



August 25th, 2024 • Malachi 1:6 – 2:9

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Message #2/6 • by Pastor Marcus Johnson

“Fearing the Great Name of the LORD & Experiencing His Love”

Sermon Series Theme Verse – “For from the rising of the sun to its setting

my name will be great among the nations . . . says the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 1:11)



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Fearing the Name of the LORD: thru Wholehearted Worship & Christ-centered Leadership

1. The LORD rebuked Israel’s priests:

- for despising His great name (thru polluted offerings) (1vs6-10)

- by declaring His name will be great & feared among the nations (1vs11-14)

- for turning aside from the way (they were unfaithful messengers) (2vs1-9)

2. Heed the prophetic-call for wholehearted worship of King Jesus:

- as a royal priesthood – who fear & praise His great name ‘til He returns (Ex 19:5-6; 1Pe 2:4-12; Rev 1:6-7)

- by presenting ourselves as a living sacrifice – holy & acceptable to God (Ro 12:1-2; Isa 1:10-20)

3. Heed the prophetic-call for Christ-centered leadership

- thru godly, bold, servant-leaders – who fear & praise His great name ‘til He returns (Mk 10:35-45; Ac 4:1-31; 1Pe 5:1-11)

- thru godly, equipping leaders – who preach the Word in season & out (Eph 4:1-16; 2Ti 4:1-8)

Excursus: The Name of the LORD in Malachi

Scripture taken from the ESV; Alternate translations (in parentheses) from the NASB & NIV

The LORD of hosts (review from last week): Malachi uses the name “the LORD” 46 times in 55 verses, & in 24 (43%) of these 55 verses he uses the phrase “the LORD of hosts”. The name “the LORD” is the personal name of God (Yahweh) given to His people Israel (see Ex 3). “The LORD of hosts” is a name for God referring to Israel’s personal God who reigns over all hosts (powers, armies) that exists. This name for God would have comforted & reassured Israel who was living as a minority people subject to other nations/empires (c. 5th century B.C.).

Fearing the Great Name of the LORD: The name of the LORD and fearing the LORD are dominant OT themes (e.g., Deut., Kings, Chronicles, Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, Jeremiah & Malachi). Malachi combines these two themes, saying that the name of the LORD will be great and His great name will be feared – not only by Israel (who was not fearing His name at that time), but also by all the nations. Listed below are the verses which include these themes. *Two Hebrew words are used for “fear” in these verses listed below: **mowra** [fear, reverence, terror, awe-inspiring] and **yare** [fear, revere, be afraid] (*Biblestudytools.com).

Mal 1:6 “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my **fear [mowra]** (“respect” NASB)? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, ‘How have we despised your name?’ **Mal 1:14** Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the LORD what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be **feared [yare]** among the nations. **Mal 2:5** My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of **fear [mowra]** (“reverence” NASB & NIV), and he **feared [yare]** (“revered” NASB & NIV) me. He stood in awe of my name. **Mal 3:5** “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not **fear [yare]** me, says the LORD of hosts. **Mal 3:16** Then those who **feared [yare]** the Lord spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who **feared [yare]** the LORD and esteemed his name. **Mal 4:2** But for you who **feared [yare]** (“revere” NIV) my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. **Mal 4:5** “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and **awesome [yare]** (“terrible” NASB; “dreadful” NIV) day of the LORD comes.