

Malachi 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say,
Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that
doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth
in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

Analysis

Ye have wearied the LORD with your words—הָגַעֲתָם (hoga'tem, wearied/exhausted) anthropomorphizes divine patience stretched to breaking. The metaphor depicts God as a parent exasperated by relentless childish defiance. **Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him?** The incredulous denial follows Malachi's pattern (1:2, 1:6, 1:7)—spiritual blindness preventing self-awareness of sin.

When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them—this reveals Israel's theological confusion. Observing wicked prosper while the righteous suffer (a perennial problem, cf. Psalms 73, Habakkuk 1:13), they conclude God approves evil or is indifferent. The **חָפֵץ** (chafets, delights) suggests God takes pleasure in wickedness—a slanderous inversion of His character. **Or, Where is the God of judgment?** The cynical question (אֵלֶּה הַמִּשְׁפָט, Elohei hamishpat) either doubts God's existence or His justice. This sets up 3:1-5's prophecy of sudden divine judgment—the Lord they sarcastically seek will indeed come, but as refiner's fire.

Historical Context

Post-exilic Judah's economic hardship and subjugation to Persia created a theodicy crisis. Despite returning from exile and rebuilding the temple, they remained

politically powerless while pagan nations thrived. This fueled skepticism about divine justice—if God controls history, why do the wicked prosper? Malachi addresses this 'silence of God' problem by prophesying the coming Day of the Lord when all moral accounts will be settled (3:16-4:3).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the modern prosperity gospel replicate Israel's error of equating divine blessing with material success?
2. In what ways do Christians 'weary the LORD' by questioning His justice when the wicked prosper?
3. How should believers maintain faith in God's judgment when it appears delayed or absent?

Interlinear Text

הָזֵג עָנוּ	יְהִי הָ	בְּדָבָרִיךְ מָ	בְּאָמְרָךְ מָ	בְּתַת הָ
Wherein have we wearied	of the LORD	with your words	Yet ye say	H4100
H3021	H3068	H1697	H559	
הָזֵג עָנוּ	כָּל בְּאָמְרָךְ מָ	עַשְׂה	טֹבוֹן כְּעָ	
Wherein have we wearied	Yet ye say	Every one that doeth	evil	is good
H3021	H559	H3605	H6213	H2896
בְּעֵינֵי	וְאֵת וְבָחָם	זָהָר	אֵין אֵין	
in the sight	of the LORD	and he delighteth	H176	H346
H5869	H3068	H1931	H2654	
אֱלֹהִים	בְּמִשְׁפָּט			
in them or Where is the God	of judgment			
H430	H4941			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 43:24 (Parallel theme): Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities.

Zephaniah 1:12 (Evil): And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 (Evil): Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Isaiah 1:14 (Parallel theme): Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

Isaiah 30:18 (Judgment): And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

Isaiah 7:13 (References God): And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?

Job 36:17 (Judgment): But thou hast fulfilled the judgment of the wicked: judgment and justice take hold on thee.

Job 34:17 (Parallel theme): Shall even he that hateth right govern? and wilt thou condemn him that is most just?

Jeremiah 15:6 (References Lord): Thou hast forsaken me, saith the LORD, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting.

Amos 2:13 (Parallel theme): Behold, I am pressed under you, as a cart is pressed that is full of sheaves.

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