

Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

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Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Class Schedule

Lesson	Date	Title	Teacher
1	Sunday, Aug 2 nd	Class Introduction	Sam
2	Wednesday, Aug 5 th	Introduction to Haggai	Sam
3	Sunday, Aug 9 th	The Book of Haggai	Sam
4	Wednesday, Aug 12 th	Introduction to Zechariah	Erik
5	Sunday, Aug 16 th	Zechariah 1-2: Visions 1-3	Erik
6	Wednesday, Aug 19 th	Zechariah 3-4: Visions 4-5	Erik
7	Sunday, Aug 23 rd	Zechariah 5-6: Visions 6-8	Erik
8	Wednesday, Aug 26 th	Zechariah 7-11: The Two Burdens: Part 1	Erik
9	Sunday, Aug 30 th	Zechariah 12-14: The Two Burdens: Part 2	Erik
10	Wednesday, Sep 2 nd	Introduction to Malachi	Sam
11	Sunday, Sep 29 th	Malachi 1-2	Sam
12	Wednesday, Sep 6 th	Malachi 3-4	Sam
13	Sunday, Sep 9 th	Application	Sam

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Lesson 11: Malachi 1-2, Condemnation

Although the urging of Haggai and Zechariah had brought the completion of the temple, this had not produced the messianic age many expected. The warm response to Zechariah’s call to repentance had grown cold, because God apparently had not restored the covenant blessings. Malachi, writing a short time later, called the people to repentance with respect to: the priesthood, which had become corrupt; worship, which had become routine; divorce, which was widespread; social justice, which was being ignored; and tithing, which was neglected.

The Lord’s Love for Israel

Malachi 1:2-5

Assertion	Objection	Refutation
“ ² I have loved you...”	“...How have you loved us?...”	“...Is not Esau Jacob’s brother? ...Yet I have loved Jacob”
↓	↓	↓
Jehovah declares His love for the people, and by this love He shows the hearers their own ingratitude and lack of devotion toward Him.	Their inward doubt is revealed. They believed that the Lord did not love them; otherwise things would be different.	God shows the people what “not loving” looks like in his hatred for Esau and the people of Edom.

Question:

Read Genesis 25:21-23, then Romans 9:6-29. Was God’s choice of Jacob over Esau fair? Why or why not?

The Priests’ Polluted Offerings

Malachi 1:6-14

Assertion	Objection	Refutation
“ ⁶ ...where is my honor?...where is my fear?..., O priests, who despise my name.”	“...How have we despised your name?”	“ ⁷ By offering polluted food upon my altar.”
		↙
	“...How have we polluted you?”	“...By saying that the Lord’s table may be despised.”
↓	↓	↓
God recalls the long established principles that a son should honor his father and a servant his master. In certain cases, not doing so resulted in death (Ex. 21:15, 17; Deut. 21:18-21)	The priests supposed objections reflect their lack of understanding. To profane the altar is to profane God Himself. Their offering was their actions, not their words.	“ ⁷ By offering polluted food...” ESV “ ⁷ Ye offer polluted bread...” KJV They were offering the blind, the lame, and the sick from the flocks. To offer such a worthless gift to a governor was insulting...how much more of an insult to God!

Question:

Consider Malachi 1:13 where the people say “What a weariness this is...” Do we sometimes consider our service to God to be wearisome? Write down an example of when you’ve felt burdened by your service to God.

The Lord Rebukes the Priests

Malachi 2:1-9

The priests had insulted the name of Jehovah and had brought it into disrepute; now they must give glory to it or suffer the consequence of Jehovah’s curse, demonstrated in the outpouring of His wrath.

The Good Example of Levi	The Poor Example of the Priests
^{5a} My covenant with him was one of life and peace... ^{5b} It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. ^{5c} He stood in awe of my name. ^{6a} True instruction was in his mouth... ^{6b} ...no wrong was found on his lips. ^{6c} He walked with me in peace and uprightness... ^{6d} ...he turned many from iniquity.	^{8a} You have turned aside from the way. ^{8b} You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. ^{8c} You have corrupted the covenant of Levi



⁷ For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.



⁹ and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.

Question:

Malachi 2:1-3 show us the seriousness of the Priests’ responsibility for God’s Word. Pick one of the good examples of Levi listed above and tell why it’s important in our stewardship of God’s Word today, as Christians.

Divorce and Intermarriage Strongly Denounced

Malachi 2:10-16

You have:	
¹¹ Profane[ed] the covenant of our fathers	Exod 19:5-6
¹¹ Been faithless	Deut 18:9-14
¹¹ Committed abominations	Exod 34:16, 1 Kings 11:1-2
¹¹ Profaned the sanctuary	Gen 2:24
¹¹ Married the daughter[s] of a foreign god	
¹⁴ Been faithless to your wives	
Therefore:	
“ ¹⁵ ...guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. ¹⁶ For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”	