

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of October 3, 2021

### THEME: "Malachi's Message" GOD'S LOVE

#### **Sunday** ..... **Read Malachi 1:1-2**

*"The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi: I have loved you, saith the Lord."* Of all the wonderful attributes of God, love is the one that truly defines our amazing Creator. God, having made us in His image and after His likeness, obviously wants love to define all of us. This is especially true of those who have made the decision to receive Christ as personal Savior and Lord! And it should be a love in word and deed. Jesus said this about Christian love in John 13:35: *"By this shall all men know ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* One real evidence of the love of Christ is described in Matthew 9:36: *"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep with no shepherd."* The love of God the Father is detailed in John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* That is the epitome of love: the sacrifice of His Son. To reject that love of God by failing to become a follower of Jesus who paid the penalty of sin for all sinners, actually incurs the wrath of God. That is what we are told in John 3:35: *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not on the Son of God shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."* Just as God is love, so He is holy! God guards His holiness, an important characteristic of His heaven. Sinners not cleansed by the blood of Christ are not allowed in heaven.

#### **UNACCEPTABLE WORSHIP**

#### **Monday** ..... **Read Malachi 1:6-14**

*"Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! And ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of hosts: and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick: thus ye brought as offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the Lord."* Jesus taught us this about worship in John 4:23-24: *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."* It is important that we notice the emphasis Jesus placed on spirit and truth. A lot of worship in the world today, arguably most worship, focuses on falsehood; false gods and false religions. Worship inconsistent with God's truth as revealed in the Bible is actually an abomination to God. That is precisely what we are told in Proverbs 15:8 and 28:9: *"The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is His delight...He that turns his ear away from hearing the law, even his prayer is abomination."* All humans have a built-in craving to worship, and all will worship. If not according to God's truth as revealed in Holy Scriptures, they will come up with false gods, sometimes even manmade idols. That worship is abomination to God. False worship brings delight only to the devil, God's enemy.

#### **GOD'S COVENANT**

#### **Tuesday** ..... **Read Malachi 2:4-6**

*"My covenant was with him of life and peace: and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name."* Our God is a God of covenants: eternally secure promises. The Old Testament is God's covenant with Israel; the New Testament details God's covenant with both Jews and Gentiles alike. The New Covenant is a better covenant because it depends on God's faithfulness alone; whereas the Old Covenant depended on human faithfulness as well; and humans fall short. The New Covenant was introduced by

Jesus at the Last Supper just before His crucifixion. By His shedding His blood on the cross of Calvary, Jesus satisfied the law of God for forgiveness of sin. The perfect Lamb of God paid for the sins of all mankind, and all who confess they are sinners and receive Jesus as Savior are eternally forgiven! That is God's covenant!

### **SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE**

**Wednesday ..... Read Malachi 2:14-15**

*"Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy youth. And did He not make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That He might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of thy youth."* God likens His relationship with believers to a marriage, a spiritual marriage. In the Old Testament, the nation of Israel was His bride. In the New Testament, the true Church, made up of all born-again believers, is the Bride of Christ, who is the Bridegroom. So important is this union that any effort to dissolve the relationship is considered treason, the highest of crimes. That says something about the marriage of a man and a woman. God's plan is for a marriage to be a lifetime bond. It is through a marriage that God decided to populate His earth. All humans born into the human race have a mother and a father. That is the plan of God.

### **ANTICIPATION OF MESSIAH**

**Thursday ..... Read Malachi 3:1-2**

*"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to thy temple."* Throughout Old Testament days, the Jews were looking for the promised Messiah to rule planet earth from Jerusalem on the throne of David. That still is Israel's hope, and now Christians as well. What the Hebrews failed to realize was that their Messiah must first suffer a crucifixion mentioned in Daniel 9:26: *"After threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off..."* Looking back, we now know that God used John the Baptist to introduce Jesus, the Messiah, as the Lamb of God in John 1:29. That introduction was not the King of the Jews because that would have been premature on God's calendar for His people and His planet earth. Before God could allow people into heaven, He had to clean them up from their sin. The only way that could be done to satisfy God's holy law was through the blood of a perfect, spotless Lamb. That law is stated this way in Leviticus 17:11: *"It is the blood that makes an atonement for the soul."*

### **FAITHFUL GIVING**

**Friday ..... Read Malachi 3:8-10**

*"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."* The prophet Malachi details the practice of tithing by God's people, the means of support for God's work in earth. Not only is giving to God a high privilege with wonderful eternal rewards, it is an expectation and a responsibility. God uses strong language when he refers to the failure to tithe as robbery. Obviously, God considered ten per cent as His. Many say that is an Old Testament law and not applicable to the New Covenant Believers must make that personal decision, but there is no question God does honor those committed to tithing. The ruling principle for giving in the New Covenant is well stated in II Corinthians 9:7: *"Every man according as he purposes in his heart,*

*so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.*" Christians should be happy to give to God!

### **CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

**Saturday.....Read Malachi 3:16-18**

*"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name."* One of the truly great benefits of the Christian life is the fellowship we have with other believers. It truly is a special bond. No wonder God calls believers His family as implied in our Lord's instruction for prayer in Matthew 6:9: *"After this manner pray ye: Our Father, which art in heaven..."* From our reading today in Malachi 3, it appears that God records those times of Christian fellowship! Is that not similar to families keeping a family album as a remembrance of the good times of fellowship. Or today, things like the cell phone so we can share those wonderful times for days to come. Yes, books of remembrances of His family are important to God; He kept a book of remembrance as an eternal record of wonderful Christian fellowship!