**Malachi: Bible Study**

**How Have We Exhausted God with Our Words? (2:17-3:5):**

**Questioning God's Justice**

The fourth unit in Malachi, and the most familiar, takes up the enduring question of
God's justice in light of the apparent triumph of those who do evil. It is, in effect, as if
evildoers are good in God's eyes.

A. Complaint of the People (Malachi 2:17)

The section opens with an indictment: "You have wearied Yahweh with your words."

1. Example one of their "wearying" words and attitude:

"Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord" calls into question the most
basic attribute of God, that he is good and just.

1. The second example of wearisome words is the question, "Where is
the God of justice?"

Justice, in this context, means God punishing evildoers and vindicating the
righteous. Although this could be a legitimate expression of longing, in context it
seems more like a taunt.

B. Warning: The Day of the Lord is Coming (3:1-5)

This is the first reference to the Day of the Lord in Malachi, a theme that persists
throughout the Book of the Twelve. Whether it is the "Day of the Lord," (18x), "on
that day," (208x) or "the day of darkness and gloom" (Zeph 2:2), it is a coming day
when God will intervene in the world and bring his justice fully and harshly. It will
be a time of judgment for many, but it will also be a time when God purifies his

people. See Joel 2:1-3; Amos 5:18-20; Zeph 1:7.