

# MALACHI

## Our Father's Name Is Great (1:1-2:10)

### How have you loved us?

(1:1-5) God had given Israel blessings unseen by any other nations, even their closest relatives and neighbors. Describe the blessings highlighted by Malachi. State any additional blessings which could be added to this list.



Yes, from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, my name will be great among the nations!

Explain how these opening verses are ultimately fulfilled with Christ.

Relate the things the Lord has done to bless his Church as unique and with blessings found nowhere else.



#### MALACHI STUDY OUTLINE

#### "How Great the Father's Love!"

##### Our Father's Name Is Great (1:1-2:10)

- How have you loved us?
- How have we shown contempt for your name?
- How have we defiled you?

##### Our Father Is Faithful (2:10-3:12)

- How have we wearied him?
- How are we to return?
- How are we robbing you?

##### Our Father Spares Us from Destruction (3:13-4:6)

- What have we said against you?

### How have we shown contempt for your name?

(1:6-8) Describe the ways which Israel and its spiritual leaders showed contempt for the Lord's name.

## How have we defiled you?

(1:9-14) Rate God's anger over Israel's contempt for his name.

Annoyance

Severe Wrath



Appraise the way people have treated the Lord's name throughout history. How might we slip into the same sins?

(2:1-10) Gauge the severity of despising God's name and his gifts. What might these verses have to say to a pastor or church which adopts liberal false theology? What warnings does it have for your own life?

## How great the Father's love for us!

List some of the end goals the Lord desired as the priests honored him.



Identify at least four blessings that come when the Church honors the Lord's name. Explain why these blessings are only gifts of God's undeserved love.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

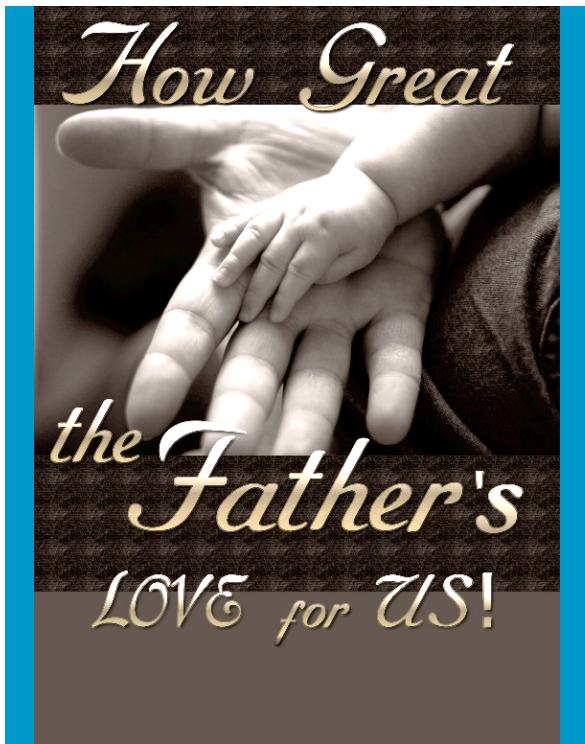
Explain what is meant by "the Lord's name" and how we are to honor it today.

### "NOW ASK FOR GOD'S FAVOR"

(1:9) Israel still expected to receive God's favor even as they displayed contempt for the Lord and defiled his altar. Share other examples of this type of attitude.

My covenant with him was life and peace, which I gave to him. It was a covenant of reverence, and he revered me. He respected my name.  
-Mal 2:5.

- For further study -  
Scan through Paul's letter to Titus to find what God desires from those who instruct others with his Word.  
Note the end goal.



# MALACHI

## Our Father is Faithful (2:10-3:12)

### How have we wearied him?

(2:10-11) In what sense is God the Father of all? Explain how the Lord is the Father of all, but there are still “daughters of foreign gods.” בַּת־אֱלֹהֵי נֹכַר [Note the NIV 2011 translates this phrase differently from most other translations].

(2:11-17) Describe Judah’s unfaithfulness and how the Lord responded.

Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us?

Rate God’s disgust over Israel’s unfaithfulness



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##### Our Father Spares Us from Destruction (3:13-4:6)

- What have we said against you?

Discuss the typical priorities people have when looking for a future spouse. What advice would you give to a Christian dating a person who does not worship the Lord?

2:17) Summarize the way people like to talk about sin today. Evaluate the ways your words might end up making the God of justice weary.

(3:1-5) Describe what it will be like when the Lord comes and what he will accomplish. Explain how this is fulfilled in Christ.

