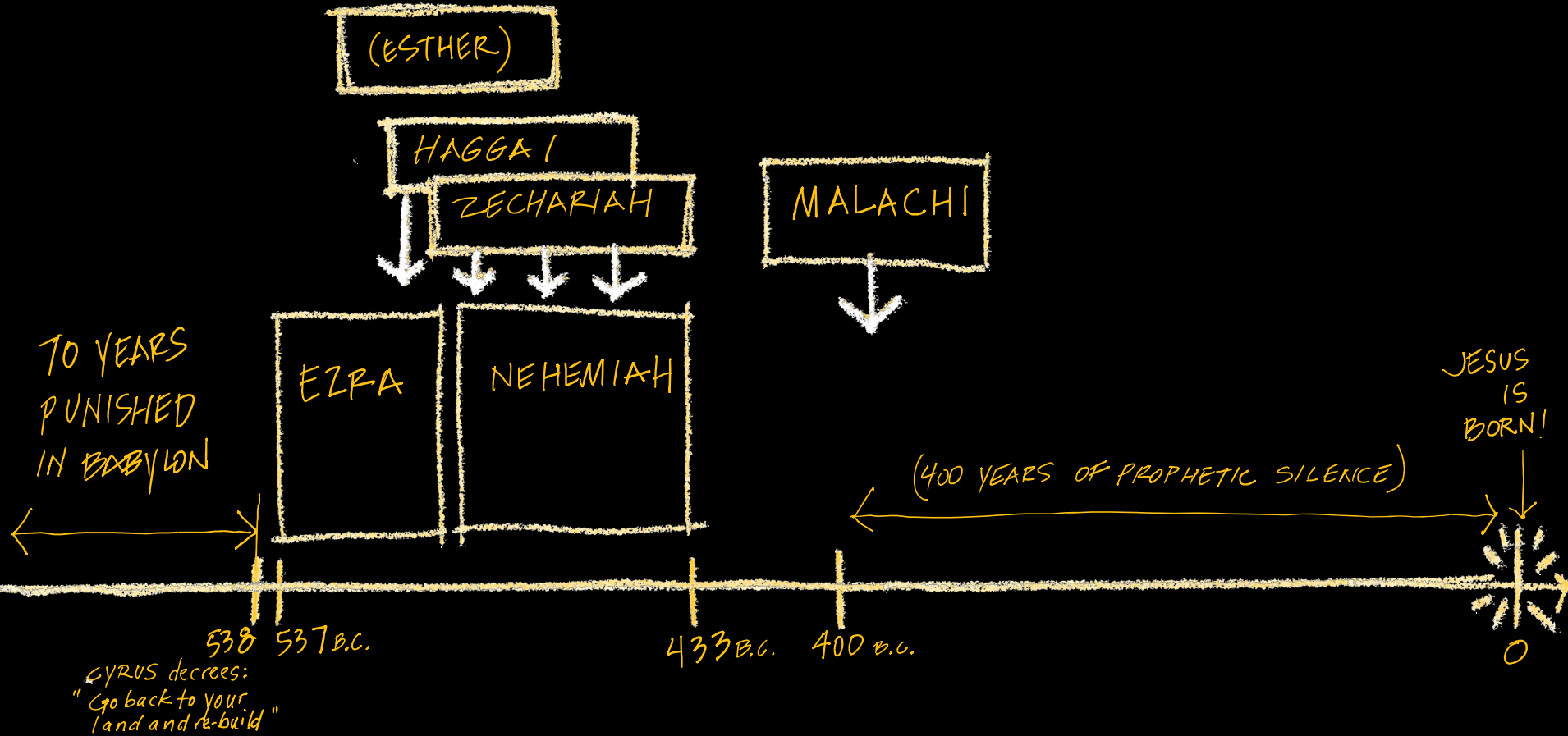


MALACHI

The love of God confronting
the treachery of his people

ISRAEL AFTER THE EXILE



MALACHI 2:10-16

¹⁰ Don't all of us have one Father? Didn't one God create us?
Why then do we act treacherously against one another,
profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

¹¹ Judah has acted treacherously,
and a detestable act has been done in Israel and in Jerusalem.
For Judah has profaned the LORD's sanctuary,
which he loves,
and has married the daughter of a foreign god.
May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob
the man who does this, whoever he may be,
even if he presents an offering to the LORD of Armies.

¹³ This is another thing you do.
You are covering the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning,
because he no longer respects your offerings
or receives them gladly from your hands.

¹⁴ And you ask, "Why?"
Because even though the LORD has been a witness
between you and the wife of your youth,
you have acted treacherously against her.

She was your marriage partner and your wife by covenant.

¹⁵ Didn't God make them one and give them a portion of spirit?
What is the one seeking?

Godly offspring.

So watch yourselves carefully,
so that no one acts treacherously against the wife of his youth.
¹⁶ "If he hates and divorces his wife," says the LORD God of Israel,
"he covers his garment with injustice," says the LORD of Armies.

Therefore, watch yourselves carefully and do not act treacherously.

Treachery in the covenant family

Treachery in marriage

MALACHI 2:10-12

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Treachery in the Covenant Family

Some definitions:

*Confidence in an unfaithful [treacherous] man
in time of trouble is like a broken tooth,
and a foot out of joint. Proverbs 25:19*

Treachery: infidelity, betrayal, faithlessness

*"...I have been broken over their whoring heart
that has departed from me and over their eyes
that go whoring after their idols..." Ezekiel 6:9*

Covenant of our ancestors:

- the recent covenant described by Nehemiah, 40-50 years earlier – Neh 9:-10

Detestable Act: abomination, abhorrant, disgusting, despicable

Abomination list:

- Idol worship
- Worship of the stars, sun, moon
- Adultery
- Incest
- Bestiality
- Idol worship
- Cross-dressing
- Homosexuality
- Occultism
- Necromancy (speaking to the dead)
- Divination (seeking guidance by contact with the spirit realm)
- Fortune-telling
- Uneven measures
- Theft
- Murder
- False-swearing
- Offerings to other gods

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Treachery in the family of God

Treachery: infidelity, betrayal, faithlessness

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Detestable Act: abomination, abhorrant, disgusting, despicable

The LORD'S sanctuary: literally, his holy (thing) Probably the Temple - - recently rebuilt under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah at much cost and devotion

The Tents of Jacob: a place among the covenant community; belonging to the people of God

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Treachery in the family of God

Back to the basics: God is our father (see 1: 6) and creator. Why the disloyalty among us?

Only 150 years since the Psalm 126 joy of returning.

Only 40-50 years since the earnest renewal, repentance, revival & reformation of the latest covenant.... and we have slipped back into apathy, indifference, and into outright treachery and abomination, doing the very things that we swore an oath to the LORD never to do again.

Marrying non-Hebrew women was not the exact issue: remember the mixed multitude who came with Israel out of Egypt? Also Moses' wife; Rahab; Ruth.

By marrying 'daughters of foreign gods', the men of Judah were violating their heart-loyalty to the LORD and opening the door for worship of demons, and all the despicable practices which come with it.

Call to Action: *May the Lord cut off the man who does this*

Not too long before this, Nehemiah had done this very thing: Neh 13: 23-29 to Jehoiada, son in law of Sanballat the Horonite.

Sanballat's son in law, expelled, goes on up to Samaria and establishes the Samaritan religion.

About 430 years later the LORD of hosts comes to make a new covenant in his blood

- in Samaria, Jesus meets the woman at the well, 'a daughter of a foreign god' and gives her everlasting life and a place in Him
- In Galilee, Jesus meets Mary Magdalene and expels not her but the 7 demons
- In Sidon, Jesus meets the Canaanite woman and commends her faith

MALACHI 2:13-16

Treachery in your marriage

Translation variations for verses 15-16

King James Version	New English Translation	English Standard Version	Easy To Read Version	American Standard Version
<p>15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.</p>	<p>15 No one who has even a small portion of the Spirit in him does this. What did our ancestor do when seeking a child from God? Be attentive, then, to your own spirit, for one should not be disloyal to the wife he took in his youth.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>15 God wants husbands and wives to become one body and one spirit. Why? So that they would have holy children and protect that spiritual unity. Don't cheat on your wife. She has been your wife from the time you were young.</p>	<p>15 And did he not make one, although he had the residue of the Spirit? And wherefore one? He sought a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.</p>
<p>16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.</p>	<p>16 "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and the one who is guilty of violence," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. "Pay attention to your conscience, and do not be unfaithful."</p>	<p>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."</p>	<p>16 The LORD, the God of Israel, says, "I hate divorce, and I hate the cruel things that men do. So protect your spiritual unity. Don't cheat on your wife."</p>	<p>16 For I hate putting away, saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, and him that covereth his garment with violence, saith Jehovah of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.</p>

MALACHI 2:13-16

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with weeping and groaning,
because he no longer respects your offerings
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¹⁶ "If he hates and divorces his wife," says the LORD God of Israel,

"he covers his garment with injustice," says the LORD of Armies.

Therefore, watch yourselves carefully

and do not act treacherously.

Treachery in your marriage

Either the guilt-ridden priests were subconsciously broken down about their situation, and although not repenting, were nonetheless burdened and psychologically shattered while they pathetically performed their priestly service

Or, the cries of the cast-off wives of the men of Judah, the groans of the betrayed brides of Israel symbolically covered the Lord's altar with these tears, weeping, and groaning. The trauma, the heart-felt agony of betrayal in marriage was showing up at the temple.

The Lord's witness in marriage:

You make a promise **to the Lord** about this other person.

He sees how you treat her. He wants godly children. His Spirit is in your marriage.

You ask, "Why are our gifts not accepted?" It is because the LORD saw the evil things you did—he is a witness against you. He saw you cheat on your wife. You have been married to her since you were young. She was your girlfriend. Then you made your vows to each other—and she became your wife. ¹⁵ God wants husbands and wives to become one body and one spirit. Why? So that they would have holy children and protect that spiritual unity. Don't cheat on your wife. She has been your wife from the time you were young.

¹⁶ The LORD, the God of Israel, says, "I hate divorce, and I hate the cruel things that men do. So protect your spiritual unity. Don't cheat on your wife." –Easy to Read Version

Call to Action: watch yourself carefully ("take heed to your spirit")
and don't act treacherously.

Ephesians 5: 18 +...be filled with the Spirit...! Husband in light of the Bridegroom
1 Peter 3:7 live with your wife in an understanding way...that your prayers be not hindered. Remember you are the royal priesthood of today

King James Version

New English Translation

English Standard Version

Easy To Read Version

American Standard Version

12 The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, **the master and the scholar**, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts.

12 May the LORD cut off from the community of Jacob **every last person** who does this, as well as the person who presents improper offerings to the LORD of Heaven's Armies!

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!

12 The LORD will remove **them** from Judah's family. They might bring gifts to the LORD All-Powerful—but it will not help.

12 Jehovah will cut off, to the man that doeth this, **him that waketh and him that answereth**, out of the tents of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto Jehovah of hosts.