

# The Irreverence of Israel

## Malachi 1:6

### Introduction:

- A. When Malachi prophesied, Israel was sowing the seeds of destruction by their irreverence for God..
  - 1. “Burden” was an oracle or utterance of doom (v. 1; cf. Zech. 9:1; 12:1).
  - 2. In time of Nehemiah — 445-432 BC — After second group returned from captivity.
  - 3. Israel had learned little from captivity — became corrupt, wicked and arrogant.
  - 4. God’s last warning to Israel until the Messiah came.
    - a. The coming of Messiah would bring opportunity of for repentance.
    - b. The coming of Messiah would also mean judgement against Israel. (4:1, 4-6).
    - c. The coming of Messiah brought destruction of Ancient Israel in A. D. 70.
- B. When Malachi prophesied, Israel’s irreverence for God was demonstrated in 3 areas:

### Discussion:

#### I. A Breakdown in *Religious Values*.

- A. Corrupt religious leadership — priests (1:6; 2:1-9).
  - 1. Had forgotten their God-given function (2:7) — Preachers, elders, etc. often forget function.
  - 2. Had departed from the way — covenant with Levi. (2:8; cf. Acts 20:28-30; 2 John 9-11).
  - 3. Had come to deserve little respect (2:9) — Like many leaders today.
- B. Corrupt religious service.
  - 1. They offered sick, blind and lame sacrifices. (1:7-8).
    - a. Showed contempt for law of God. (Lev. 22:17-24; Deut. 15:21).
      - (1) Required that best be offered.
      - (2) Do we give God our best service?
    - b. Showed contempt for position of God — less respect than for governor. (1:8, 14).
  - 2. They robbed God of tithes and offerings (3:8 cf. 1 Cor. 16:2).
  - 3. They considered service a weariness (1:13) — “want to” vs “have to”. (cf. Ps. 122:1; 2 Cor 9:7)
    - a. May not have purpose and significance at heart.
    - b. May have our hearts is elsewhere. (Cf. Amos 8:5).

#### II. A Breakdown in *Family Values*.

- A. Israel’s disregard for the institution of marriage.
  - 1. Divorce and marrying foreign women. (2:11-16; cf. Ex. 34:15,16).
  - 2. Caused God to not regard their worship. (2:13-14).
- B. America’s disregard for the institution of marriage.
  - 1. 1935 (Year of my parents marriage) 9.3 marriages, 1.7 divorces per 1,000 population.
  - 2. 1955 (Year of my marriage) 9.5 marriages, 2.3 divorces per 1,000 population.
  - 3. 1992 9.2 marriages, 4.7 divorces per 1,000 population.
  - 4. A marked increase in “non-traditional” families.
  - 5. A separation of sexual relationships and marriage.
- C. God’s law for the institution of marriage. (Heb. 13:4; Matt. 19:1-9; 1 Cor. 7:1-5).

#### III. A Breakdown in *Moral Values*.

- A. Israel had no clear view of right and wrong. (2:17; 3:18; cf. Isa. 5:20).
- B. Today’s society lacks same moral direction.
  - 1. Relativism — no absolutes.
  - 2. Situation Ethics — Right & wrong determined by situation.
  - 3. Moral neutrality — No right and wrong way to do things, just alternative ways.
  - 4. Humanistic morality — Morality determined by effects in humanity, as we perceive it.
  - 5. Evolutionary morality — Animal rights equated with human rights, etc

### Conclusion:

- A. Any nation without these values is in trouble.
- B. Any congregation without these values is in trouble.
- C. Any person without these values is in trouble.