

GOD'S MEANS AND PURPOSE

June 26, 2016

Malachi 1:1-14

**“And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say,
The Lord will be magnified from the border of Israel.” Malachi 1:5**

Malachi was the last Old Testament writer. He rebuked the spiritual recklessness of the people of Israel. God had kindly brought them out of captivity, but they forgot His great kindness. Ingratitude and irreverence had become the norm among them. Malachi wrote to rebuke this.

Through Malachi, God reminded Israel of His love, shown to them when God chose Jacob their forefather over his brother Esau, forefather of the Edomite people. Israel complained, “Wherein hast thou loved us?” God answered, “I loved Jacob, and I hated Esau,” then described the perpetual, depressed state of Esau’s descendants.

Whereas Malachi’s audience was oppressed, and thus questioning God’s love, God spoke through Malachi to assure them that Israel would see His glory. God would fulfil His purpose through Israel. In very few words, God revealed that purpose: “The Lord will be magnified from the border of Israel.” And, He revealed the means by which He will accomplish that purpose.

I. God is sovereign over humanity – “I loved Jacob, and I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste.” (1:2b-3a)

II. God is sovereign over the physical universe:

A. Geology & geography – “and laid his *mountains* and his heritage waste” (3)

B. The animal kingdom – “laid . . . his heritage waste for the *dragons (desert jackals)*” (3)

C. Climate – “for the dragons of the *wilderness (desert)*” (3)

III. God is sovereign over human speech and thought:

A. “*Edom saith* . . . we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the Lord of hosts, they shall build, but I will throw down.” (4)

B. “*They shall call* them, the border of wickedness” (4)

C. “*Ye shall say*, the Lord will be magnified” (5)

IV. God is sovereign over history:

A. “Thus saith the Lord of hosts, they shall build, but I will throw down” (4)

B. “They shall call them, the border of wickedness” (4)

C. “They shall call them . . . the people against whom the Lord hath indignation” (4)

V. God is sovereign over eternity:

“They shall call them . . . the people against whom the Lord hath indignation *forever*” (5)

Every element of divine sovereignty is directed toward one purpose: “The Lord shall be magnified.” This should compel every person to humble himself before God, and unto exhibit utmost sobriety regarding matters relating to God.