

External, Internal, and Eternal

Malachi 1

(black Bibles page 801; Children's Bibles page 1146)

Chatsworth, California: 2008.

Who's Malachi?

- Prophet vs. the king, right? Isn't that what prophets *do*? Not here. There's no king...

And what's this book about?

- It's about the end... of the Old Testament. And the book of Malachi tells you what the next act will be: two messengers will come (3:1). *A hint: John the Baptist and Jesus.*
- Israel's faith is eroding... it's becoming sloppy, lax, dull-hearted. But most of them probably don't notice it! And *Malachi confronts them with the word of the Lord.*

The opening: "I have loved you," says the Lord. (1:2)

- Sets the context for the tough words to come! They come in the context of God's (peculiar) love for Israel.

The priests and their lame sacrifices (1:6-14). Let's look at the external, the internal, and the eternal:

- What's the *external* issue? See verses 7-8 and 13b-14. (God's response? verse 10.)
- What's the priests' *internal* motivation? See verses 6 and 13a.
- What's the future and *eternal* reality that God describes? See verses 11 and 14.

An application for us? Considering the external, internal, and the eternal...