

Malachi 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

Analysis

Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand. God wishes someone would **shut the doors** (סָגַר דְּלָתוֹת, soger delatot)—the temple doors—to end the travesty of corrupt worship. The phrase **for nought** (חִנָּם, ḥinnam) means freely, without payment, gratuitously. No priest would serve without compensation, yet they serve God carelessly. They **kindle fire on mine altar** (תִּאִירוּ מִזְבְּחִי, ta'iru mizvḥi) only for profit, not devotion.

God's verdict is devastating: **I have no pleasure in you** (אֵין־לִי הֵפֶז בָּכֶם, ein-li hefetz bakhem). הֵפֶז (ḥefetz) means pleasure, delight, desire. God takes no pleasure in mercenary priests or defiled sacrifices. The consequence: **neither will I accept an offering at your hand** (וּמִנְחָה לֹא־אֶרְצֶה מֵיְדְּכֶם, u-minḥah lo-ertzeh miyyed khem). God rejects their worship entirely. רָצָה (ratzah) means to accept, be pleased with, find favor in. No divine acceptance, no efficacy, no mediation—just empty ritual.

This anticipates God's ultimate rejection of the old covenant sacrificial system. Christ's sacrifice made animal sacrifices obsolete (Hebrews 10:1-18). The temple's destruction in AD 70 literally shut its doors forever, fulfilling Malachi's wish.

Historical Context

Malachi's prophecy pointed toward the end of the Levitical system. The priests' corruption demonstrated that the old covenant couldn't produce the righteousness it demanded. Within 400-500 years of Malachi, Christ came as the perfect High Priest offering a perfect sacrifice—Himself. His death and resurrection inaugurated the new covenant, making animal sacrifices unnecessary. When Roman armies destroyed the Jerusalem temple in AD 70, the sacrificial system ended permanently. God literally shut the doors. Yet believers now form a spiritual temple where acceptable worship occurs through Christ (1 Peter 2:5, Hebrews 13:15-16, Romans 12:1).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does God's rejection of corrupt worship teach about the necessity of heart devotion beyond external ritual?
2. How does this verse anticipate the end of the old covenant sacrificial system and the need for Christ's perfect sacrifice?
3. What makes worship acceptable to God under the new covenant?

Interlinear Text

מִי	גַם	בְּכֶם	וְיִסְגֹּר	דִלְתָּ יָם	לֹא
H4310	H1571	H0	H5462	H1817	H3808
Who is there even among you that would shut the doors					
תֵּא יִרֹ	מִזְבְּחִי	חֵן מִ	אֵין	לִי	
H215	H4196	H2600	H369	H0	
for nought neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought					
יֵפֶץ	בְּכֶם	אָמַר	יְהוָה	צָבָא וְתֵ	וּמִנְחָה
H2656	H0	H559	H3068	H6635	H4503
I have no pleasure in you saith the LORD of hosts an offering					
אֶרְצִי	מִדְּכֶם:				
H7521	H3027				
neither will I accept at your hand					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 6:20 (Sacrifice): To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me.

Hosea 5:6 (References Lord): They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD; but they shall not find him; he hath withdrawn himself from them.

1 Peter 5:2 (Parallel theme): Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Micah 3:11 (References Lord): The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.

Jeremiah 14:12 (Sacrifice): When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.

Jeremiah 8:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I give their wives unto others, and their fields to them that shall inherit them: for every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.

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