

# Malachi 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

## Analysis

**Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.** The priests' verbal contempt continues: **Behold, what a weariness is it!** (הִנֵּה מַתְּלָאָה, hinneh mattela'ah). The noun תְּלָאָה (tela'ah) means weariness, hardship, burden. They viewed worship as tedious obligation rather than joyful privilege. **Ye have snuffed at it** (וְהִפְחַתְּמוּ אוֹתוֹ, vehippahtem oto)—the verb נָפַח (napah) means to sniff disdainfully, snort at, treat with contempt. They literally snorted at God's altar.

Their actions matched their words: **ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick** (וַהֲבֵי־אֹתָם גָּזוּל וְעֵת-חֹלָה, vahaveitem gazul ve'et-hapisseah ve'et-haholeh). גָּזוּל (gazul, torn) refers to animals mauled by beasts—explicitly forbidden (Leviticus 22:8, Exodus 22:31). They brought the very worst animals, those already dying or dead. God's rhetorical question: **should I accept this of your hand?** (הֲאֶרְצֶה אוֹתָהּ מִיָּדְכֶם, ha'ertzeh otah miyyed khem). Obviously not.

This verse exposes a deadly spiritual condition: finding God wearisome. When worship becomes drudgery, something is fundamentally wrong. Either we've lost

sight of God's glory, or we never truly knew Him. By contrast, those who know God find Him inexhaustibly delightful (Psalm 16:11, 37:4, 43:4, Philippians 4:4).

## Historical Context

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The priests' weariness with worship revealed hearts far from God. Their complaints paralleled Israel's grumbling in the wilderness when they grew tired of manna and longed for Egypt (Numbers 11:4-6, 21:5). Both demonstrated the same spiritual disease: treating God's provision with contempt. This attitude continues whenever believers view church attendance, prayer, Bible reading, or service as burdensome obligations rather than precious privileges. Jesus offered the remedy: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon me...for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Those who find Christianity wearisome have either never tasted true grace or have drifted from their first love (Revelation 2:4-5).

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does it reveal about our spiritual health when we find worship, prayer, or Scripture reading wearisome?
2. How does genuine encounter with God's grace transform worship from drudgery into delight?
3. In what areas of Christian life might you be 'snuffing' or treating with contempt what should be precious privilege?

## Interlinear Text

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אֹת וְהִפַּחְתָּם מִתְלָא הֲנֵה אָמַר  
Ye said H2009 also Behold what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed H853  
H559 H4972 H5301

וְאֵת גָּז וְהֵבִאתָם צָבָא וְיְהוָה: אָמַר  
Ye said the LORD of hosts and ye brought that which was torn H853  
H559 H3068 H6635 H935 H1497

הַמִּנְחָה אֵת וְהֵבִאתָם הַחֹלִי וְאֵת הַפֶּסֶחַ  
and the lame H853 and the sick and ye brought H853 an offering  
H6455 H2470 H935 H4503

יְהוָה: אָמַר מִדָּכָם אֹתָהּ הַאֲרֶץ הֲיִקְבָּל  
should I accept H853 this of your hand Ye said the LORD  
H7521 H3027 H559 H3068

## Additional Cross-References

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**Micah 6:3** (Parallel theme): O my people, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee? testify against me.

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