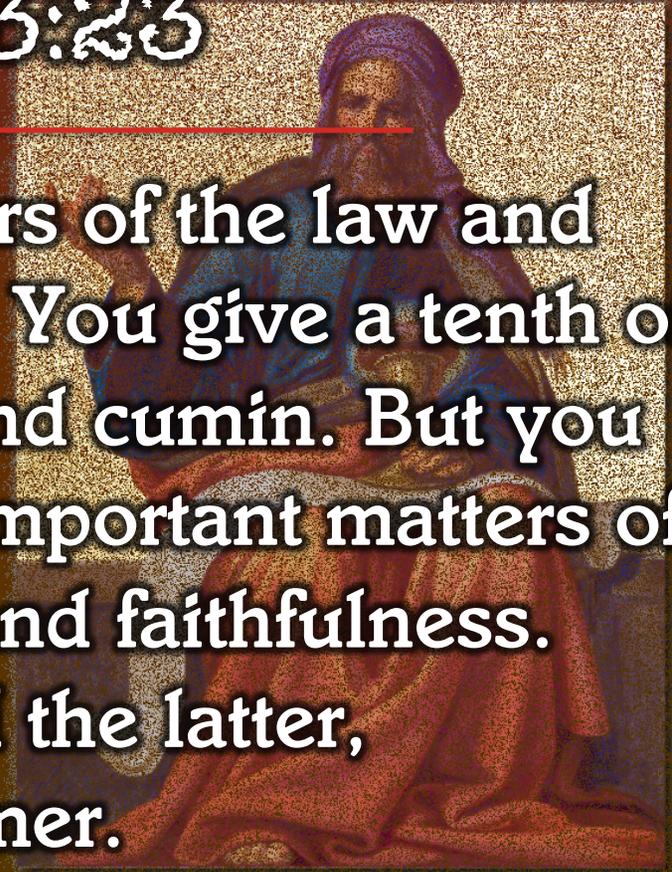
Deuteronomy 28:15

However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you:



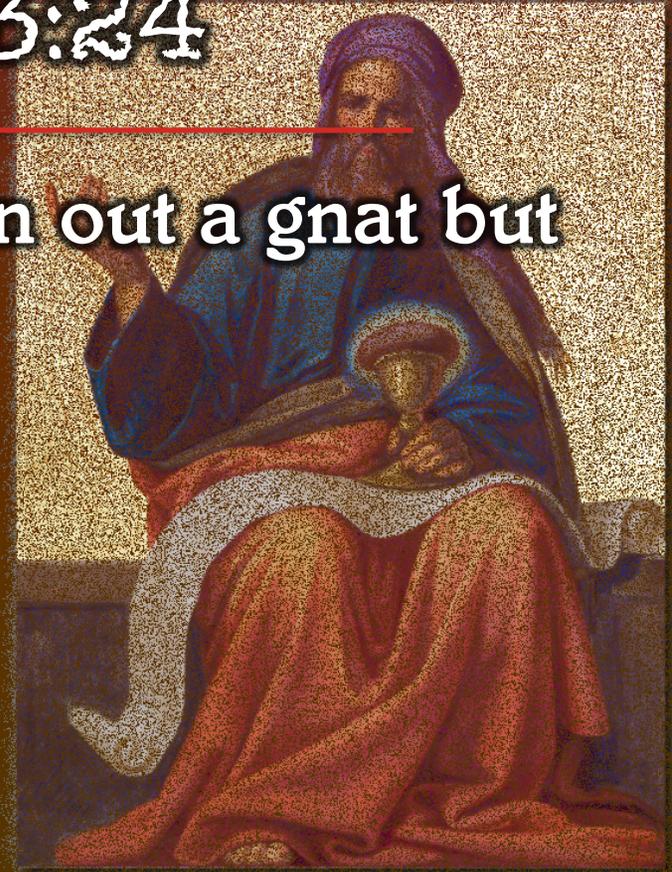
Matthew 23:23

[Jesus]: “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices — mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.



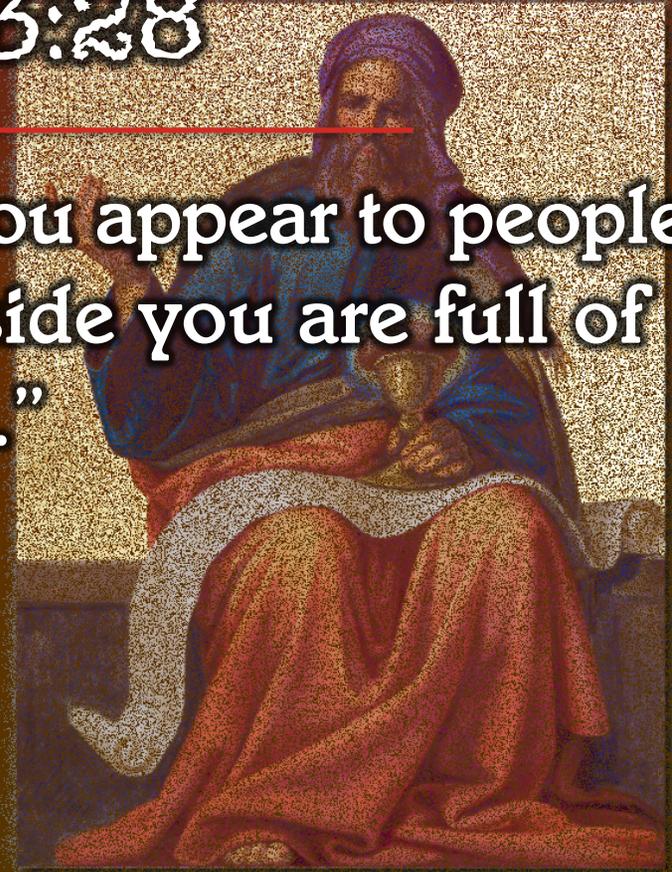
Matthew 23:24

“You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.”



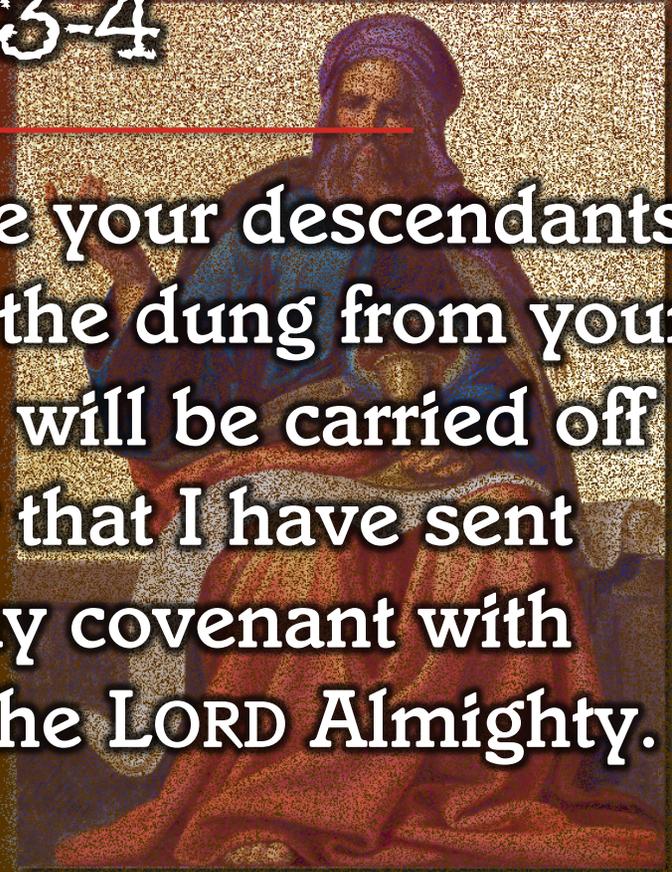
Matthew 23:28

[Jesus]: “ ... on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.”



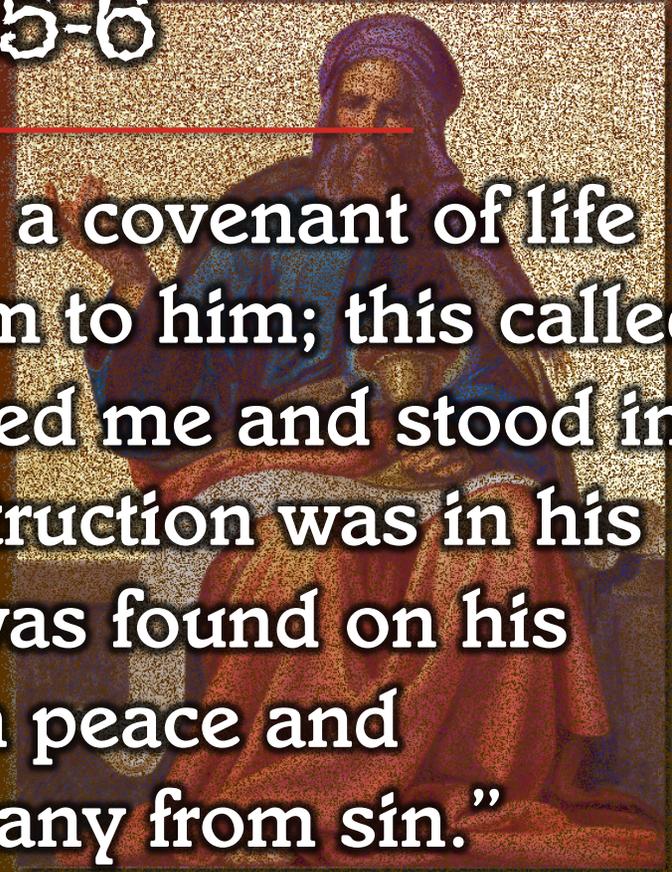
Malachi 2:3-4

“Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will smear on your faces the dung from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it. And you will know that I have sent you this warning so that my covenant with Levi may continue,” says the LORD Almighty.



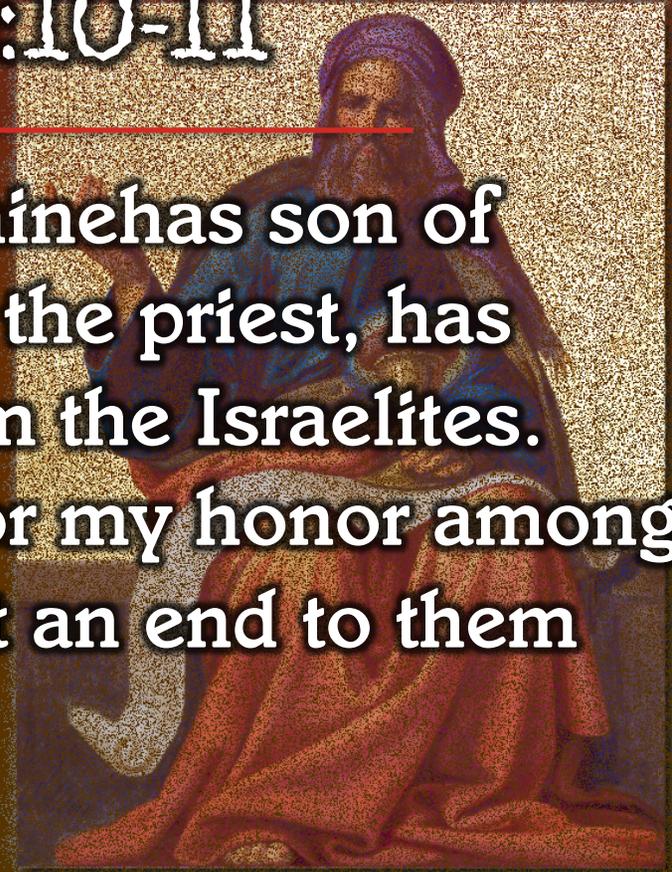
Malachi 2:5-6

“My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin.”



