

RENEW YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE

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Malachi 1:1-5

Introduction: When things are not going well, a common error is to question God's love.

Main Point: God's love is the basis for a relationship with Him and is the basis for renewing your relationship to Him.

Prophetic Writings 101

The Place of the Prophetic Writings (OT)

The Time of the Prophetic Writings (Pre-exilic, Exilic, Post-exilic)

The Message of the Prophetic Writings (*Tracing God's Story: An Intro to Biblical Theology*, Nielson, 193)

They called God's people to repentance.

They warned God's people of judgment.

They reminded God's people of God's ultimate salvation.

They began to point God's people to the Messiah.

Background: Malachi is a post-exilic prophet. The people were getting comfortable and straying from God (1:1). The problem they are facing is related to their love, not God's.

1. God is **Love**, 1:2.

He reveals **Generosity** in **Creation**.

He reveals **Sovereignty** in **Redemption** (Gen 25:23; Rom 9:13-16).

He reveals **Certainty** in **Consummation**.

We speak of different attributes of God, but they all fit together perfectly. There is never separation or contradiction. God is love; He doesn't change or become unloving in anything He does.

2. God **Operates** out of **Love**, 1:2-4.

Distinction – how did Esau treat the things of God?

Destruction – how will God treat the things of Esau?

3. God's Love is **Greater** than You Know, 1:5.

Beyond the border of **Israel**

Beyond the border of **Logic**

One of the measurements of our relationship to God is our relationship with others. His love leads us to love others. If we are not loving others more, we are not likely loving God more (1 Jn 4:8-11).

Conclusion: We are motivated by His love.