

AWESOME AND TERROR-FILLED WORDS

*"Those who are wise
will shine like the
brightness of the
heavens, and those
who lead many
to righteousness,
like the stars
for ever and ever."*

- Daniel 12:3

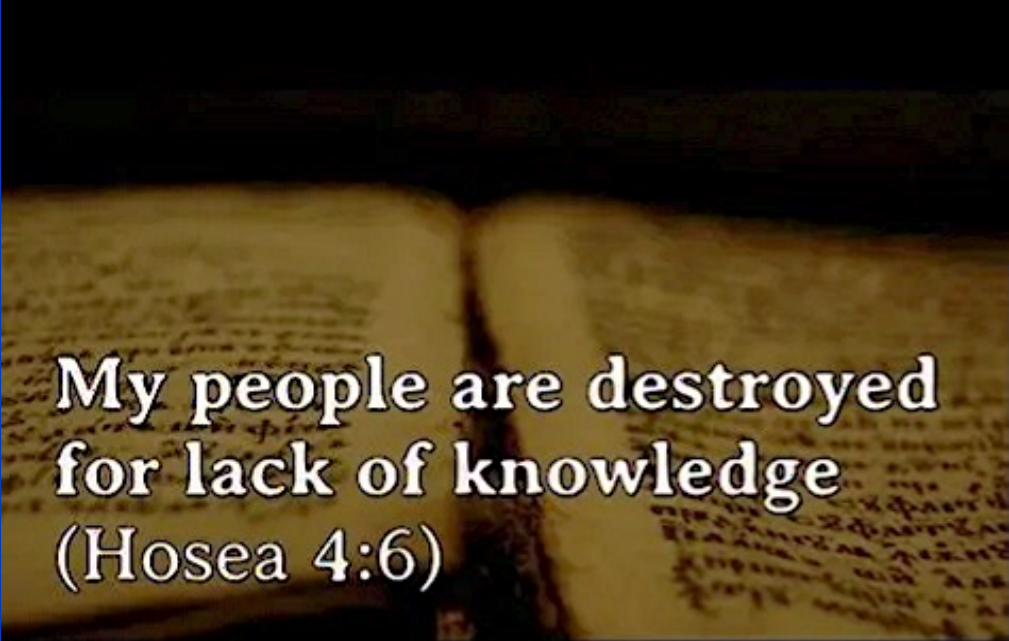
- Daniel and Malachai speak of both present and future
- Most of Malachai's words are aimed at the Priesthood
- The discerning who turn others to righteousness are the religious leadership
- God demands and expects the leaders to teach truth (the Bible)
- If we fail, we suffer great consequences



TRADITION vs. SCRIPTURE!

- The priests' job is to safeguard knowledge
- It means to safeguard the knowledge of God's covenant
- It is one thing to occasionally misunderstand, it is another to create a doctrine that overrides God's Word
- Mark 7:1 – 9 The Pharisees tended to overlay Scripture with Tradition, and choose Tradition

- In the 21st century, both Judaism and Christianity are more controlled by Tradition than at anytime in history
- Matthew and Hebrews considered “too Jewish”
- Now it is primarily Paul’s Epistles that are accepted as truth
- We are in the same place as it was in Malachai’s era
- For most, truth is more a fly in the ointment than a reason to change



My people are destroyed
for lack of knowledge
(Hosea 4:6)



THE POWER OF
WILLFUL
IGNORANCE

MESSENGERS:

FROM PROPHETS
TO
BIBLE TEACHERS

- **Da'at** = knowledge = knowledge of God as found in the Torah
- **Malak** = messenger or angel
- Each Prophet brought a new oracle from God
- NT era, “prophets” became Scripture teachers
- The priests were also to be messengers of truth

THE DRAGON AND HIS ANGELS



- Vs. 8 explains what the priests actually did
- They fell away from the path of truth
- Revelation 12:7 – 9
- “You, yourselves” an emphatic term that is personal, intimate, and exempts none
- To turn aside, means to turn away from the Covenant

PROPORTIONAL JUSTICE IS A GOD PRINCIPLE



- Vs. 9 The consequences of having fallen away
- Loss of respect = loss of authority = loss of restraint
- Priesthood meted out justice in partiality
- **Bazah** = despised A wordplay Because the priests despised God, God caused the people to despise the priests

FAITH AND DEEDS ARE
LIKE A PBJ SANDWICH

EXTERNAL BEHAVIOR

INTERNAL BELIEFS

- A summary:
- 1) The Priests had set God on the shelf
- 2) BOTH the external and internal are necessary to carry out our faith James 2:20
- 3) We have OUR side to the covenant obligations
- 4) God's goal was to drive the Priests and people back to true truth and true worship of Him



PROFANING GOD'S COVENANT

MALACHI 2:10-16

- Vss. 10 – 16 are the 3rd burden (oracle) of Malachai
- Very challenging passage to interpret correctly
- “Don’t we all have the same father?” A rhetorical question
- Who is Malachai saying their common father is?
- “Father” meant figuratively on the one hand, and spiritually on the other
- ***Echad*** used as an adjective relating to “father”, so all Israel owes its existence to one common source: Yehoveh

NEW-COVENANT

PROPHECY

A
FAILED
PROMISE?

- “...profaning the covenant of our ancestors?”
- Connects God as Father with the covenant
- Terms clearly allude to Jeremiah’s new covenant
- Given a century earlier, its promises had not happened, and most Jews thought it a failed promise
- Breaking faith is in context with the covenant terms

Marrying the
daughter of a
foreign god



MALACHI

- This is narrowly directed to the restoration community
- During the Persian period “Yehud” represented the returned Jews (as well as the name of the province)
- **To-ebah** = something terrible Here, that is the intermarriage of Hebrews to foreign women
- **Qodesh YHWH** = the holiness of YHWH
- Each culture, nation, worshipped their own gods

It's NOT about
interracial
marriage !



- This is primarily directed at the priests
- Why would priests and others marry foreign women?
- Likely economics, since the economic situation was bad in Yehud
- Deut. 7:3 “Don’t intermarry with them...”
- A mixed marriage had to do with which gods were worshipped, not skin color or ethnicity