

Malachi 2:17–3:6

God's Weariness

- “You have wearied the LORD with your words.” (Mal. 2:17)
- Complaints of Judah:
 1. Everyone who does evil is good.
 2. The LORD delights in them.
 3. Where is the God of justice?

The People's False Complaints (2:17)

- Prosperity ≠ God's favor.
- [Proverbs 17:15](#) — God condemns justifying the wicked.
- [Psalm 73](#) — perspective restored in God's presence.

Quote:

“The problem was not with God's justice but with their perspective. The people pointed the finger at God when they should have been pointing it back at themselves.” — **Micah Fries, Stephen Rummage, & Robby Gallaty**, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Malachi*

God's Answer: A Messenger (3:1)

- Promise: “I send my messenger... the Lord will come to His temple.”
- Fulfillment: **John the Baptist**
 - [Matthew 3:3](#), [Mark 1:2–3](#), [Luke 3:4](#), [John 1:23](#)
 - Jesus confirms ([Matt. 11:10](#))

Bridge to Today

- John prepared for Christ's first coming.
- We prepare for His second.

Who Was John the Baptist?

- Miracle birth ([Luke 1:13–17](#))
- Set apart, Spirit-filled.
- Simple life, bold message: “Repent.”
- Humility: “Not worthy to untie His sandal.”

A Word for Us:

- Our call is to point people to Jesus.
- “Behold, the Lamb of God...” ([John 1:29](#))

The Lord Comes to His Temple

- Jesus enters the temple:
 - As a baby ([Luke 2:27](#))
 - As a teacher ([Luke 19:47](#))
 - As judge ([Matt. 21:12–13](#))

Truth: Judgment begins in the house of God.

- Cleansing starts with His people.

The Refiner's Fire (3:2–4)

- Like a **refiner's fire**
- Like **fuller's soap**
- Goal: purity, reflection of Christ.

Supporting Scriptures:

- [1 Peter 4:17](#)
- [Hebrews 12:6](#)
- [1 Cor. 3:13](#)

Quote: “God’s refining work is often painful, but it is never without purpose. He disciplines us not to destroy us, but to conform us into the image of His Son.” — **R.C. Sproul**, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*

God Draws Near for Judgment (3:5)

- Calls out sins:
 - Sorcery ([Deut. 18:10–12](#); [Acts 8:9](#)).
 - Adultery ([Ex. 20:14](#); [Heb. 13:4](#)).
 - Lying ([Lev. 19:12](#); [Col. 3:9](#)).
 - Oppression of workers ([Lev. 19:13](#); [Jas. 5:4](#)).
 - Neglect of widows, orphans, foreigners ([Ex. 22:21–22](#); [Jas. 1:27](#)).

Truth: These sins are alive today.

- The proud judged.
- The repentant shown mercy.

The Only Reason We Are Not Consumed (3:6)

- “For I the LORD do not change; therefore you... are not consumed.”
- Justice & mercy meet at the **cross**.

Quote: “If God were changeable, Israel would have been destroyed long ago. Our hope is anchored in His immutability. The God who made covenant promises will never break them.” — **A.W. Pink**, *The Attributes of God*

Supporting Scriptures:

- [Isaiah 53:6](#)
- [Galatians 3:13](#)
- [1 Peter 2:24](#)

Closing Verses: [1 Peter 1:6–7](#)