

Malachi 2:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

Analysis

Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? Malachi invokes the dual concept of אב אב (av echad, one father)—both Abraham as Israel's patriarch and Yahweh as Creator. The rhetorical questions establish covenant brotherhood before indicting Israel's treachery. **Why do we deal treacherously** uses בגד (bagad), meaning to act covertly against, to betray—a term frequently describing marital infidelity and covenant violation.

By profaning the covenant of our fathers—the חילל (chillel) denotes desecration, treating the sacred as common. This verse frames the subsequent condemnation of intermarriage (v. 11) and divorce (v. 14-16) not as isolated sins but as covenant treachery against both God and the community. The appeal to shared paternity makes Israel's internal betrayals all the more heinous—they are defrauding their own brothers.

Historical Context

Written circa 430 BC to post-exilic Jews who had returned from Babylon under Zerubbabel and Ezra. Despite the temple's reconstruction (515 BC), spiritual apathy had set in. The community faced internal division over mixed marriages with pagan women and the casual divorce of Jewish wives—issues Ezra and Nehemiah also confronted (Ezra 9-10, Nehemiah 13:23-27).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God as Father and Creator of all believers transform how you treat fellow Christians?
2. In what ways might modern church culture 'profane the covenant' through internal treachery and division?
3. What contemporary practices parallel Israel's treachery—outward religious observance while betraying covenant relationships?

Interlinear Text

אָלָל וְאָלָל נָאָל אָבָתֵינוּ

H3808

father

H1

הַבְּנִים אָמָת

Have we not all one

H259

אָלָל וְאָלָל נָאָל

H3605

God

H410

אָמָת

Have we not all one

H259

מְדֻבָּר וְעַבְדֵּנוּ

created

H4069

נְבָנִים

us why do we deal treacherously

H898

אֵין

every man

H376

בְּאַחֲרֵי

against his brother

H251

לְפָנֵי

by profaning

H2490

בְּכָרְית

the covenant

H1285

אָבָתֵינוּ

father

H1

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 100:3 (Creation): Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Malachi 2:11 (References God): Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the

holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.

1 Corinthians 8:6 (References God): But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

Ephesians 4:6 (References God): One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Isaiah 63:16 (Parallel theme): Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.

Isaiah 64:8 (Parallel theme): But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

Acts 7:26 (Parallel theme): And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?

Isaiah 43:7 (Creation): Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Isaiah 43:1 (Creation): But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

Isaiah 44:2 (Creation): Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.