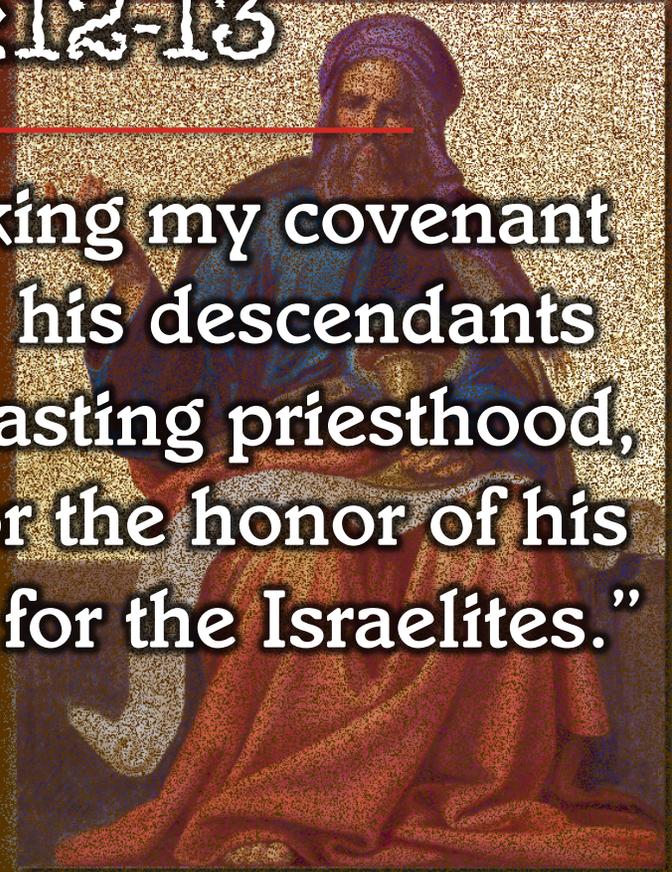
Numbers 25:10-11

The LORD said to Moses, “Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites. Since he was as zealous for my honor among them as I am, I did not put an end to them in my zeal.”



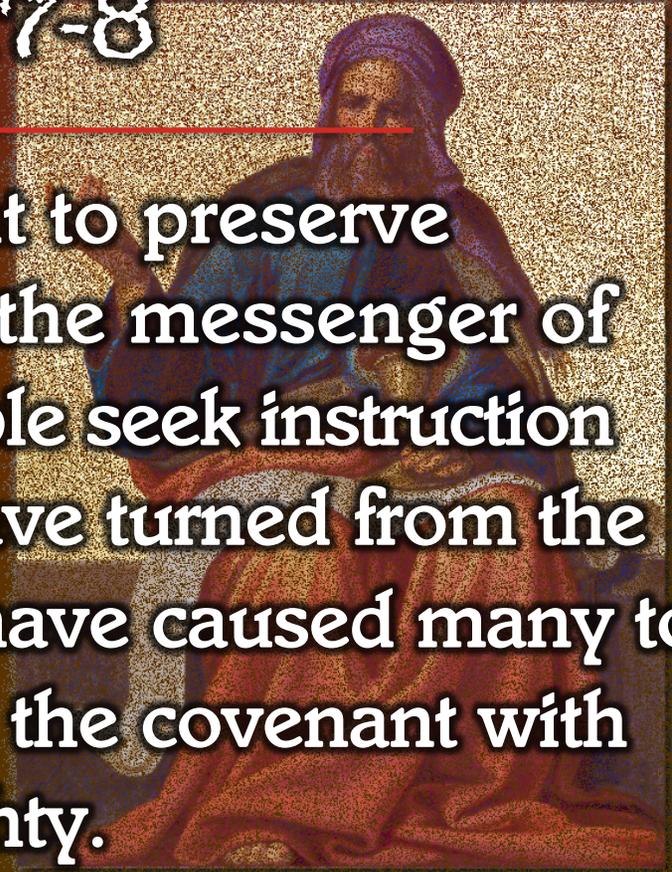
Numbers 25:12-13

“Therefore tell him I am making my covenant of peace with him. He and his descendants will have a covenant of a lasting priesthood, because he was zealous for the honor of his God and made atonement for the Israelites.”



