

Dead Orthodoxy

Disputing God's Love

Malachi 1:2-5 ESV

"I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have you loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert." If Edom says, "We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins," the LORD of hosts says, "They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called 'the wicked country,' and 'the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.'" Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, "Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!"

Context – the truth of the situation

- Andrew E. Hill: "A generation of religious indifference had distorted the people's reasoning, led them to false conclusions, and ultimately blinded them to the reality of God's love."

Content – the truth for Malachi's audience

"I have loved you," says the LORD.

THE TRUTH: God loves Jacob

- God conveys this truth through Malachi by appealing to DIVINE REVELATION, HISTORY, and the FUTURE.

Divine Revelation

- **"Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob but Esau I have hated.**
- God's election:
 - Genesis 25:21-23 ESV
 - Romans 9:10-13 ESV

History

I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert."

Future

If Edom says, “We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins,” the LORD of hosts says, “They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called ‘the wicked country,’ and ‘the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.’” Your own eyes shall see this,

Christ – the truth for us

Christ is the ultimate embodiment and fulfillment of Gods’ covenantal love

THE TRUTH: God, through Jesus, loves his people

Ephesians 1:3-8 ESV

Divine Revelation:

... he **chose us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **In love he predestined us for adoption as sons** through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

History:

In him we have **redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

Future:

which he set forth in Christ as **a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.**

Consider – the truth to act on

Do we recognize and rejoice in God’s love, even when things are difficult?

and you shall say, “Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!”

Recognize God’s love for you by submitting to God’s Word

2 Timothy 3:16 ESV All Scripture is breathed out by God

Pray that God would help you rejoice in His Word

Psalms 119:162 ESV I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.