### Malachi

## Chapter 1

1This is the matter of the word of Jehovah concerning IsraEl [that came] by the hand of His messenger.  
  
 [‘For God says:]  
  
 2‘I have loved you,’ says Jehovah...  
 ‘But you’ve asked:  
  
 ‘How have You loved us?’  
  
 ‘Wasn’t Esau the brother of Jacob?’ asked Jehovah,  
 ‘Yet, although I loved Jacob, 3I disliked [his brother];  
 So I ordered an end to his borders  
 And I gave him a home in the desert.  
  
 4‘And because Edom will say,  
 Although we’ve been cut down,  
 We’ll return and rebuild our [homes]…  
 For this,’ says Jehovah the Almighty;  
 ‘If they rebuild them, I’ll still knock them down;  
 For the ‘Lawless Borders,’ is what they’ll be called,  
 And a ‘People Opposed to Jehovah.’  
  
 5‘And when your eyes see this, you’ll say:  
  
 ‘Jehovah has been magnified  
 Far beyond IsraEl’s borders.’  
  
 6‘Fathers are glorified by their sons  
 And servants bring glory to their masters.  
 But if I’m your father, where is My glory?  
 And if I’m your Master, where is [your] fear?’  
  
 ‘...asks Jehovah the Almighty.  
  
 ‘You Priests treat My Name with contempt,  
 Then ask how you’ve shown it dishonor…  
 7By bringing unclean bread to My Altar!  
  
 ‘Then you ask how you’ve made it unclean…  
 You do it when you say that My table’s unclean,  
 And you treat it with contempt by the things that you bring!  
  
 8‘For, when you offer [a lamb] who’s blind;  
 Isn’t this something that’s evil?  
 And when you bring Me the lame and the ill;  
 Isn’t this [something that’s] wrong?  
  
 ‘Carry it instead to [your king]  
 (The man who [rules over] you)…  
 Will this gift bring you his favor?  
 Yes, when you present it to him,  
 Will he bestow honor upon you?’  
  
 ‘...asks Jehovah the Almighty...  
  
 ‘No!’  
  
 9‘Now, repent before the face of your God…  
 Yes, come before Me and beg!  
 With all the bad being done by your hands,  
 Should I accept such things from your souls?’  
  
 ‘...asks Jehovah the Almighty...  
  
 ‘No!’  
  
 10‘Thus to you, the doors will be closed…  
 So don’t come and ask for My favor  
 By igniting a fire on My Altar.  
  
 ‘There’s nothing at all that I need from you,’  
  
 ‘...says Jehovah the Almighty...  
  
 ‘So I won’t accept any [gifts] from your hands.  
  
 11‘Among the rest of the nations  
 (All from the sunrise to the sunset)  
 My Name has been glorified.  
 For, to My Name, they burn incense,  
 And what they offer before Me is pure!  
  
 ‘Yes My Name is great among even the gentiles,’  
  
 ‘...says Jehovah the Almighty...  
  
 12‘But, you still profane it whenever you say:  
  
 ‘The table of Jehovah is unclean!’  
  
 ‘And you treat the food that’s set before Me  
 As something that’s worthy of contempt.  
  
 13‘For you say:  
  
 ‘It’s just too much trouble...’  
  
 ‘And then, you [sniff in distain],’  
  
 ‘...says Jehovah the Almighty...  
  
 ‘As you bring Me game and the lame and the ill.  
  
 ‘Yes you’ve offered such things up to Me.  
 But, when I receive these things from your hands,  
 Do you think that I’ll show you favor?’  
  
 ‘...asks Jehovah the Almighty...  
  
 ‘No!’  
  
 14‘Cursed is the powerful man  
 Who has a male [sheep] in his flock  
 And whose vow [to Me] is now due…  
 But he offers Me something imperfect instead!  
 For, no one is greater than I,’  
  
 ‘...says Jehovah the Almighty…  
  
 ‘My Name is known among even the gentiles!’