

We will now begin the tenth lecture on Minor Prophets. /Today we will begin with the book of Malachi. /Malachi is the last book that was recorded in the Old Testament Bible. /“Malachi” is the name of a prophet. /It means, “my messenger” or “my angel.”

/It means, messenger or angel. /The book of Malachi was recorded between 440 BC and 410 BC. /440-410 BC. /The prophet Malachi rebuked the religious evils in the time of Nehemiah.

/Therefore, we can confirm that the prophet Malachi lived in the same time as Nehemiah. /In the book of Malachi, the prophet records prophecies about John the Baptist and Christ. /Malachi 3:4.

/He prophesies that God would send Elijah before Jesus’ first coming. /3:1. /This is the prophecy about John the Baptist. /Then it shows that Jesus would come and judge the sinful world.

/It records the prophecies about Jesus’ first coming and Jesus’ return. /At that time, the Israelites failed to properly give offerings to God, even though they said that they worshiped God.

/Thus, the people ignored the regulations of God’s holy law. /The people thought, “We can offer anything to God.” /1:7, 8. /The people were also morally and ethically corrupted at the time.

/The people married foreign women, and they lost their innocence as God’s children. /2:10-16. /The prophet Malachi awakened the Israelites in such a historic time.

/Now, we will move on to the introduction. /First, God’s love. /1:1-5. /Second, Malachi rebukes the high priests. /1:6-2:9. /Third, he rebukes the wrong marriages. /2:10-17.

/Fourth, prophecy about the coming Messiah. /It is prophesied that God would send his messenger before the Messiah comes. /3:1-6. /Fifth, Malachi rebukes the people for not giving God what they should give him. /3:7-12. /Sixth, God speaks of the future of the righteous and the wicked. /3:13-4:6.

/Read Malachi 1:1. /An oracle: The word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.

/The title of chapter 1 is “Diseased Sacrifices.” /First, God loved Jacob and hated Esau. /Verses 1-5. /Second, the Israelites show contempt for God. /Verses 6-7. /Third, do not sacrifice diseased animals. /Verses 8-10. /Fourth, the nations will return to the Lord. /Verse 11. /Fifth, do not defile the name of the Lord. /Verses 12-14.

/Read Malachi 1:1 again. /An oracle: The word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.

/Malachi was the last prophet of the Old Testament. /Here, God rebukes the Israelites

through the prophet Malachi. /2 Timothy 3:16 /God rebuked and disciplined them with his word.

/Verses 2-3. /"I have loved you," says the LORD. "But you ask, 'How have you loved us?' "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" the LORD says. "Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his mountains into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals."

/God poured out infinite love on the Israelites. /However, the Israelites did not understand how much God loved them. /They lived by God's grace, but they did not give thanks to God.

/They were like fish in water that did not know how to give thanks for water. /They were like people who did not know how to be thankful for oxygen. /When the Israelites encountered sufferings and hardships, they wrongly believed that God no longer loved them.

/We must believe in the midst of hardships and persecutions that God loves us till the end. /Next, God said, "I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated." /This teaches God's choice of love.

/God chose Jacob and he abandoned Esau. /God did not choose Esau. /Romans 9:10-13 /It says that the older will serve the younger. /This is an unconditional choice.

/God chose some while they were in their mothers' womb, and God abandoned some. /Genesis 25:23 /Thus, God sent Jesus because he loved his chosen believers. /Christ died on the cross and redeemed us believers. /How great is this love? Romans 8:32.

/God loved the Israelites and would love them until the end. /God loved us and he will love us until the end. /However, God neglected the tribe of Esau. /Their mountains became a wasteland. /God left their inheritance to the desert jackals. /This prophecy is also written in Ezekiel 35:3.

/Verse 4. /Edom may say, "Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins." But this is what the LORD Almighty says: "They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the LORD.

/Edom is the tribe of Esau. /They forsook God and sinned. /Thus, their cities were destroyed through God's judgment. /Jeremiah 49:10

/They did not repent, and they attempted to build the temple with their own strength. /However, God would demolish the city. /No matter how hard man may try to build something up, it will all fall if God does not protect him. /Psalm 127:1

/Verse 5. /You will see it with your own eyes and say, 'Great is the LORD-- even beyond the borders of Israel!'

/God is greater than the borders of Israel. /God would judge Edom through foreign nations. /The foreign nations would see the greatness of God. /The foreign nations would be afraid when they saw God and his judgment.

/Verse 6. /"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD Almighty. "It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. "But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?'

/Here, God gives an example of a relationship between a father and his son, and a servant and his master. /God is our Father and we are God's children. /God is our Master and we are his servants.

/However, the Israelites showed contempt for God. /The people did not fear God. /They did not honor God. /God is our spiritual Father. /Deuteronomy 32:6 /Isaiah 1:2 /Hosea 11:1

/The people formally gave sacrifices to God. /They gave defiled food and blind animals to God. /This is written in verse 8. /Then they said that they did nothing wrong. /In this way, the Israelites were not upright before God, but they mistakenly thought that they served God well.

/Verse 7. /"You place defiled food on my altar. "But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?' "By saying that the LORD's table is contemptible.

/The Israelites offered defiled food to God. /They formally gave sacrifices to God. /They were also stingy with their sacrifices, and forced themselves to give them to God. /They also gave sacrifices for their own glory and honor. /2 Corinthians 9:7

/Verse 8. /When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the LORD Almighty.

/The Israelites gave blind, crippled, and diseased animals to God. /God does not accept offerings like that. /Leviticus 22:22 /It says there, do not offer injured animals to God.

/In the Old Testament times, the offerings that were given to God symbolized the coming Christ. /It symbolized that Jesus would be our atonement offering. /However, to offer blind, crippled, and diseased animals was to show contempt for Jesus Christ.

/Today, we must worship God in spirit and in truth. /We ourselves must be blameless offerings before God. /We must go to church and wholeheartedly worship God.

/We must worship God in a way that is acceptable before God. /People do not offer blind

and diseased animals to their governor. /Therefore, we must not offer diseased animals to the Lord God Almighty.

/Verse 9. /"Now implore God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?"-- says the LORD Almighty.

/The Israelites gave flawed offerings to God, and they wanted blessings. /God does not accept such offerings. /God does not listen to such prayers. /Isaiah 1:13-15

/God desires broken spirits. /Psalm 15:15 /We must worship God in spirit and in truth. /John 4:23 /1 Corinthians 1:24 /2 Corinthians 9:7

/Verse 10. /"Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD Almighty, "and I will accept no offering from your hands.

/God does not accept offerings with flaws.

/Verse 11. /My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations," says the LORD Almighty.

/God's name would be great among the nations. /Foreign peoples would believe in Jesus Christ and become living offerings before God. /All believers would be blessed through Jesus Christ.

/Anyone who repents and returns can receive blessings through Jesus. /The foreign nations would serve God through faith in Jesus. /Then believers would lift God's name on high.

/Verse 12. /"But you profane it by saying of the Lord's table, 'It is defiled,' and of its food, 'It is contemptible.'

/They said, "The Lord's table is defiled." /This meant that the people said it was all right even when they give defiled food and diseased sacrifices to God. /They said, "It is defiled." "It is contemptible."

/The people said that it was all right even when they gave defiled food and diseased animals to God. /Today, believers defy the Bible and think that it is okay.

/We must consider worship to God, holy. /We must not defile the name of God. /We must be flawless before God in worship and in our lives.

/Verse 13. /And you say, 'What a burden!' and you sniff at it contemptuously," says the LORD Almighty. "When you bring injured, crippled or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?" says the LORD.

/The Israelites considered it a burden to serve God. /They considered giving offerings to God a burden. /Today, believers consider it a burden to give offerings to God, worship, and attend early morning services.

