

Malachi to Revelation

Disciple copy — Pleasant Springs Church, Discipleship School

Name: _____ Date: _____

The full twelve-lesson series: ps-church.com/discipleship/malachi-to-revelation

The question the whole Bible keeps answering

By whose _____, and through which _____, does a holy God come to be present with sinful people?

Twelve lessons follow that one thread — from a golden calf to a Lamb on a throne.

1 • Aaron was not inventing a new god

Exodus 32:4–5 (ESV) — "...and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be **a feast to the LORD.**'"

⚠ "A feast to the **LORD.**" Aaron is not naming a rival god. He is throwing a festival for _____ — and building him a _____ that God never authorised.

➤ **The sin is not worshipping the wrong God. It is worshipping the _____ God in a way he did not ask for.**

2 • Then it happens again — on purpose

1 Kings 12:28 (ESV) — "So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, 'You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. **Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.**'"

⚠ Those are _____ words, almost syllable for syllable.

Jeroboam's three improvisations:

1. an unauthorised _____
2. a parallel _____
3. an invented _____

1 Kings 12:30 (ESV) — "Then this thing became a sin..."

The northern kingdom _____ recovered from it.

3 • Malachi: the priesthood diagnosed

Malachi 1:6–8 (ESV) — "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor?... When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil?... **Present that to your governor; will he accept you** or show you favor?"

⚠ Hear the argument: not *you worship another god*, but **you would not treat your** _____ **like this**. The offering is technically correct and inwardly _____.

► Three ways to get it wrong:

Who	How
Aaron	under _____
Jeroboam	on _____
The post-exilic priests	by _____ ← <i>the one most available to us</i>

Malachi 3:1 (ESV) — "Behold, I send my **messenger**, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple, and the **messenger of the covenant**..."

4 • Four hundred years of silence

No prophet for about four centuries. But "silent" is not "empty" — in those years the Jewish scriptures were translated into _____ (the Septuagint), so the Old Testament was already waiting in the language everybody read.

► The silence was _____.

5 • The Mediator arrives

Mark 1:2–3 (ESV) — "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness..."

John 1:14 (ESV) — "And the Word became flesh and **dwelt** among us..."

"Dwelt" is the _____ word — *he pitched his tent among us*. The presence that filled the tent at Sinai is now standing in the room, in a _____.

► **Nobody had to build this pedestal. God _____ it himself.**

6 • The curtain

Matthew 27:50–51 (ESV) — "And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, **from top to bottom...**"

⚠ **From _____ to _____**. Not forced open from our side — torn from _____.

Hebrews 10:19–22 (ESV) — "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain... let us **draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith."

1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV) — "For there is one God, and there is **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

And the priesthood is not abolished but _____ — including you:

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) — "But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for his own possession..."

7 • Where it lands

Revelation 21:22 (ESV) — "And I saw **no temple** in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb."

⚠ After Sinai, Solomon, the rebuilt temple, Herod's temple — the last picture of the city has **no** _____ **for meeting God in.**

➤ **Aaron built a pedestal God had not asked for. God has ended by making** _____ **the meeting place.**

8 • And the part that lands on us

The calf is not a museum piece. We are all capable of worshipping the true God on terms we invented, through a mediator we appointed. It looks like:

- a faith built on an _____ rather than on Christ
- a church shaped by what _____ rather than by what God asked for
- a private religion that never has to _____ to anything

⚠ None of those is the wrong God. **It is the right God, approached** _____ .

The answer is not to try harder. The curtain is _____ , from the top.

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV) — "Let us then **with confidence** draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Three things to remember

1. Aaron called it "a feast to the _____ ." The sin is improvising access to the true God.
 2. The curtain tore from _____ to _____ — opened from God's side.
 3. The city has _____ . The meeting place is a person.
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Closing prayer

Father, we confess how easily we build our own pedestals and call the festival yours. Thank you that you did not leave us to improvise — that you sent the Messenger of the covenant, that you tore the curtain from your side, and that there is one Mediator and he is enough. Teach us to come the way you opened rather than the way we prefer, and make us a royal priesthood in the place where you have put us. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Take it further — the full series

Twelve lessons following one thread: **authorised mediation**.

Aaron's unauthorised pedestal · Jeroboam repeats it · Malachi diagnoses the priesthood · the silent years (and the Septuagint prepared) · John the returned Elijah · Jesus the true Tabernacle · the torn veil · Pentecost and the royal priesthood · Hebrews on mediation · Revelation's Lamb who is the temple.

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Which of the three is nearest to me?

Under **pressure** · on **purpose** · by **neglect** — and why:

My notes

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