

Messages from the Minor Prophets # 12

How have you loved us?

Malachi 1:2-5

Malachi



Malachi





**The book of Malachi is a dispute between God and His people.**

**The people are disillusioned, defiant and distant.**

**They feel God has let them down.**

**Eight times in the book God makes a statement and the people dispute it.**

## Malachi 1:2-5

2 "I have loved you," says the Lord. But you say, "How hast Thou loved us?" "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the Lord. "Yet I have loved Jacob; 3 but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation, and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness." 4 Though Edom says, "We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins"; thus says the Lord of hosts, "They may build, but I will tear down; and men will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom the Lord is indignant forever." 5 And your eyes will see this and you will say, "The Lord be magnified beyond the border of Israel!"



**The basis of the dispute –  
does God love us?**

**Yes, it is rooted in their very history.**

**Deuteronomy 7:7-8**

**7 The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples,  
8 but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the Lord brought you out by a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.**



**God doesn't only love them now.**

**God didn't love them only in the past.**

**God's  
Love**

**GOD LOVED THEM IN THE PAST  
AND CONTINUES TO LOVE THEM!**



## **The blunder in the dispute – how God has loved them**

**The people are challenging God and denying God's love for them.**

**To deny God's love is to deny God.**

**The denial of God's love leads to other sins.**



**The sins of which they are guilty:**

**Despising God's name**

**Defiling the worship of God**

**Corrupt priests**

**Accusing God of indifference**

**Robbing God**

**Arrogance toward God**





**How they have disregarded  
God's love for them:**

**They have forgotten God's choice of Jacob.**

**They have ignored the fact that Edom has  
fallen and would never rise to power again.**

**Arrogance toward God**



## **Application: Malachi's message for today's world**

**The absence of dispute – the rejection of God**

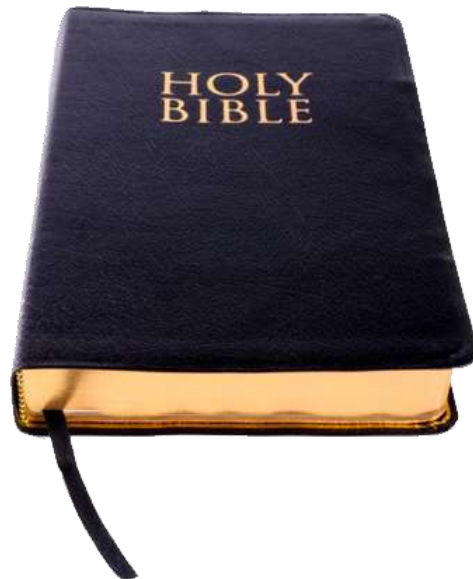
**The absence of dispute – anything and everything is ok**

**The absence of dispute – down at church**

# Sad attitudes in a sad world:

**God**

**Man**



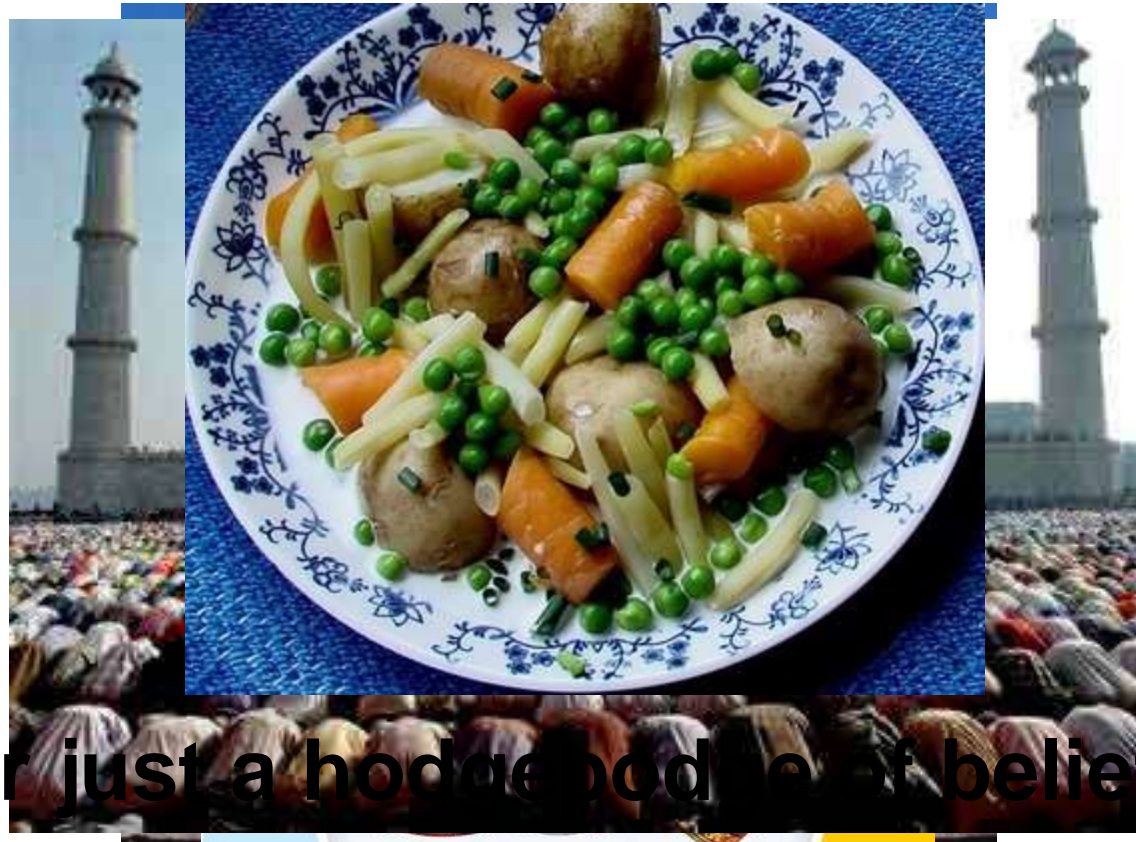
**The rejection  
of God**







**In the general religious world today: anything and everything is ok**



**Or just a hodgepodge of beliefs.**



## **Down at church...**

**We give God just enough time to ease our conscience.**

**We don't have the courage to give God the wholehearted love and service He deserves.**

**In other words, we practice practical atheism.**



# **The abandoning of dispute – relinquishing the gifts of God**

**God loved us.**

**God chose us.**

**God fought for us.**

**God waits for us.**





**“Although brought up in conventional religion, he had long since discarded it, and did not notice the loss.”**

**Written of T. E. Lawrence by B. H. L. Hart in *Lawrence of Arabia***



*Please, never, ever doubt the love of God.*