

Malachi reader's theater and choral readings

CHARACTERS: Voice of God, Malachi, Rebel 1 (sarcastic and haughty) , Rebel 2 (defiant and contrary) , Seeker of God (humble, looking to do what pleases God, sincere)
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON Malachi 1 - 3

Questions and answers

CHARACTERS: Voice of God, Malachi, Rebel 1 (sarcastic and haughty) , Rebel 2 (defiant and contrary) , Seeker of God (humble, looking to do what pleases God, sincere)
RUN TIME: 3-4 minutes
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON Malachi 1 & 3

VOICE OF GOD: I have loved you.

REBEL 1: How have You loved us?

VOICE OF GOD: Wasn't Esau Jacob's brother?

REBEL 2: Yes.

VOICE OF GOD: Even so, I loved Jacob, but I hated Esau. I turned his mountains into a wasteland, and gave his inheritance to the desert jackals.

EDOMITE: We have been devastated, but we will rebuild the ruins.

VOICE OF GOD: They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called a wicked country and the people the Lord has cursed

MALACHI: Will I see this take place?

VOICE OF GOD: Your own eyes will see this, and you yourselves will say

ALL: The Lord is great, even beyond the borders of Israel.

VOICE OF GOD: Since the days of your fathers, you have turned from My statutes;

MALACHI: You have not kept them.

VOICE OF GOD: Return to Me, and I will return to you.

SEEKER of GOD: How can we return?

VOICE OF GOD: Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me!"

REBEL 1: How do we rob You?

MALACHI: By not making the payments of the tenth and the contributions.

VOICE OF GOD: You are suffering under a curse, yet you—the whole nation—are still robbing Me.

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MALACHI: Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this way.

SEEKER of GOD: What will happen if we do?

VOICE OF GOD: See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.

SEEKER of GOD: Will you rebuke the devourer so that it will not ruin the produce of our land?

VOICE OF GOD: Yes and your vine in your field will not fail to produce fruit.

MALACHI: Then all the nations will consider you fortunate, for you will be a delightful land.

VOICE OF GOD: Your words against Me are harsh.

REBEL 2: What have we spoken against You?

MALACHI: You have said:

REBEL 1: It is useless to serve God.

REBEL 2: What have we gained by keeping His requirements and walking mournfully before the Lord of Hosts?

REBEL 1: It is the arrogant who are fortunate.

REBEL 2: Not only do those who commit wickedness prosper, they even test God and escape.

Message to priests and Levites

CHARACTERS: Voice of God, Malachi, PRIEST, REBEL 2

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON Malachi 1-2

VOICE OF GOD: You priests, who despise my name, answer me this: A son honors his father, and a servant his master. But if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is your fear of Me?

PRIEST: How have we despised Your name or defiled you?

VOICE OF GOD: By presenting defiled food on My altar. saying “The Lord’s table is contemptible.”

PRIEST: Give us an example.

MALACHI: When you present a blind, lame or sick animal for sacrifice, is it not wrong?

VOICE OF GOD: If you brought that to your governor, he would not be pleased with you or show you favor.

MALACHI: Since you do not give God your best, , will He show any of you favor?

VOICE OF GOD: I wish one of you would shut the temple doors, so you would no longer kindle a useless fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you, and I will accept no offering from your hands.

MALACHI: God’s name is to be great among the nations, from the rising of the sun to its setting.

VOICE OF GOD: Offer incense and pure offerings in My name in every place because My name will be great among the nations.

MALACHI: But you are profaning it when you say:

PRIEST: (scornfully) Look, what a nuisance!

MALACHI: You bring stolen, lame, or sick animals. (Scandalized) You bring this as an offering!

VOICE OF GOD: Am I to accept that from your hands?

MALACHI: The deceiver is cursed who has an acceptable male in his flock but sacrifices a defective animal to the Lord.

VOICE OF GOD: For I am a great King, and My name will be feared among the nations.

MALACHI: Therefore, this decree is for you priests:

VOICE OF GOD: If you don’t listen, and if you don’t take it to heart to honor My name I will send a curse among you, and I will curse your blessings. In fact, I have already begun to curse them because you are not taking it to heart.

