

Malachi 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

Analysis

For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts. In stunning contrast to Israel's corrupt worship (v. 10), God announces global worship. **From the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same** (מִמִּזְרַח־שֶׁמֶשׁ וְעַד־מָבֹאוֹ, mim-mizrah-shemesh ve'ad-mevo'o)—from east to west, encompassing all nations. **My name shall be great among the Gentiles** (גִּדּוֹל שְׁמִי בַגּוֹיִם, gadol shemi va-goyim). גוֹיִם (goyim, Gentiles/nations) will honor God's name while Israel despises it (v. 6).

In every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering (וּבְכָל־מָקוֹם מִקְטָר מִגָּשׁ לְשִׁמִּי וּמִנְחָה טְהוֹרָה, uv-khol-maqom muqtar muggash lishmi u-minḥah teḥorah). This contrasts with Israel's polluted offerings (v. 7). טָהוֹר (tahor, pure) means clean, ritually pure—everything the priests' sacrifices weren't. The prophecy describes worship freed from Jerusalem's temple, occurring in every place, offered by Gentiles, yet acceptable to God.

This finds fulfillment in the gospel age. Christ's sacrifice removes geographical restrictions on worship (John 4:21-24). Believers from all nations offer spiritual

sacrifices acceptable to God through Christ (Romans 15:16, Philippians 2:17, 1 Peter 2:5, Hebrews 13:15-16).

Historical Context

This prophecy was scandalous to first-century Jews who believed acceptable worship required Jerusalem's temple, Levitical priesthood, and Mosaic ritual. Yet Malachi announced that Gentiles—considered unclean outsiders—would offer pure worship while Jewish priests offered polluted sacrifices. This anticipated the gospel's universal scope. After Pentecost, the Spirit fell on Gentiles (Acts 10), Paul became apostle to the nations, and churches multiplied throughout the Roman Empire. By AD 70, when the temple was destroyed, Christianity had already spread globally. Today, believers from every nation offer acceptable worship through Christ, fulfilling Malachi's vision.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this prophecy anticipate the gospel's global reach and the inclusion of Gentiles in God's people?
2. What makes worship 'pure' under the new covenant, and how is it offered 'in every place'?
3. How should the reality that God's name is now great among all nations shape our missionary zeal and worship?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	מִמֶּזְרַח	שֶׁשׁ	וְעַד	מִבּוֹא	וְלֹא
H3588	For from the rising	of the sun	H5704	even unto the going down	shall be great
	H4217	H8121		H3996	H1419
שְׁמִי	בְּגוֹיִם	וּבְכָל	מָקוֹם	מִקְטָר	
for my name	among the Gentiles	H3605	and in every place	incense	
H8034	H1471		H4725	H6999	
יִשְׁׁמְרֵנִי	שְׁמִי	וּמִנְחָה	טְהוֹרָה	כִּי	וְלֹא
shall be offered	for my name	offering	and a pure	H3588	shall be great
H5066	H8034	H4503	H2889		H1419
שְׁמִי	בְּגוֹיִם	אָמַר	יְהוָה	צְבָאוֹת:	
for my name	among the Gentiles	saith	the LORD	of hosts	
H8034	H1471	H559	H3068	H6635	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 45:6 (Sin): That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.

Isaiah 54:5 (References Lord): For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

Psalms 50:1 (Sin): The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof.

Zechariah 8:7 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country;

Matthew 28:19 (Parallel theme): Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: