

The Coming of Jesus' Birth: He Brings Gifts of Blessings

Malachi 1:1-5 / December 8, 2018

Introduction to the Book of Malachi: Preparation for the Birth of Jesus

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Introduction:

536 BC: And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the directions of David king of Israel. And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord. "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel."

And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away. (Ezra 3:10-13)

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| 1. But you say, | "How have you loved us?" (1:2) |
| 2. But you say, | 'How have we despised your name?' (1:6) |
| 3. But you say, | 'How have we polluted you?' (1:7) |
| 4. But you say, | 'What a weariness this is,' and you snort at it, (1:13) |
| 5. But you say, | "Why does he not?" (2:14) |
| 6. But you say, | "How have we wearied him?" (2:17) |
| 7. Or by asking, | "Where is the God of justice?" (2:17) |
| 8. But you say, | 'How shall we return?' Will man rob God? (3:7-8) |
| 9. But you say, | 'How have we robbed you?' (3:8) |
| 10. But you say, | 'How have we spoken against you?' (3:13) |

God's Sovereign Love Malachi 1:1-5 / (440-430 BC)

The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. (1:1)

God's Statement: "God is Love"

- "I have loved you," says the LORD. (1:2a)

Israel's Complaint: "God Doesn't Love Us"

- But you say, "How have you loved us?" (1:2b)

God's Answer: "God's Love is Sovereign"

- "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob but Esau I have hated.
- I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert."
- If Edom says, "We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins," the LORD of hosts says, "They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called 'the wicked country,' and 'the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.'"
- Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, "Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!" (1:2c-5)

The Sovereignty of God's Love: The Six Witnesses of the Pentateuch (Romans 9:6-18)

But it is not as though the word of God has failed.

1. ISAAC: For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but **the children of the promise are counted as offspring.**
2. SARAH: For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son."
3. REBEKAH: And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— she was told, "The older will serve the younger."
4. JACOB: **As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."** What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means!
5. MOSES: For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."
6. PHARAOH: So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. (Romans 9:6-18)

The Sovereignty of God's Love: The Six Blessings of Christ (Ephesians 1:2-14)

BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **BLESSED** us in Christ with every spiritual **BLESSING** in the heavenly places,

1. SELECTION: even as **he chose us** in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.
2. ADOPTION: **In love he predestined us for adoption** through Jesus Christ, according to **the purpose of his will**, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.
3. FORGIVENESS: In him **we have redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, **according to the riches of his grace**, which he lavished upon us,
4. WISDOM: in all wisdom and insight **making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose**, which **he set forth in Christ** as a **plan for the fullness of time**, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
5. INHERITANCE: In him **we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will**, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.
6. SPIRIT: In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him **were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit**, who is **the guarantee of our inheritance** until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

The Sovereignty of God's Love: The Six Blessings of the Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3)

Now the Lord said to Abram,

1. LAND: "Go forth from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that **I will show** you.
2. NATION: And **I will make** of you a great nation, and
3. NAME: **I will BLESS** you and **make** your name great, so that you **will be a BLESSING**.
4. BLESSING: **I will BLESS** those who **BLESS** you, and
5. JUDGMENT: him who dishonors you **I will curse**, and
6. FAMILIES: in you all the families of the earth **shall be BLESSED**.

The Sovereignty of God's Love: The Six Blessings of Creation (Genesis 1:1-2:3)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

1. LIGHT: And God said, "Let there be **light**," and there was light. (Gen 1:3)
2. EXPANSE: And God said, "Let there be an **expanse** in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." (Gen 1:6)
3. LAND
PLANTS: And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry **land** appear." (Gen 1:9)
And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, **plants** yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, (Gen 1:11)
4. SPACE: And God said, "Let there be **lights** in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. (Gen 1:14)
5. BIRDS/FISH: And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of **living creatures**, and let **birds** fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." And God **BLESSED** them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." (Gen 1:22)
6. ANIMALS: And God said, "Let the earth bring forth **living creatures** according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." (Gen 1:24)
HUMANS: Then God said, "Let us make **man** in our image, after our likeness. And God **BLESSED** them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen 1:28)

Thus the heaven and the earth were finished and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God **BLESSED** the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (Gen 2:1-3)

CONCLUSION: But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for **that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit**. She will bear a son, and **you shall call his name Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place **to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet**: "Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and **they shall call his name Immanuel**. (which means, God with us). (Matthew 1:20-23) And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, **he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb**. (Luke 2:21)