

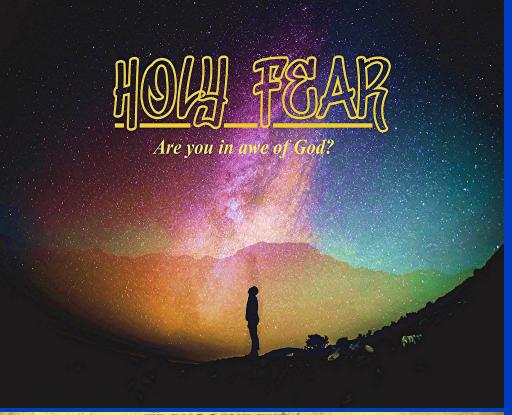
- The more time between an event and us makes it harder to discern what is meant by it
- Ironically, in our age more research of ancient Semitic languages gives us more knowledge than in the past
- Cognate languages and idioms have brought new understanding to many biblical thoughts and words
- Only some of those idioms are presently understood



- Malachai: End of the OT Prophetic era
- Sometimes seeing a word or phrase with the new research in mind, gives us a deeper insight
- Like the space telescopes that look back in time to near the Beginning, we find both validation and error
- Will the Church find the new info too threatening to change their long-standing doctrines?

HOW HAVE WE DESPISED YOU? MALACHI 1:6-2:9

- God's accusations apply to the entire nation
- > The priests deny God's accusation
- An undisputed Middle Eastern proverb: A son honors his father, a servant honors his master
- Jews thought of Abraham as father... not God
- Moses, Isaiah and Jeremiah all said God is Father
- The priesthood is at fault for not teaching God's Word

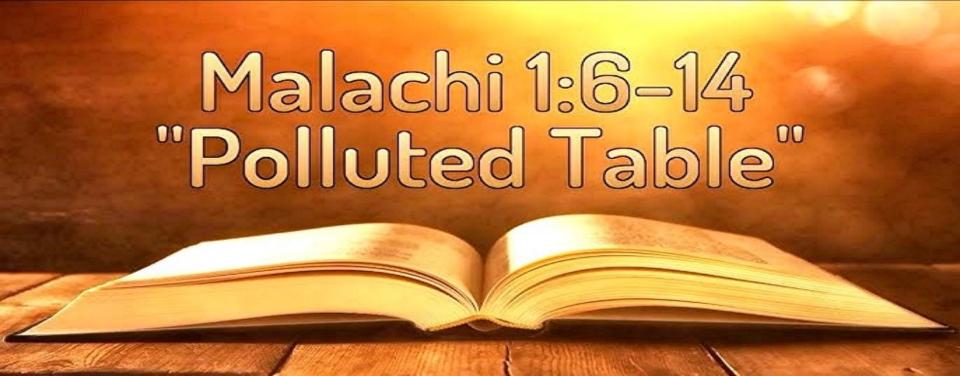


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- Malachai 1:6
 Not respect, but rather awe, fear, dread
- God's relationship with Israel is based on covenant
- God doesn't accept
 Levites' warm feelings
 towards Him as love:
 only obedience
- Shem = name
- Shem means a distinguishing mark or attribute (s)



- The Priesthood had knowledge; but they reformulated the Torah into a new doctrine-based Jewish religion
- Same thing had happened under King Jeroboam
- Believers in Yeshua are not immune to this temptation
- Judaism and Christianity have deviated from God's Word, and not by innocent error