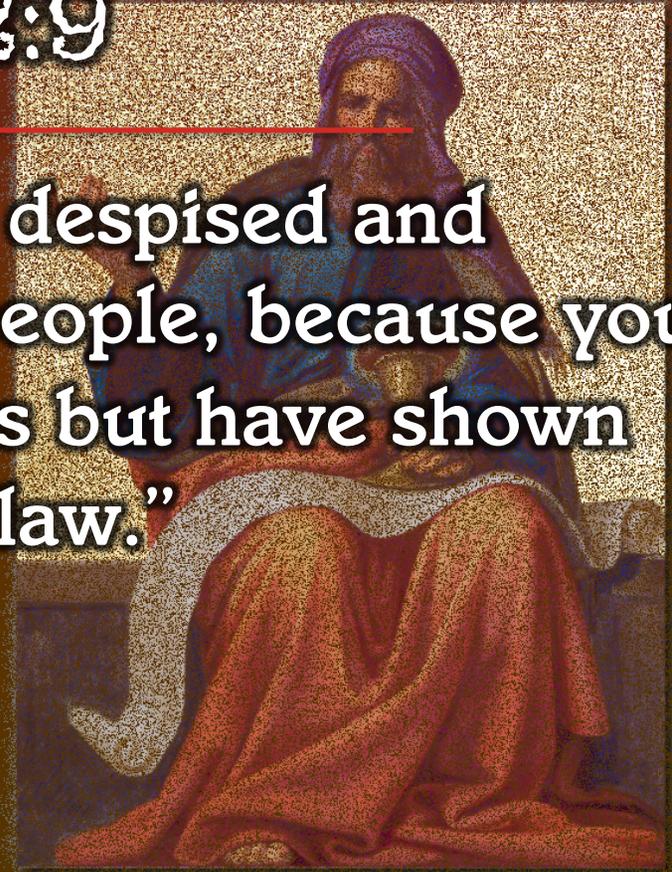
Malachi 2:7-8

“For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty and people seek instruction from his mouth. But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi,” says the LORD Almighty.



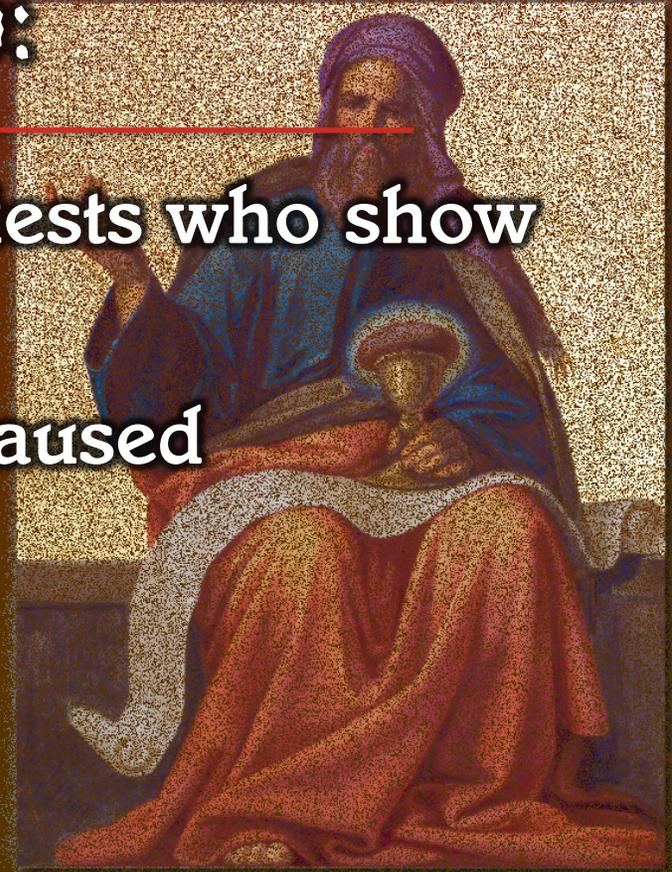
Malachi 2:9

“So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law.”



