1 - **Questions For God?
Lessons From Malachi**

2 - **Context Of Malachi - “My Messenger”**

* **606 BC - first captives taken by Babylon.**
* **597 BC - second group taken captive.**
* **586 BC - Jerusalem and temple destroyed.**

**Babylonian Captivity**

* **536 BC - 2 years after Babylon falls to the Medes/Persians, Cyrus allows the Jews to return after 70 years. (Jeremiah 29:10-14)**

3 - **Context Of Malachi -** “My Messenger”

* **536 BC** - 2 years after Babylon falls to the Medes/Persians, Cyrus allows the Jews to return. (Jeremiah 29:10-14)
* **520**-**516 BC** - Temple finally completed. (Ezra 6:15)
* 458 BC - **Ezra** leads a **2nd remnant** to return and leads the people to restore **temple worship**.
* 444 BC - **Nehemiah** leads a **3rd remanant** to return and **rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem**.
* **432 BC** - Malachi prophsies continuing Nehemiah’s work.

4 - **Message Of Malachi -** “My Messenger”

* This is God’s message! ***“Thus says the Lord of Hosts”*** used 55 times.
* **Unique literary style** in the form of a debate or challenge.
* **“Didactic-dialectic”** form of public speaking.
1. **Assertion or charge** is made.
2. **An objection to the charge** is made **in the form of a question**.
3. The **objection is responded to** with evidence.

5 - **1 - How Have You Loved Us? (1:2)**

* Response to God’s assertion, ***“I have loved you”***.
* **God chose the descendants of Jacob** to bestow His love. (Deuteronomy 4:37; 7:7-8)
* God loved us and chose us! (John 3:16; 2 Thess. 2:13)
* **Do we doubt God’s love for us** when we suffer? (Romans 8:31-39; Hebrews 12:6)
* Even when we’re ***“backsliding”*** (Hosea 14:4; NKJV) and rebellious, God still loves us!
(Romans 5:6-8)

6 - **2 - How Have We Despised Your Name? (1:6)**

* God’s assertion, you are “***priests, who despise My name***.”
* By “***presenting defiled food on My altar***”. (vs. 7)
* “*But you say****’ how have we defiled You***?”
* “You say, ‘***the table of the Lord is to be despised***’”. (vs. 7)
* ***“How have we despised Your name?”***
* God’s argument: **you treat your fathers (w/ honor)** and **masters (w/ fear) better than Me!**

7 - **2 - How Have We Despised Your Name? (1:6)**

***“When you present the blind (and the lame and the sick) for sacrifice, is it not evil? …****Why not offer it to your Governor? Would he be pleased with you?”* (vs. 8)

* Understanding the law of first/best fruits. (Exodus 23:19; Proverbs 3:19) Does Matthew 6:33 apply?

It begs the question, **what is it that we sacrifice to God?** (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:5; Hebrews 13:15; 2 Samuel 24:24) **The first and the best of our time, blessings & abilities?**

8 - **2 - How Have We Despised Your Name? (1:6)**

**The solution: *“Will you not entreat God’s favor?”* (vs. 9)**

* **Will we seek God’s favor by sacrificing unto Him our first and best? (Joel 2:12-14) If we do,** will He not bless?
* **If not,** if **worship is wearying (Isaiah 43:22; 1 John 5:3),** God says, ***“shut the gates”* (cf., Isaiah 1:13). (vs. 10-14)**
* **By failing to “*take it to heart*” & preach/teach God’s word faithfully. (2:1-9)**