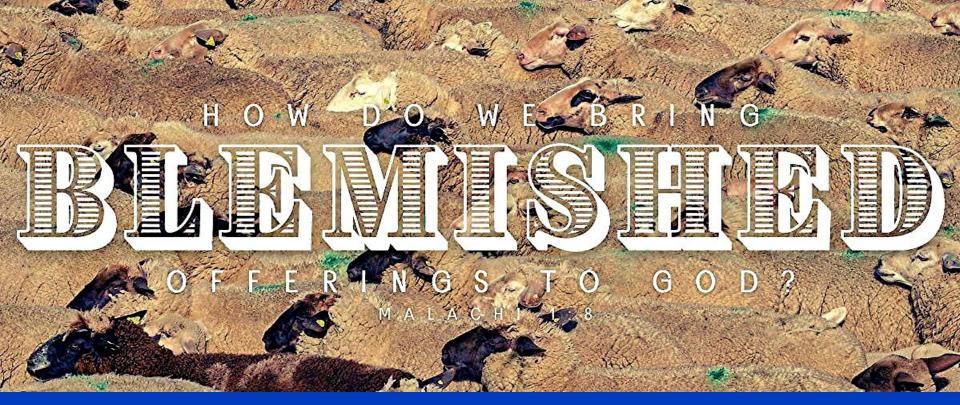


- "My altar" could be either the Altar of Burnt Offering or the Altar of Showbread
- Lechem = bread loaves, but also food in general
- Probably is Altar of Burnt Offering (due to vs. 8)
- Mego'al = ritually defiled
- "Table of Yehoveh" probably an idiom that is similar to the meaning of "the table of the king"

- Priests made daily offering of a sacrifice called *Tamid*
- The animals were provided by the Priesthood, not by lay worshippers
- Priests seemed to be occasionally using animals that were damaged goods
- A ritually unclean person could contaminate a sacrifice rendering it polluted and unusable
- Yet, the priests still used these defiled animals







- Vs. 8 The word "when" (ki) is missing in many Bibles
- > It is evil to offer a blind, lame or sick animal to God
- Deuteronomy 15:21
- The priests are to be the protectors and par excellence observers of the covenant
- The people KNEW the priests were doing wrong

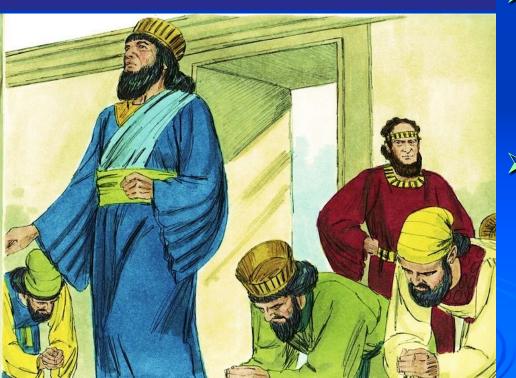
INTRINSIC VALUE

How God determines the worth of your gift

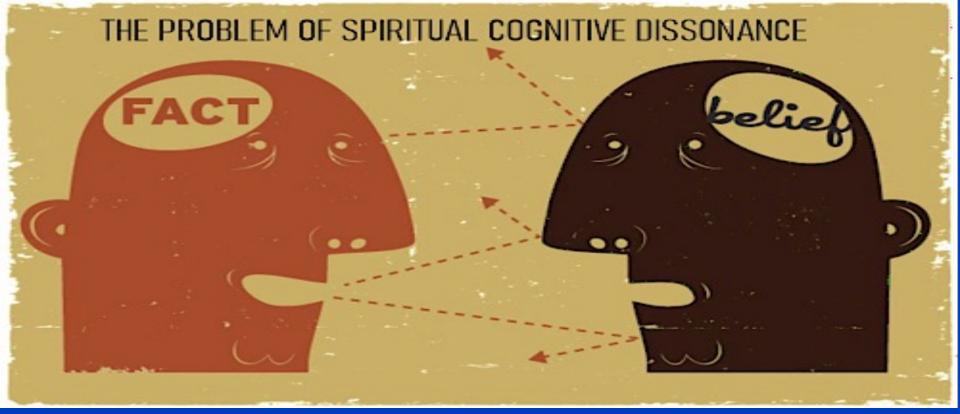


- The same \$20 gift has a different intrinsic value depending on the financial means of the giver
- A defiled sacrifice has ZERO value no matter who gives it
- All our giving must come from our best
- And, the motive of love behind the gift must be sincere, the gift not given grudgingly or mechanically

Does God grade on the curve?



- God asks how well would their governor receive a blemished gift?
- 1) How pleased would the governor be with the gift itself?
- 2) Would you even get received if you brought a defective gift to give him?
- We'd rather think of God as a kindly grand-father winking at our sins, or that His commands are only suggestions



- Malachai 1:9
- Rationalizing that despite your insistent wrongful behavior, God will still grant you His presence and favor is spiritual cognitive dissonance
- For the Levite Priests to intentionally offer polluted and defiled gifts and expect God to receive them was even worse!