



PURIFIED PRIESTS

Malachi's message is about Israel's **CORRUPTION** as a nation—the priesthood no longer feared God and compromised the priestly office by **VIOLATING** the law. It was time for a spiritual **PURGING** to cleanse the priesthood.

The Corruption of the Priesthood

They questioned God's LOVE for them.

They despised His name by offering WORTHLESS sacrifices.

They were COVENANT breakers.

They ROBBED God by withholding contributions.

They CRITICIZED God.

They wanted God's blessings but offered MINIMUM service, and even that was WEARISOME! Their behavior was so dishonorable God said, "Close the temple DOORS!"

The Purification Process

Malachi PROMISED a coming judgment that would distinguish between the righteous and the unrighteous. But first, there would be a purification PROCESS. Those who feared God were made a “treasured POSSESSION.” After this purification, their sacrifices would be PLEASING.

The Purification Process

The New Testament picks up where Malachi left off. John prepared the people's HEARTS for the new priesthood. And Peter's audience was going through a fire-purification process that removed IMPURITIES from a holy, spiritual priesthood: a HEAVENLY priesthood of God's own "possession" who offers "acceptable" sacrifices.

The Purified Priesthood

Do we QUESTION God's love when life is hard?

Do we COMPLAIN about the sacrifices we must make?

Do we take God's WARNINGS to heart?

Do we take God SERIOUSLY?

Do we turn people away from INIQUITY?

Do we teach others the KNOWLEDGE of God?

Do we cause others to STUMBLE?

Do we keep our COVENANT with our spouse?

Do we speak AGAINST God?