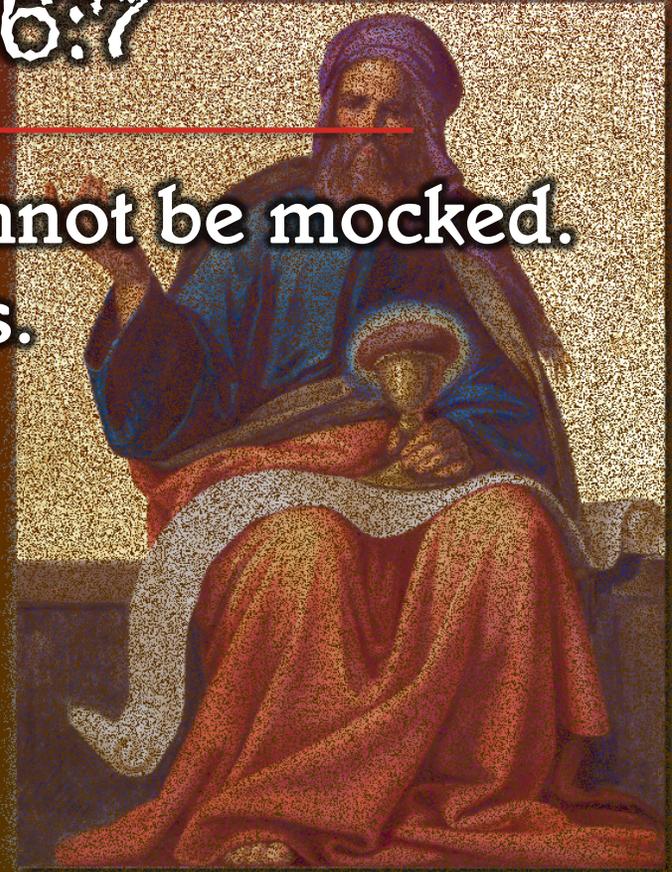
Inclusio:

- ❖ Malachi 1:6 – “It is you priests who show **contempt** for my name.”
- ❖ Malachi 2:9 – “So I have caused you to be **despised** ... ”



