

The Charge Against Israel: Questioning God's Justice

Malachi 02:17–03:06

The Charge:

Questioning God's justice

- a. The prophet's charge:
The people had wearied the LORD
- b. The people's question: How...?
- c. The people's offenses
 - 1) Accused God of endorsing and failing to punish evildoers
 - 2) Denied God and His justice
- d. The LORD's warning:
He will come to execute justice
 - 1) He will send a messenger to prepare the way:
John the Baptist, Mat 11:10
 - 2) He Himself will come
 - Will come to His temple
 - Will come as the Messenger of the covenant
 - 3) He will come to humble and cleanse people — like a refiner's fire or strong soap
 - 4) He will come to purify the priests
 - So they can present righteous and acceptable offerings to the LORD

17 You have wearied the LORD with your words.
“How have we wearied him?” you ask.
By saying,
“All who do evil are good
in the eyes of the LORD,
and he is pleased with them” or
“Where is the God of justice?”

CHAPTER 3

- 1 “I will send my messenger,
who will prepare the way before me.
Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking
will come to his temple;
the messenger of the covenant,
whom you desire, will come,”
says the LORD Almighty.
- 2 But who can endure the day of his coming?
Who can stand when he appears?
For he will be like a refiner's fire
or a launderer's soap.
- 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver;
he will purify the Levites
and refine them like gold and silver.
Then the LORD will have men
who will bring offerings in righteousness,

- So the people's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD — as in former years

5) He will come to carry out judgment against...

- Sorcerers
- Adulterers
- Liars and perjurers
- Cheaters and thieves — those who steal from workers
- Oppressors and abusers — those who mistreat the widows, fatherless and foreigners
- All who do not fear God

e. The LORD's promise:
He is the LORD
and does not change

4 and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD as in days gone by, as in former years.

5 "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

6 "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed."