

Refined Idolatry
Malachi...The Sarcastic Messenger
Malachi 2:1-9

Introduction – The priests led Israel into outward conformity to God without an inward reality of what God desired.

I. Stern indictment – vv. 1-3

- Obedience brings blessing – disobedience brings punishment
- God curses the seed – crops
- God publicly insults the priests in the discharge of their office

II. God's promise with Levi – vv. 4-6

- Faithfulness in the face of infidelity – Exodus 32:25-29
- Feared the right things: God and His Name
- Intimate fellowship as an example

III. God's privilege – v.7

- The priest spoke for God
- Highest calling – 1 Corinthians 2:16

IV. The priest's failure – vv. 8-9

- Departure from God's way resulted in others stumbling
- Neutralized the covenant of Levi
- God brings shame and disrespect
- Partial – inventor of ingenious method to skirt obedience

Conclusion – This path led to the rise of the Pharisees and Sadducees of Christ's day.