

GOD'S
UNDENIABLE
LOVE

MALACHI 1:1-5



Malachi 1:1

- The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.
- Burdon; a weight, a concern, heaviness of heart
- One of the key's to understanding the sin of the Priests and of the people is to see their **unawareness of God's love** towards them.
- This lack of awareness led to a distorted understanding of God's call to obedience as a response to His demonstrations of Love towards them.



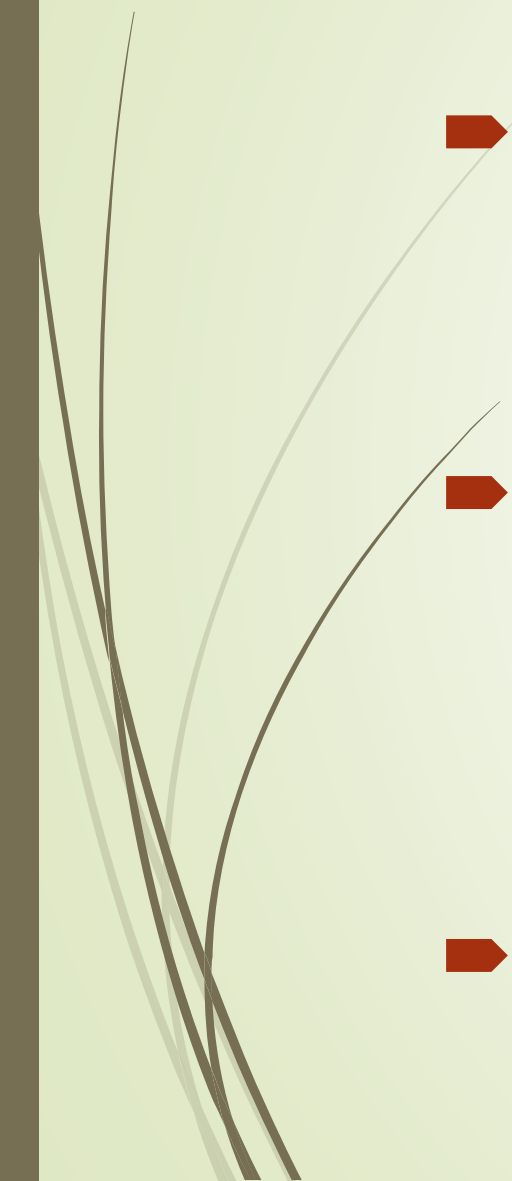
THE DECLARATION OF GOD'S LOVE

Malachi 1:2a

- ² “I have loved you,” says the LORD.
- This affirmation of love for God's people was not new, indeed **it was a rebuke** because of the repeated nature of this truth.



Did God love His people?

- Deuteronomy 10:15 “Yet on your fathers did the Lord set His affection to love them...”
 - Deuteronomy 4:37ff “Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them. He brought you out of Egypt ...”
 - Jeremiah 31:3 “I have loved you with an Everlasting love...”
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THE QUESTIONING OF GOD'S LOVE


Malachi 1:2a

- ² “I have loved you,” says the LORD. **But you say, “How have You loved us?”**
- God’s people had forgotten all that God had done for them.
- They were viewing God’s love through their current circumstances



Review

- The people were back in the land, they had restored the Temple and with that they were once more offering sacrifices to the Lord.
- The people had mistakenly presumed God's love would be demonstrated in temporal prosperity.
- Since they were not prospering their natural assumption was that God was dropping the ball.

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- Does this type of thinking sound familiar?
 - PROSPERITY GOSPEL
 - IF I have enough faith, if I walk in obedience THEN God will cause me to prosper!
 - RETRIBUTION THEOLOGY
 - IF I am suffering, THEN there is disobedience in my life.
 - TWO SIDES TO THE SAME COIN
 - Truth based upon circumstances rather than upon the Word of God



THE REMINDER OF GOD'S COVENENTAL LOVE Malachi 1:2b-4

- “*Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?*” declares the LORD. “**Yet I have loved Jacob;** ³ but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation and *appointed* his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness.” ⁴ Though Edom says, “We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins”; thus says the LORD of hosts, “They may build, but I will tear down; and *men* will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom the LORD is indignant forever.”



Context

- How do we deal with the phrase “Esau I have hated?”
 - Compare Luke 14:26 & Matthew 10:37




Context

- Malachi is contrasting the histories of the two races not simply the two brothers
- It is best to see Malachi's use of love and hate as covenantal language, God is saying, I have chosen Jacob to be the line of blessing and covenant...




The choice of Israel over Edom

- Deuteronomy 7:6-11 God's choice of Jacob was not based on anything he had done but rather as **an expression of His divine Love.** (Romans 9:9-13)
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The judgement upon Edom

- The judgement upon Edom had been prophesied (Jeremiah 49:1-22) because of their treatment of God's people.
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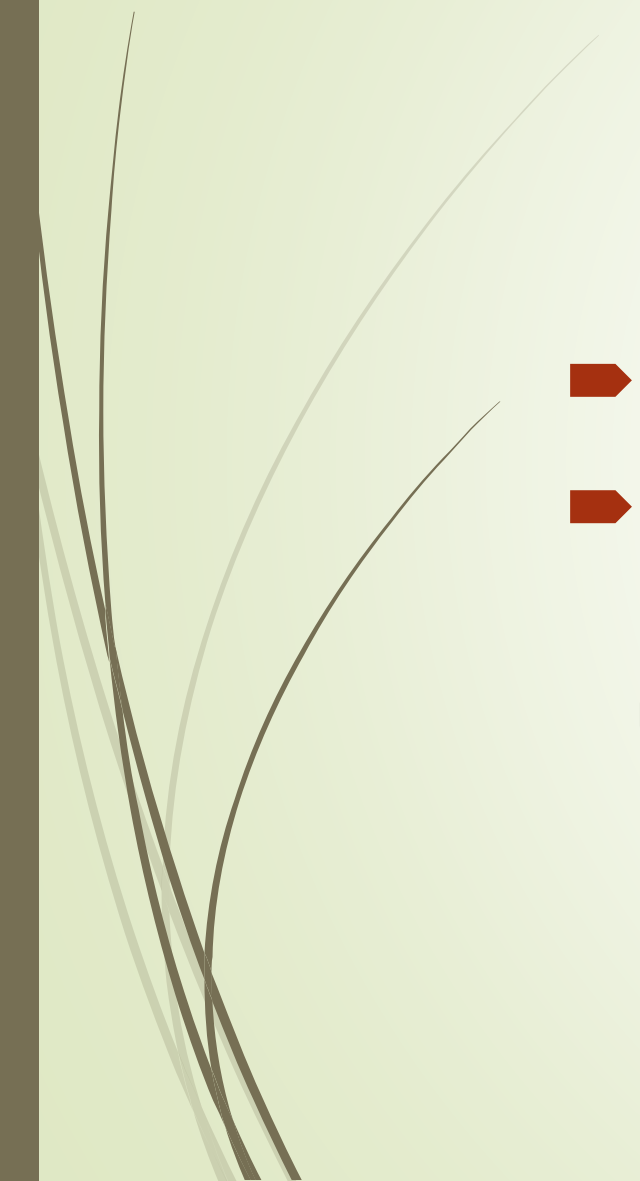
THE DESIRED RESULT OF GOD'S LOVE

Malachi 1:5

- ⁵ Your eyes will see this, and you will say, “The LORD be magnified beyond the border of Israel!”
 - Magnified; to grow, to be promoted
 - The purpose in God's love for Jacob was for His name to be magnified
 - The purpose in God's judgment upon the Edomites was for His name to be magnified
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APPLICATION

- Does God love us?
 - Let's look for TRUTH
 - Ephesians 2:4-5 ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, **because of His great love with which He loved us,** ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
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APPLICATION

- Does God love us?
- Let's look for TRUTH
- Titus 3:4-5a ⁴ **But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love** for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy,



APPLICATION


➤ Does God love us?