/The Israelites brought injured, crippled, and diseased animals to God. /We must give flawless offerings to God. /Today, we must give flawless worship to God.

/For example, we must not be late for worship or fall asleep during service. /Our hearts must not become scattered during worship. /We must worship God with all our hearts.

/Verse 14. /"Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king," says the LORD Almighty, "and my name is to be feared among the nations.

/It is acceptable to give flawless sacrifices to God. /Leviticus 22:18-19 /The Israelites did not use their conscience, but offered money that they wrongfully earned before God. /We must always be acceptable before God, and we must give acceptable worship to God.

/We will continue with Malachi chapter 2. /The title of chapter 2 is "Divorce."

/First, give glory to the Lord. /Verses 1-3. /Second, keep the covenant made with Levi. /Verses 4-9. /Third, the Lord rebukes the unfaithful. /Verses 10-16. /Fourth, do not weary the Lord. /Verse 17.

/Read verses 1-2. /"And now this admonition is for you, O priests. If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor my name," says the LORD Almighty, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor me.

/The priests were the representatives of Israel. /They had the responsibility of giving offerings to God as representatives of the people. /Therefore, God rebukes the priests here, which meant that God rebuked the entire people of Israel.

/At the time, the priests did not listen to the Lord. /They did not keep the Lord's words in their hearts. /They did not glorify God. /Man's greatest goal must be to glorify God. /1 Corinthians 10:31

/When man does not listen to God, they have already received curses. /Therefore, we must obey God's word, and we must glorify God.

/Verse 3. /"Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will spread on your faces the offal from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it.

/Here, "your descendants" refer to the people's descendants. /God would rebuke the Israelites' descendants. /It says, "I will spread on your faces the offal from your festival

sacrifices." /This meant that they would be humiliated.

/Verse 4. /And you will know that I have sent you this admonition so that my covenant with Levi may continue," says the LORD Almighty.

/Verse 5. /"My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name.

/There was a covenant between God and Levi. /The tribe of Levi was the tribe that brought up priests. Priests came from the tribe of Levi. /Therefore, the "covenant with Levi" is the covenant about offerings. /1 Chronicles 6:49

/People believed Christ through these offerings. /The covenant was a form of communication with God through the forgiveness of sins through the blood of Christ. /The contents of the covenant were life and peace.

/It meant that God would give life and peace through Jesus Christ. /Then it says, "he revered me and stood in awe of my name." /The descendants of Levi revered God and feared God's name. /Aaron and the true priests revered God.

/Verse 6. /True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin.

/The upright priests from the tribe of Levi in the past kept the covenant. /The true priests had the truth. /Nothing false was found on his lips. /They walked in peace and uprightness. /They walked with God.

/They changed the hearts of many people and turned them from sin. /We too must uphold the duties of these priests. /We must become like them. /We must lead others to the road of truth.

/Verse 7. /"For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction-- because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty.

/The priests were to preserve knowledge. /They were to walk down the road of truth. /Then they were to seek the law. /However, the priests at the time did not do any of this.

/Today, we must keep God's word. /We must keep the truth. /We must lead others to the right road.

/Verse 8. /But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi," says the LORD Almighty.

/The priests turned from the law. /They also made others turn from the law. /They also caused many others to stumble. /When the priests did not correctly teach the Bible, the believers stumbled over the Bible.

/The believers did not live according to the Bible. /The church became corrupted. /Pastors became corrupted. /Believers became corrupted. /Hence, the covenant of Levi would be destroyed.

/Then the priests abandoned the covenant. /They left the truth. /They gave offerings to God and worshiped God, but they did not properly serve God.

/Verse 9. /"So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law."

/The priests did not keep God's word. /The people also most certainly did not keep God's word. /Therefore, God said that they would be despised and humiliated. /Pastors are respected by believers when they properly teach the Bible.

/However, pastors will be despised if they do not properly teach the Bible. /When we despise God's word, we despise God. /Those who despise God's word will be despised before God. /Those who honor God will be considered worthy before God.

