

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Malachi

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| 1:1-5 | 2 |
| 1:8-14 | 3 |
| 2:1-9 | 4 |
| 2:17-3:5 | 6 |
| 3:6-12 | 7 |
| 4:1-6 | 8 |

1:1-5

Background: The Book of Malachi is about the prophecies that Malachi spoke to the Jews who had returned from Babylon to Judah. At that time, the Jews were discouraged even though they had finished building a new temple. The wonderful things that previous prophets had promised for Judah had not yet happened, and the Persian Empire still ruled over them. As a result, they no longer were concerned about the law or worshiping Yahweh. Malachi rebuked them for not trusting in Yahweh. But he also promised them that Yahweh would do everything that he promised to do.

This passage talks about Jacob and Esau. These two men were brothers. Jacob's descendants were the people of Israel. Esau's descendants were the people of Edom.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ These were the words of Malachi that Yahweh told him to say. [1:1]
- ☐ Yahweh said he loved Jacob, but he hated Esau and made his land an abandoned wilderness. [1:2-3]
- ☐ If Edom would rebuild, Yahweh would tear it down again. [1:4]
- ☐ Israel would praise Yahweh when they saw his power. [1:5]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who did these words of Yahweh to Israel come by? [1:1]
These words of Yahweh came by Malachi.
2. Whom did Yahweh love and whom did he hate? [1:2-3]
Yahweh loved Jacob, and he hated Esau.
3. What had Yahweh done with Esau's mountains and Esau's inheritance? [1:3]
Yahweh had made Esau's mountains an abandoned devastation and Esau's inheritance a place for the jackals of the wilderness.
4. What would Yahweh do if Edom returned and rebuilt the ruins? [1:4]
Yahweh said that they may rebuild, but he would throw it down again.
5. How would Israel respond when Yahweh would throw down the rebuilt ruins of Edom? [1:5]
Israel would respond by saying, "Great is Yahweh beyond the borders of Israel."

Comment Section:

1:8-14

Background: In these verses, Yahweh is speaking to the priests who were not offering the right kinds of sacrifices to honor him.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The priests offered blind, lame, and sick animals for sacrifices to Yahweh, but he said this was evil. [1:8]
- ☐ The priests asked Yahweh to be gracious to them, but because they made evil offerings, Yahweh would not do this. [1:9]
- ☐ Yahweh preferred that someone shut the temple gates to prevent them from offering these evil sacrifices. [1:10]
- ☐ Yahweh said the nations would give him good offerings, but the priests despised Yahweh for offering evil offerings. [1:11-14]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What kind of animals were the priests offering for sacrifice? [1:8]
The priests were offering blind, lame, and sick animals.
2. How would Yahweh respond to the priests when they asked him to be gracious to them? [1:9-10]
He would not be gracious to them because of the kinds of offerings they brought to him.
3. What did Yahweh prefer that someone would do? [1:10]
He preferred that someone would close the temple gates so they could no longer bring their evil offerings to his altar.
4. Who did Yahweh say would give him pure offerings and honor him? [1:11]
Yahweh said the nations throughout the world would do this.
5. How were the priests profaning the Lord's table? [1:12]
The priests were profaning his name when they said the Lord's table was polluted.
6. How did the priests regard the service of Yahweh? [1:13]
They regarded it as tiresome, and they snorted at it.
7. Who did Yahweh curse? [1:14]
He cursed anyone who sacrificed a flawed animal to him after they vowed to bring a male animal from their flock to him.

Comment Section:

2:1-9

Background: These verses mention a man named Levi. Levi was a son of Israel, and his descendants became one of the 12 tribes of Israel. Yahweh chose this tribe to be his priests.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ If the priests did not listen and did not honor Yahweh's name, he would send a curse on the priests, even cursing their blessings and descendants. [2:1-3]
- ☐ Yahweh's covenant would continue to be with Levi because Levi feared Yahweh and stood in awe of Yahweh's name. [2:4-6]
- ☐ The priest was to be a messenger of Yahweh, but they had turned away from the true path and caused many to stumble with respect to the law. [2:7-8]
- ☐ Because the priests had corrupted the covenant of Levi and had not made just decisions in matters of the law, Yahweh had humiliated them before all the people. [2:8-9]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. If the priests would not listen and would not honor the name of Yahweh of hosts, then what would happen? [2:2]
Yahweh would curse them and curse their blessings because they were not doing what Yahweh commanded them to do.
2. What was Yahweh going to do to their descendants and to the priests? [2:3]
Yahweh said he would rebuke their descendants and would spread dung from their festivals on the priest's faces.
3. Who would Yahweh's covenant continue to be with? [2:4]
It would continue to be with Levi.
4. What did Yahweh's covenant promise to give Levi? [2:5]
It promised to give him life and peace.
5. What was true about Levi? [2:6]
True instruction was in Levi's mouth, and nothing false was found on Levi's lips. He walked with God in peace and uprightness, and he turned many away from iniquity.
6. What were some things expected of a priest? [2:7]
A priest was to speak knowledge and people were to go to him for instruction, for he was a messenger of Yahweh of hosts.
7. What had the priests actually done? [2:8]
They stopped doing what was right, caused other people to stop doing what was right, and corrupted the covenant with Levi.