MALACHI: God will rebuke you. He will spread animal waste over your faces,

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PRIEST: That is disgusting!

REBEL 2: Absolutely repulsive.

MALACHI: and you will be taken away with it. Then you will know that God sent you this message.

VOICE OF GOD: My covenant with the Levites was one of life and peace, and it called for reverence.

MALACHI: In the past, the Levites revered God, stood in awe of His name and taught true instruction.

VOICE OF GOD: The priests walked with Me in peace and fairness and turned many from sin.

MALACHI: For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge,

REBEL 1: and people should seek instruction from his mouth,

MALACHI: because he is the messenger of the Lord of Hosts.

VOICE OF GOD: You, on the other hand, have turned from the way.

MALACHI: You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have violated the covenant of Levi.

VOICE OF GOD: So I in turn have made you despised and humiliated before all the people because you are not keeping My ways but are showing partiality in your instruction.

MALACHI: Don't all of us have one Father? Didn't one God create us?

PRIEST: Yes.

MALACHI: Why then do we act treacherously against one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?

PRIEST: How have we acted treacherously?

MALACHI: You have profaned the Lord's sanctuary, which He loves,

VOICE OF GOD: and married the daughter of a foreign god.

MALACHI: To the man who does this, may the Lord cut off any descendants, even if they present an offering to the Lord of Hosts.

Marital Unfaithfulness

CHARACTERS: Voice of God, Malachi, Rebel 1

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON Malachi 2

VOICE of GOD: This is another thing you do:

MALACHI : You cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning, because He no longer respects your offerings or receives them gladly from your hands.

REBEL 1: Why doesn't he respect what we give?

MALACHI: Because the Lord has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth.

VOICE OF GOD: You have acted treacherously against her, though she was your marriage partner and your wife by covenant.

MALACHI: Didn't the one God make us with a remnant of His life-breath? And what does the One seek?

VOICE OF GOD: I want godly offspring. So watch yourselves carefully] and do not act treacherously against the wife of your youth.

MALACHI: If you hate and divorce your wife, you promote injustice.

VOICE OF GOD:.. Therefore, watch yourselves carefully, and do not act treacherously.

Judgment at the Lord's Coming choral reading

CHARACTERS: Voice of God, Malachi, Rebel 1, Rebel 2, Seeker

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON Malachi 2-3

MALACHI: You have wearied the Lord with your words.

REBEL 1: How have we wearied Him?

MALACHI: When you say,

REBEL 2: Everyone who does what is evil is good in the Lord's sight, and He is pleased with them.

REBEL 1: Where is the God of justice?

VOICE OF GOD: I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me.

MALACHI: Then the Lord you seek will suddenly come to His temple,

ALL: the Messenger of the covenant you desire—

VOICE OF GOD: See, He is coming. But who can endure the day of His coming?

MALACHI: And who will be able to stand when He appears?

VOICE OF GOD: He will be like a refiner's fire and like cleansing lye.

MALACHI: He will be like a refiner and purifier of silver.

VOICE OF GOD: He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver.

MALACHI: Then they will present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

ALL: And the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will please the Lord as in days of old and years gone by.

VOICE OF GOD: I will come to you in judgment, and I will be ready to witness against sorcerers and adulterers;

ALL: against those who swear falsely;

MALACHI: against those who oppress the widow and the fatherless,

ALL: and cheat the wage earner;

MALACHI: and against those who deny justice to the foreigner.

VOICE OF GOD: They do not fear Me, because I, Yahweh, have not changed

ALL: We have not been destroyed.

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SEEKER of GOD:: At that time those who feared the Lord spoke to one another.

MALACHI: The Lord took notice and listened.

SEEKER of GOD: So a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who feared Yahweh and had high regard for His name.

VOICE OF GOD: They will be Mine, a special possession on the day I am preparing. I will have compassion on them as a man has compassion on his son who serves him.

MALACHI: We will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked,

SEEKER of GOD: between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

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