



THE BELIEVER'S LIFE IN COVENANT

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The Intro to Malachi

Malachi 1:1 (ESV)

1. The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

1. This is the oracle (load, bearing, tribute, or burden) of the Lord to Israel by Malachi (messenger)

Malachi 2:10-17 (ESV)

10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? 11 Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. 12 May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

13 And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. 14 But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So, guard yourselves in your spirit and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

16 “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So, guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

17 You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, “How have we wearied him?” By saying, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them.” Or by asking, “Where is the God of justice?”

Malachi 10 (ESV)

10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?

So, what is covenant, and what is
“the covenant of our fathers”?

What is Covenant ?

In Hebrew , the word “covenant” means “a cutting,” referring to the custom of cutting or dividing animals in two and passing between the parts to ratify a covenant and almost always was sealed in blood.

Covenants are a big deal in how God relates to man

Covenants provide the framework for how the whole biblical narrative and our earthy community is held together. If you want to understand God and the Bible better, we really need to understand and honor the concept of “covenant”

Being in Covenant with God is all about relationship and partnering with Him in life

Psalms 103:15-18 (ESV)

15 As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; **16** for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. **17** But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, **18** to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

Covenants are serious business with God!

A Biblical Covenant is initiated by God and is forever and they are never unconditional . To enter into a covenant with God is an opportunity to partner with Him and there were consequences for those that stepped out of covenant”and there still is for us today

Covenants are serious business with God!

Psalms 89:28–34

28 My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him. 29 I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens. 30 If his children forsake my law, and do not walk according to my rules, 31 if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments, 32 then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes, 33 but I will not remove from him my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness. 34 I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips.

What is “the covenant of our fathers?”

The “Mosaic Covenant” was a God initiated set of rules (the law) to the nation of Israel that was meant to govern, shape, and distinguish them as God’s chosen people and priests over other nations and tribes.

The Initiation of the Mosaic Covenant

Exodus 10:1-7 (ESV)

10 On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, 3 while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:

The Initiation of the Mosaic Covenant

4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.

1. Is my handling of covenant with my community acceptable?
Or is it faithless...have I broken covenant?

Malachi 2:10 (ESV)

10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?
Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the
covenant of our fathers?

1. Is my handling of covenant with my community acceptable? Or is it faithless...have I broken covenant?

Leviticus 19:9–10 (NLT)

9“When you harvest your crops, don’t reap the corners of your fields, and don’t pick up stray grains of wheat from the ground.

10 It is the same with your grape crop—don’t strip every last piece of fruit from the vines, and don’t pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. Leave them for the poor and for those traveling through, for I am Jehovah your God.

Leviticus 19:11–14 (NLT)

11“You must not steal nor lie nor defraud.

12You must not swear to a falsehood, thus bringing reproach upon the name of your God, for I am Jehovah.

13“You shall not rob nor oppress anyone, and you shall pay your hired workers promptly. If something is due them, don’t even keep it overnight.

14“You must not curse the deaf nor trip up a blind man as he walks. Fear your God; I am Jehovah!

Leviticus 19:15-18 (NLT)

15“Judges must always be just in their sentences, not noticing whether a person is poor or rich; they must always be perfectly fair.

16“Don’t gossip. Don’t falsely accuse your neighbor of some crime, for I am Jehovah.

17“Don’t hate your brother. Rebuke anyone who sins; don’t let him get away with it, or you will be equally guilty.

18Don’t seek vengeance. Don’t bear a grudge; but love your neighbor as yourself, for I am Jehovah.

How am I doing at keeping covenant with my community?

*Do we just do the BIG 4 or 5
and then we don't have to take all the
others seriously?*

2. Is my handling of my covenant with God acceptable? Or is it faithless...have I broken covenant?

Malachi 2:10 (ESV)

11 Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. 12 May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

2. Is my handling of my covenant with God acceptable? Or is it faithless...have I broken covenant?

Leviticus 19:1-4 (NLT)

1 The Lord also told Moses to tell the people of Israel, “You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy. You must respect your mothers and fathers, and obey my Sabbath law, for I am the Lord your God.

3-4 Do not make or worship idols, for I am Jehovah your God.

How am I doing at keeping covenant with God by making sure there are no idols in my life?

I feel like this is the #1 “covenant killer” for the western Church.

We so easily put up and create so much that has a higher priority than God all the time, and we don't even recognize it

3. Is the handling of my marriage covenant acceptable? Or is it faithless...have I broken covenant?

Malachi 2:13-16 (ESV)

13 And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. 14 But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

3. Is the handling of my marriage covenant acceptable?

15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. 16 “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

3. Is the handling of my marriage covenant acceptable?

Ephesians 5: 25-33 (Message)

25-28 - Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They're really doing themselves a favor—since they're already “one” in marriage.

3. Is the handling of my marriage covenant acceptable?

29–33 No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That's how Christ treats us, the church, since we are part of his body. And this is why a man leaves father and mother and cherishes his wife. No longer two, they become "one flesh." This is a huge mystery, and I don't pretend to understand it all. What is clearest to me is the way Christ treats the church. And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband.

How am I doing at keeping covenant in marriage with my wife and God?

What is really clear is that Malachi stresses that God comes out hard against divorce based merely on convenience or a loss of affection. It clearly breaks the marriage covenant because it is counter to God's ideal of covenant faithfulness

4. Overall...how well do I do covenant with God? Is it faithless...have I broken covenant?

Malachi 2:17

17 You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, “How have we wearied him?” By saying, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them.” Or by asking, “Where is the God of justice?”

How am I doing at keeping covenant in things that God call sins in my life?

I don't know where this mindset ever came from where we have this idea that God is good ol' Grand Pa God and he is just fine with what ever we want to give Him, and there will never be any consequences for us out of that mindset.

4. Overall...how well do I do covenant with God? Is it faithless...have I broken covenant?

Jude 10-16 (ESV)

10 But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. 11 Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.

12 These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever. 14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones,

15 to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” 16 These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

Closing - It is never too late to get back on track with God

Joel 2:11-13

11The Lord leads them with a shout. This is his mighty army, and they follow his orders. The day of the judgment of the Lord is an awesome, terrible thing. Who can endure it? 12That is why the Lord says, "Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me all your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, mourning. 13Let your remorse tear at your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful. He is not easily angered; he is full of kindness and anxious not to punish you.

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