/Verse 10. /Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our fathers by breaking faith with one another?

/The Israelites served one God. /They were all brothers. /However, the people broke faith with their brothers. /Then they profaned the covenant of their forefathers. /The "covenant of our fathers" is the covenant of Levi.

/It was the covenant of life and peace. /This is written in verse 5. /They despised and profaned their brothers. /Jesus became the sacrifice of atonement according to the covenant of Levi. /The Lord sacrificed Himself for us.

/The Lord forgave us of our sins. /We too must forgive others of their sins. /We received cancelation of our sins of ten thousand talents. /Therefore, we must forgive others for their wrongdoings.

/Verse 11. /Judah has broken faith. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the LORD loves, by marrying the daughter of a foreign god.

/The "sanctuary" is the holy place. /God told the people not to marry foreign women. /Deuteronomy 7:3 /However, the people of Judah married daughters who served foreign gods, and hence, the holy place became defiled.

/Foreign religions entered Israel through daughters of foreign gods. /Solomon did this. /1 Kings 11:1-8 /God told the people not to marry foreigners. /Deuteronomy 7:3 /Genesis 6:2

/We must not get married through greed. /Believers must not marry unbelievers.
/Therefore, we must protect the sanctuary. /We must protect our families.

/Verse 12. /As for the man who does this, whoever he may be, may the LORD cut him off from the tents of Jacob--even though he brings offerings to the LORD Almighty.

/The “man who does this” refer to those who actively sin. /It refers to the sins of the leaders. /It also refers to those who passively sin. /It refers to the people who are led by the leaders.

/There were people who actively sinned when they married foreigners. /Some people passively married foreigners. /God said that he would cut them off from the tents of Jacob. /This meant that God would cut them off from his seat of blessings.

/Verse 13. /Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands.

/Verse 14. /You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

/God rebuked those who married foreign women. /From verse 13, God rebukes those who divorced their wives. /The people got married and then chased out their wives.

/In verse 13, the tears and wailings of the wives who were chased out flooded the Lord's altar. /This was God's rebuke of the people for improperly divorcing their wives.
/Families were broken through these divorces.

/We must keep our promises of marriage. /We must not get divorces because we want to, because God gave us our partners. /Matthew 19:1 /Proverbs 2:17 /Proverbs 5:15 /We must not falsely accuse others. /When we falsely accuse our wives, communication will be cut between God and us.

/Jesus spoke in Matthew 5:23, 24. /“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, /leave your gift there in front of the altar. /First go and be reconciled to your brother; /then come and offer your gift.” /We must be in harmony with God. /We must also be in harmony with our neighbors.

/Verse 15. /Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

/The flesh and spirit belong to the Lord. /This means that the Lord is almighty. /God chose one wife for one husband from the beginning. /Genesis 2:24 /Matthew 19:4-6

/God did this because he wanted to give godly offspring. /God gives godly children through godly families. /It says, "So guard yourself in your spirit." /This is the Lord telling us to live life in spirit.

/This is the Lord telling us to throw away desires of the flesh and desires of the eyes. 1 John 2:15, 16 /God hates divorce and abuse of one's wife. /Proverbs 5:18

/Verse 16. /"I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.

/It says, "I hate a man's covering himself with violence." /This means that husbands must not abuse their wives. /Ruth 3:9 /Ezekiel 16:8 /Revelation 19:8

/Verse 17. /You have wearied the LORD with your words. "How have we wearied him?" you ask. By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them" or "Where is the God of justice?"

/The Israelites wearied God with their words. /Those who do evil say that they do good even while they behave wickedly. /The wicked weary God, but they do not realize it. /What do people do to weary God? /They act in wickedness.

/Then the wicked say, "Where is the God of justice?" They deny God. /Isaiah 43:24 /We must fear God's justice and judgment. /We also sin when we defy God's word. /Therefore, we must serve God in fear and with trembling.

/We will conclude the tenth lecture on the Minor Prophets. /Thank you.