➤ Let's look for TRUTH

➤ Ephesians 3:17-19 (Paul prays for these saints)
... ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, **being rooted and grounded in love**, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and **to know the love of Christ** which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.




APPLICATION

- Does God love us?
 - Let's look for TRUTH
 - Romans 8:35 ³⁵ **Who (or what) will separate us from the love of Christ?** Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
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APPLICATION

- Does God love us?
 - Let's look for TRUTH
 - Romans 8:38-39 ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, **nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
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APPLICATION

- Does God love us?
- Let's look for TRUTH
- Hebrews 13:5b-6 ...He Himself has said, **“I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,”** ⁶ so that we confidently say, **“THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?”**



“THIS IS MY
BODY...”

“THIS CUP IS THE
NEW COVENANT
...”

“DO THIS IN
REMEMBERANCE OF
JESUS...”



APPLICATION

- ▶ How should we respond to such extravagant love?
- ▶ Matthew 22:36-40 ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And He said to him, ““YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”



APPLICATION

- ▶ How should we respond to such extravagant love?
- ▶ John 14:15 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.
- ▶ 1 John 4:10-11 ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

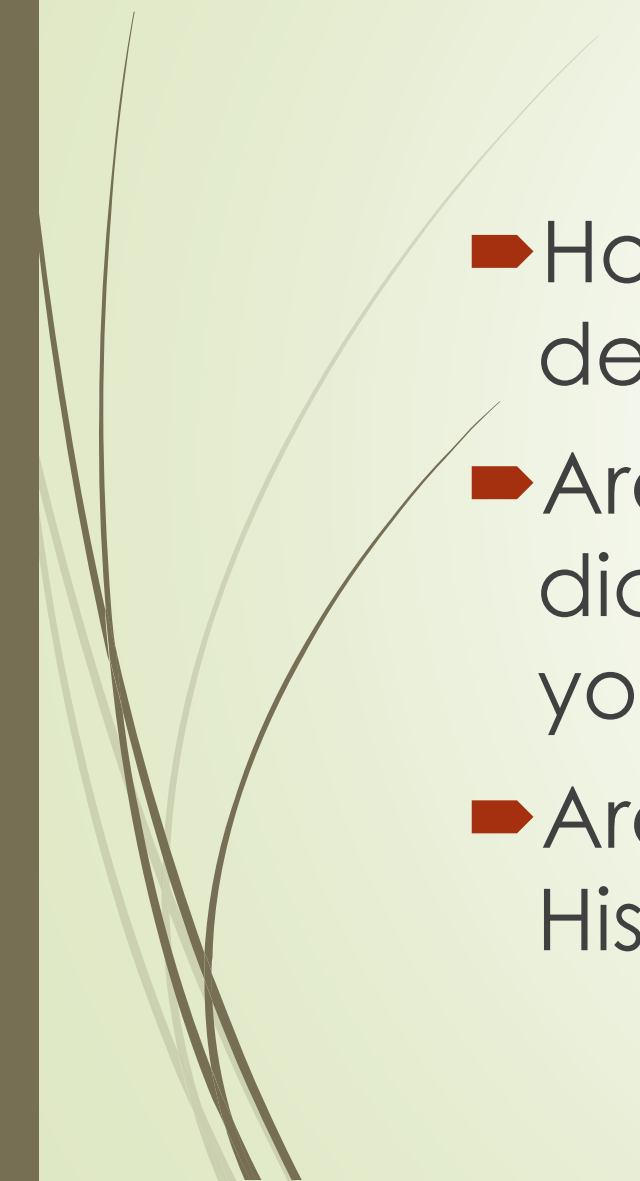


APPLICATION

- How should we respond to such extravagant love?
- 1 Peter 2:9-10 ⁹ But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.



APPLICATION

- How are you responding to God's clear declaration of love to you?
 - Are you allowing your current circumstances to dictate your view of God and of His love for you?
 - Are you basing your love for God on His truth? His amazing love for you?
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BACK TO THE BASICS!

➤ JESUS LOVES ME THIS I KNOW

- Jesus loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak, but He is strong
 - Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
The Bible tells me so
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