

A Make or Break Moment

Malachi 2:1-4

God's Messenger to a Disillusioned Nation, part 5

- The priestly office was a high and holy calling. God chose the tribe of Levi to be his tribe of priests, and God Himself was to be their inheritance. (Deut.18:1,2)

Lev. 10:8-11; Deut. 27:9; 31:9-13; 33:8-11; Numbers 6:24-26

- What were the responsibilities of the OT priests? They were to:
 - 1.) OBEY His Word, Lev.10:8-11
 - 2.) GUARD the Covenant; Deut.33:9
 - 3.) TEACH the Law; Deut. 31:10-13; 33:10
 - 4.) OFFER sacrifices upon the Lord's altar; Deut. 33:10

Deut.27:9: And Moses and the priests the Levites spake unto all Israel, saying, Take heed, and hearken, O Israel; this day thou art become the people of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt therefore obey the voice of the LORD thy God, and do his commandments and his statutes, which I command thee this day. (2 Chronicles 15:3; 17:7-10; 2 Chronicles 35:3)

- Malachi confronts the evil priests who had to repent or be swept away in order that the covenant God made with Levi would continue to stand.
- At a make or break moment to here is how to "make it" and not "break it:"

1. Obey God's Clear Commandment, v.1, 2a

- So what is the commandment of verse 1?

v.2: To give glory to God's NAME and thus obey God and fulfill their purpose as priests.

2. Beware of God's Dreadful Consequences, v.2b-3

- There is a two-fold threat that God will curse their blessing: the blessing of their family and their ministry.

A. The Curse upon the Family: God will rebuke their seed:

B. The Curse upon the Ministry: God will spread dung on their faces:

- 1.) In very coarse language, God is saying that the priest's sacrifices were not acceptable and neither were they. God will publicly expose & humiliate them for

their crimes of disobedience. They will be removed from the sanctuary to the trash heap and forfeit their privileged ministry.

2.) What a radical reversal of their privileged priestly position!

Numbers 6:25: "The LORD make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee"

3. Remain LOYAL to God's Covenant, v.4

Deuteronomy 33:10; "For they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant."

Conclusion:

- We are a "holy" and "royal" priesthood called to "offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" and to "show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:5, 9)