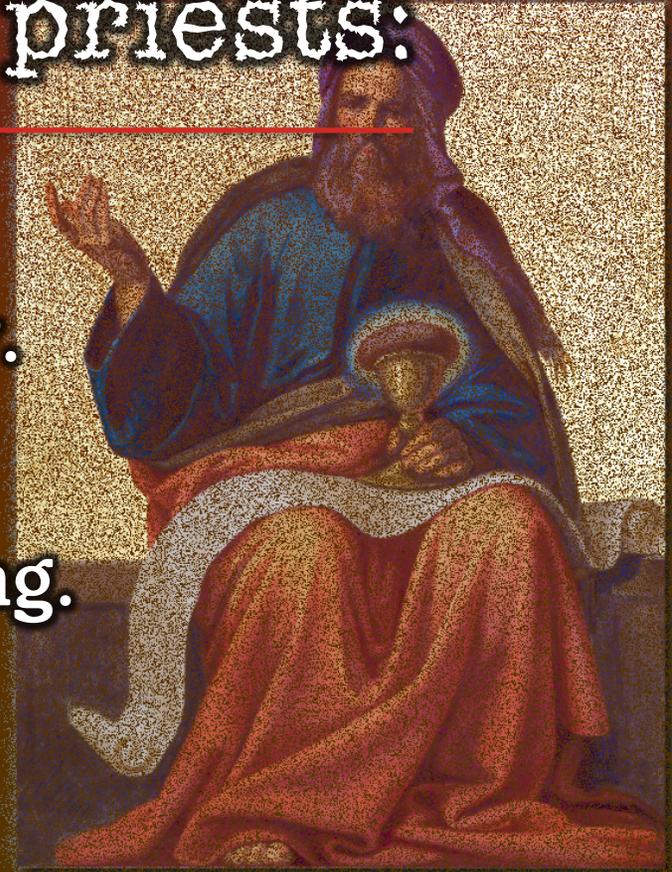
Galatians 6:7

**Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked.
A man reaps what he sows.**



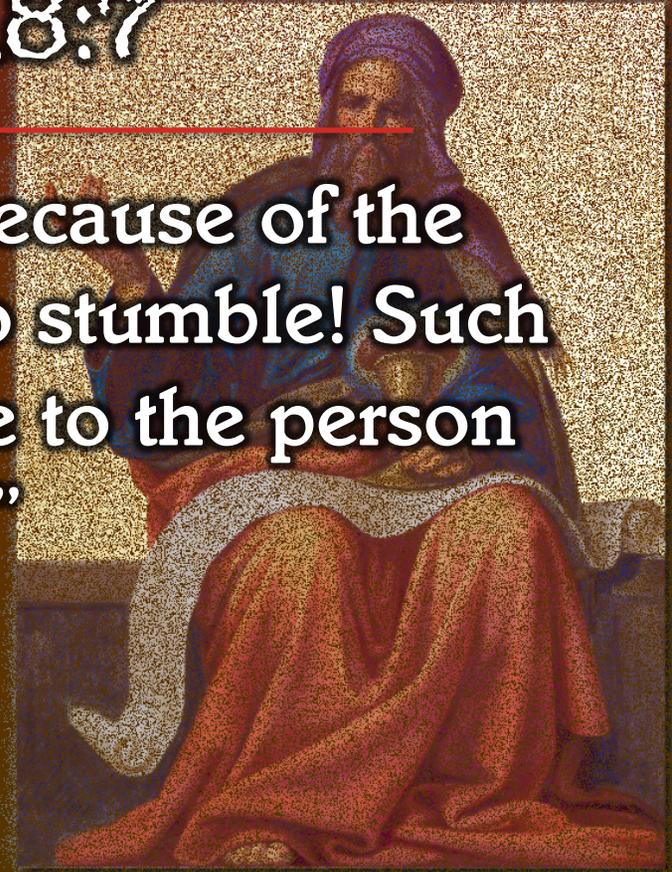
Problems with priests:

- ❖ They did not honor God.
- ❖ They led the people astray.
 - ❖ With their way of life.
 - ❖ With their public teaching.



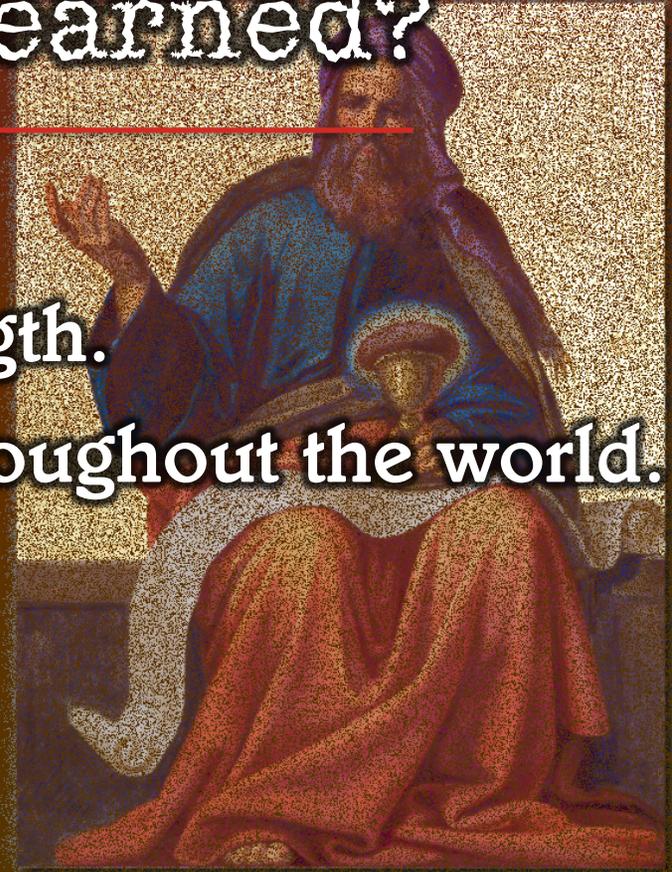
Matthew 18:7

[Jesus]: “Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!”



What have we learned?

- ❖ God deserves our best.
- ❖ God is our source of strength.
- ❖ God will be worshiped throughout the world.
- ❖ We reap what we sow.





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

❖ Xxxxxx

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