

Love in Hard Places (Malachi 1:1-5)

- 1 John 4:7 “God is love”- all of God’s perfections/ attributes flow from here
- All God’s dealings with His Old Covenant people – preparing for Messiah
- Old covenant saints saved by faith in promise of Christ in the New Covenant
- Jeremiah 33:31-33 – God would make a better covenant Christ would usher in
- Malachi – heart of the problem is a problem of the heart in worshiping God

A. Background and Context

- Malachi was a post exilic prophet: Israel had returned after exile in Babylon
- Israel rebuilt the temple and re-instituted the sacrificial system (Ezra/Nehemiah)

B. The Context During Malachi’s Ministry

- State of Israel: depressing, apathy & indifference to the worship of the LORD
- Did not see Zachariah & Haggai’s prophecy being fulfilled in any way

C. The Message of Malachi Then and Now

- God accuses Israel and Israel responds in defense of her apathy & indifference

I. God’s Message to His People (You have Denied My Love) (v.1)

- Malachi was burdened with a message for God’s people by the Holy Spirit

a) I Have Loved You from the Beginning (1:2-3)

- The fact that they were God’s people was proof that God had loved them
- Jacob I have loved but Esau I have hated – God chose them & rejected others

II. I Love You Now in The Present (1:4)

- God preserved Jacob & gave him land while Esau & Edom received nothing

III. My Love Will Win Out in The Future (1:5)

- “your eyes shall see & say” God will defeat all of His peoples enemies finally

Revelation 22: 4