

REVIEW

A. HISTORY

1. contemporary of Nehemiah (c.435-415 BC)
2. resentful disappointment after return, rebuilds (temple, Jerusalem; e.g., Hag.2:9)
3. defection in worship & life by priests & people (i.e., sacrifices, tithes, teaching, marriage, justice)
4. promises: eternal love, restorative repentance and timely salvation (1:1f; 3:1f)

B. STRUCTURE

1. letter to the church (compare Rev.2,3; see Mal.3:7; Rev.2:5)
2. disputations: talking back to God! (1:2,6,7,14,17; 3:7,8,13; note: satire; Mt.15:5; Rom.9:20; Is.29:16)
3. chiasm: center focus ([A] oracle; [B] righteous/wicked; [C] vain worship; [D] broken covenant X [D] broken covenant; [C] vain worship; [B] righteous/wicked; [A] law & prophet)

C. NEW TESTAMENT

1. Jacob/Esau (1:2,3; Rom.9:13)
2. My messenger (3:1; Mt.11:10; Mk.1:2; Lk.7:27)
3. send Elijah (4:5; Mt.11:14; 17:10f; Mk.9:11f; Lk.1:17; Jn.1:21)

SECOND DISPUTATION: THE PEOPLE OF GOD DESPISE HIM! (1:6,7; 6-14)

A. BACKGROUND: INFINITE, ETERNAL & UNCHANGEABLE LOVE! (1:2,1-6; see Dt.7:7f; Rom.9:1f; Eph.1:4; 1Jn.4:19; Mt.22:37f)

B. CONSENSUS: HONOR DUE (6a; see Ex.20:12; Eph.6:2f.5f)

C. VERDICT: DISHONOR GIVEN (6b; see Jn.8:49)

D. PROOFS (6b-8)

1. defiled **food**: blind, lame, sick (7a,8a; see Lev.22:22 /Num.18:12 /Ex.12:5; Num.19:2; 1Pt.1:19; Heb.9:14)
2. despised **table** (7b; Lev.6:26; 7:15f; see 2Sam.9:7; Lk.22:30)
3. illustration: human honor (8b; contrast *the Lord of hosts*; 2K.6:17)

E. EXHORTATION: HUMBLE YOURSELVES FOR GRACE (9 /Ex.33:19; Ps.57:1; Is.30:19; Jms.4:10,6f)

F. DESPERATION: NOTHING IS BETTER (10; see Is.1:13)

G. PROPHECY: NAME, NATIONS – *EARNEST PRAYER, PURE OFFERINGS* –NAME, NATIONS (11; see Gen.12:3; Is.42:6; 56:87; 60:11; 66:20; Mt.28:18f; Acts 13:46; Rom.11:11f; 15:16)

H. PROOFS

1. defiled **table**: bored sigh/outburst (12a,13a; see 7b)
2. despised **food**: robbery, lame, sick; deceit (12b,13b,14a; see 7a,8a; see Num.21:5)

I. PROPHECY: NAME REVERENTLY HONORED AMONG THE NATIONS (14b, see 11; see 6,1)

J. SUMMARY: GOD DOES *NOT* WANT ANY OF *THIS!* (10b; see 8b,9b,13b versus 11)

WHAT GOD WANTS! (1:2,9,11; see Dt.7:7f; Rom.9:1f; Eph.1:4; 1Jn.4:19; Mt.22:37f)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)