

SERIES: "LAST...BUT NOT LEAST":

An In-Depth Study of MALACHI - the Final Prophet of the Old Testament Era-

PART XIII - Malachi Chapter 1:6-14

"A COMPROMISING CLERGY"

WEDNESDAY, March 25th, 2009

I. The HIGHEST office in the land of Israel was NOT "king" - rather, it was the PRIESTHOOD. The PRIEST was the MEDIATOR between God and man.

\*\*\*Notes about this office:

The Priest: ① offered the ATONING SACRIFICE  
② conveyed God's love, mercy and blessing ON the People

③ instructed the People in holiness; taught THE LAW  
④ Functioned in the High (supreme) SUPREME COURT AS A JUDGE

By the time Malachi wrote this prophecy, this office was characterized by:

- \* Desecration
- \* Defamation and
- \* Disgrace

III. These "leaders" had the audacity to ask; "In what way have we despised thy name? (v 6). The spiritually BLIND are often self-deceived and UNAWARE of their guilt!

\*\* BUT... How did Israel 'DESPISE' God's name? By offering up "polluted bread" upon the brazen altar. It became this way through 2 transgressions:

1. By offering up a defective, sick or lame offering (strictly forbidden by the Law - Leviticus 22: 17 - 30);

2. By offering up sacrifices without the proper ceremonial (washings) CLEANSINGS. (Note: there are NO "short - cuts" to Holiness!)

IV. ANOTHER way in which God's name had become despised was by saying that; "The table of the LORD is contemptible" (v 7) and had even presented Blind ... lame and sick animals as offerings to God - when they would not have dared even considering such a gift for their governor!

V. Contrast this attitude with that of King DAVID in II SAMUEL 24:24. ANY SERVICE PERFORMED BY A TRUE SERVANT OF GOD COSTS SOMETHING IN 1) TIME, 2) MONEY, and 3) physical strength!

In short, the Priest had an awesome and humbling responsibility before God!

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