

# Malachi 2:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts.

## Analysis

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**The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar**—the Hebrew phrase עַר וְעֹנֶה (er v'oneh) is cryptic, literally 'one who rouses and one who answers,' possibly meaning teacher and student, or perhaps a merism for every man regardless of status. The LXX renders it 'until he be brought low,' suggesting complete destruction. The point is comprehensive judgment: covenant-breakers will be excommunicated from **the tabernacles of Jacob**—expelled from the covenant community.

**And him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts**—this devastating phrase reveals that religious activity provides no protection from covenant judgment. Even the man who brings sacrifices to the temple will be cut off if he violates marriage covenant. This echoes 1:10-14 where God rejects polluted offerings; here He rejects the offerer himself. Ritual cannot substitute for righteousness—a principle Jesus would later emphasize (Matthew 5:23-24).

## Historical Context

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Post-exilic Judaism emphasized temple worship and sacrifice as markers of restored covenant relationship. Malachi shatters any notion that liturgical correctness excuses ethical treachery. The threatened 'cutting off' recalls the covenant curses of Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28—expulsion from the land and

community. For returned exiles who'd already experienced Babylonian exile, this warning carried terrifying weight.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What modern religious activities do people trust in while living in covenant-breaking relationships?
2. How does God's rejection of worship from the treacherous challenge the separation of 'spiritual' and 'moral' life?
3. Why is excommunication from the covenant community a more serious consequence than individual divine displeasure?

## Interlinear Text

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יִכַּרְתַּ	לַיהוָה	לְאִישׁ	אֲשֶׁר	יַעֲשֶׂה	זֶה
will cut off	The LORD	the man	H834	that doeth	this the master
H3772	H3068	H376		H6213	H5782
וְעַל	מִמֶּנֶּה	יֵצֵא	וּמִי	יִשְׁלַח	מִנְחָה
and the scholar	out of the tabernacles	of Jacob	and him that offereth		an offering
H6030	H168	H3290	H5066		H4503
לַיהוָה	צְבָאוֹת:				
The LORD	of hosts				
H3068	H6635				

