

# Worthy Sacrifices

## Malachi 1

<sup>6</sup>“A son honours his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honour due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the LORD Almighty.

“It is you priests who show contempt for my name.

“But you ask, ‘How have we shown contempt for your name?’

<sup>7</sup>“By offering defiled food on my altar.

“But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’

“By saying that the LORD’s table is contemptible. <sup>8</sup>When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?” says the LORD Almighty.

<sup>9</sup>“Now plead with God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?”—says the LORD Almighty.

<sup>10</sup>“Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you,” says the LORD Almighty, “and I will accept no offering from your hands. <sup>11</sup>My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the LORD Almighty.

<sup>12</sup>“But you profane it by saying, ‘The Lord’s table is defiled,’ and, ‘Its food is contemptible.’

<sup>13</sup>And you say, ‘What a burden!’ and you sniff at it contemptuously,” says the LORD Almighty.

“When you bring injured, lame or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?” says the LORD. <sup>14</sup>“Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king,” says the LORD Almighty, “and my name is to be feared among the nations.

- 1) What do you know about the historical context of this book? What was happening for Israel at the time?
- 2) V6 what is the problem God sees with the priestly order?
- 3) V8 what is the problem with offering these animals as offerings?
- 4) What is it that we offer or sacrifice to God today?
- 5) V9 how comfortable would you be if you had to give these offering to God in person?
- 6) V10 why does God long for the door of the temple to be shut?
- 7) Read Revelation 3:14-16, what are the similarities between Laodicea and Malachi 1?
- 8) V11 who will make his name great?
- 9) What does it mean for God's name to be great?
- 10) V14 how does God feel cheated?
- 11) How might the people of today make God feel cheated?