

Disputation 2: Worship Extends to the Nations

Sunday, October 18, 2026

The Argument: Malachi 1:6a

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name."



"To despise God's name is to despise who God is, to despise the self-revelation of God, the character of God. And to despise God's name is also to despise the presence of God, since God 'makes his name dwell' in the temple."
- Peter Adam

The Rebuttal: Malachi 1:6b

But you say, 'How have we despised your name?'

"In their response to this accusation, the priests reveal the immense gap between their perception of reality and God's perception, and also their instinctive tendency to doubt God and disagree with him."
– Peter Adam

God's Proof: Malachi 1:7-12

- Polluted sacrifices in worship (7-10)
- Barrier to the nations to worship (11-14)

Right thinking about
God
leads to right worship of
God

Polluted sacrifices in worship
Malachi 1:7-10

"it was the priests who were representatives of God the Lord of hosts, and it was their job to be examples of godly obedience, and to teach and train the people in godly obedience. It is a double disgrace, because they were leaders of the community, and because they were God's representatives. If the leaders fail, no wonder the people are in trouble. If the leaders dishonor God whom they represent, no wonder the people are deep in shared corporate sin. If the leaders do not exercise discipline, there is little hope for the people."
– Peter Adam



Isaiah 1:11-13

“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt
offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I
do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or
of goats. [12] “When you come to appear before
me, who has required of you this trampling of my
courts? [13] Bring no more vain offerings; incense is
an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath
and the calling of convocations— I cannot endure
iniquity and solemn assembly.

God's Proof: Malachi 1:7-12

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Psalm 22:23-24, 27

You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! [24] For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him. [27] All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.



"the Lord sets the priest's failure in the largest context possible—a context both jarring and hopeful. God reveals in this verse his determination to win the whole world for his worship, and he shows how the priests' unworthy worship impedes his ultimate purpose for all creation."

- Eric Ortlund

God's Rebuke: Malachi 2:1-6

- While God's warning is real, God's ultimate intention is to restore the covenant with His priests so that His worship can one day spread throughout the whole world.

Application

1. The importance of leaders who faithfully follow Jesus.
2. The importance of right thinking about the gospel that results in right worship that extends to the nations.