## How are we to return?

(3:6-7) God is faithful. His people were not. Explain what Judah's history teaches us about human nature and our condition without the gospel.

## How are we robbing you?

(3:8-12) God challenges the people of Judah to test his goodness. So, he attaches a promise of blessing for those who honor him. Some people today wrongly treat this as a get-rich plan. Explain why that would be an abuse of Scripture.

## How great the Father's love for us!

Share some of the blessings which believers in the New Testament Church are promised by God's rich grace when we honor him.

Find the gospel mentioned in these verses and share why it gives you comfort.

Explain what is meant by "marrying the daughter of a foreign god," and explain why the NIV 2011 chose to translate this phrase as "marrying women who worship a foreign god"

Agree / Disagree:  
God is against diversity.

I the Lord do not change.  
So you, the descendants  
of Jacob, are not  
destroyed.  
-Mal 3:6

- For further study –  
Scan the following to see what  
blessings you are promised as a  
disciple of Christ:

-Matthew 5:1-10

-Matthew 10:34-39

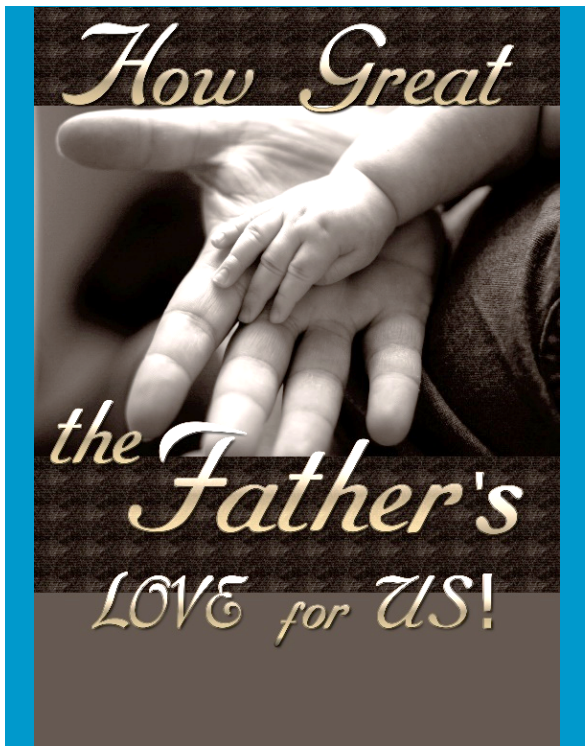
-Philippians 4:6-7

-2 Cor 1:7

-Eph 1:3

-James 1:12

-Rev 2:10



# MALACHI

## Our Father Spares Us from Destruction (3:13-4:6)

### What have we said against you?

(3:13-15) Identify the issue which caused the people to speak against the Lord.

List at least three biblical examples when it appeared like the wicked prospered and the righteous suffered.



Share some of the ways you have witnessed how it might sometimes appear like there is no clear distinction between those who serve God and those who do not.

You will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.  
-Mal 3:18

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(3:16) What point is there in worshipping the Lord? Share some of the blessings you have found whenever faithful believers gather for worship.

## The Lord spares those who fear him.

(3:17-18) The Lord will make clear the difference between the righteous and the wicked. Expand on how the Day of Judgment will lead to each description:

▶ “Treasured possession”

(Dt. 7:6; 1 Pe 2:9)

▶ “Spared” by God

(Ps 103:10-13)

(4:1-3) Describe what will happen on Judgement Day and rate the severity of division between the righteous and the wicked.

No Difference.

Absolute Opposites



## How great the Father’s love for us!

Explain how the Day of the Lord will be both “great and fearful.”

(4:4-6) The Lord sent his servants to prepare hearts for his coming. How does he continue to prepare us for his coming?

**Review** what Malachi reveals about our Father’s great love.

**Review** the seven questions the people had asked, and share some ways we can honor our faithful and merciful Father.

See Titus 2:11-14 to see what things currently make all believers distinct from unbelievers.

### “THE PROPHET ELIJAH”

Read Luke 1:11-17 & Matthew 17:10-13 to find out how this prophecy was fulfilled.

But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise, and there will be healing in its wings.  
- Mal 4:2.

- For further study –  
Compare Malachi 4 with 2 Peter 3:10-13.

- For further study –  
In Psalm 73 Asaph struggled with the same conflict as Malachi’s hearers.  
Explain how the apparent conflict is resolved for those who trust in the Lord.