Malachi 2:1-9 continued

8. Why did Yahweh humiliate the priests before all the people? [2:9]

He did this because the priests showed partiality in matters of the law. This meant the priests were not fair to everyone when the priests judged them.

Comment Section:

2:17-3:5

Background: In these verses, Yahweh spoke to the priests and probably all the people of Israel.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Israel had wearied Yahweh with their words. [2:17]
- ☐ The people wearied God by saying everyone who was evil was good in the eyes of Yahweh. [2:17]
- ☐ Yahweh would send a messenger who would prepare the way before him who would be like fire and like soap. [3:1-2]
- ☐ The messenger would purify the sons of Levi, and then their offerings would be pleasing to Yahweh. [3:3-4]
- ☐ Yahweh would approach Israel for judgment and quickly witness against those who did not honor him. [3:5]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How did the Israelites weary Yahweh with their words? [2:17]
They did this by saying that the person who did evil was good in Yahweh's sight and Yahweh delighted in them, and by asking where the God of justice was.
2. What would happen after Yahweh sent his messenger of the covenant who would prepare his way? [3:1]
The Lord, whom Israel sought, would suddenly come to his temple.
3. What would the messenger be like? [3:2]
He would be like a refiner's fire and like laundry soap.
4. When would the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasing to Yahweh? [3:3]
It would be pleasing after the messenger purified the sons of Levi, when they were refined like gold and silver.
5. When Yahweh came to judge Israel, who would he witness against? [3:4-5]
He would witness against sorcerers, adulterers, liars, oppressors, those who did not help foreigners, and those who did not honor Yahweh.

Comment Section:

3:6-12

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh does not change, therefore the descendants of Jacob were not consumed. [3:6]
- ☐ Israel had turned away from Yahweh, but if they returned to Yahweh, he would return to them. [3:7]
- ☐ Israel robbed God in tithes and offerings. [3:8-9]
- ☐ If the people brought in their full tithe, Yahweh promised he would open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing on them. [3:10-11]
- ☐ All the nations would call Israel blessed in a land of delight. [3:12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Even though the people of Jacob turned aside from Yahweh's ordinances, why were they not consumed? [3:6]
They were not consumed because Yahweh does not change.
2. How did Israel turn away from Yahweh? [3:7]
They turned away by not keeping his statutes.
3. How had Israel robbed God? [3:8]
They had robbed God in tithes and offerings.
4. What did Yahweh tell the people to do with their tithe? [3:10]
He told them to bring the full tithe into the storehouse.
5. What did Yahweh promise would happen if Israel brought the full tithe into the storehouse? [3:10-12]
Yahweh would provide food, bless them abundantly, rebuke the one who destroyed their crops, and all the nations would call Israel blessed.

Comment Section:

4:1-6

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ On the day that was coming, the arrogant and evildoers would be burned up with nothing left. [4:1]
- ☐ The sun of righteousness would rise for those who feared Yahweh's name. [4:2]
- ☐ On the day that was coming, the righteous would trample down the wicked and they would be ashes under their feet. [4:3]
- ☐ Yahweh would send Elijah to turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, so that Yahweh would not curse the land. [4:5-6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. On the day that was coming, burning like a furnace, what would happen to the proud and evildoers? [4:1]
The proud and evildoers would be burnt up and become like stubble.
2. What would happen for those who feared Yahweh? [4:2]
The sun of righteousness would rise with healing in its wings.
3. What would those who feared Yahweh's name do on that day? [4:2-3]
They would go out leaping like calves from the stall and trample down the wicked.
4. What would happen to the wicked on that day? [4:3]
On that day the wicked would be trampled down and would be ashes under the feet of the righteous.
5. What did Yahweh command all Israel to do? [4:4]
He commanded them to obey the law of his servant Moses.
6. What would Yahweh do before the day of Yahweh? [4:5-6]
He would send Elijah to turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, so that Yahweh would not attack and completely destroy the land.

Comment Section: