

ISRAEL'S SINS IN MALACHI'S TIME

<i>Israel's Sin</i>	<i>God's Assertion or Accusation</i>	<i>Israel's Response or Denial</i>	<i>God's Evidence and Arguments</i>
1. The people denied God's love for them (1:2–5).	"I have loved you" (1:2a).	Question #1: "How have You loved us?" (1:2b).	God's Answer #1: Covenantal love shown in His love of Jacob over Esau (1:2c–5).
2. The priests allowed polluted sacrifices to be brought by the people (1:6–2:9).	"[You have] despise[d] My name" (1:6b).	Question #2: "How have we despised Your name?" (1:6c). Question #3: "How have we defiled You?" (1:7b).	God's Answer #2: "You are presenting defiled food upon My altar" (1:7a). God's Answer #3: By saying, "The table of the LORD is to be despised" (1:7c).
3. The people broke their marriage vows (2:10–16).	"[You] deal treacherously each against his brother" (2:10). "You cover the altar . . . with tears [because I disregard your sacrifices]" (2:13).	Question #4: "For what reason [do You disregard our sacrifices]?" (2:14a).	God's Answer #4: "You have dealt treacherously [with] your wife"; "I hate divorce" (2:14b–16a).
4. The people denied God's justice (2:17–3:6).	(Malachi:) "You have wearied the LORD with your words" (2:17a).	Question #5: "How have we wearied Him?" (2:17b).	God's Answer #5: By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them," or "Where is the God of justice?" (2:17c; see 3:1–6).
5. They disobeyed God's law and withheld tithes and offerings (3:7–12).	"You have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me" (3:7a). "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me!" (3:8a).	Questions #6 & 7: "How shall we return?" (3:7b). "How have we robbed You?" (3:8b).	God's Answers #6 & 7: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse" (3:10a). "In tithes and offerings" (3:8c). "Test Me [and see] if I will . . . pour out . . . a blessing" (3:10b, c).
6. They spoke arrogant words against God (3:13–4:3).	"Your words have been arrogant against Me" (3:13a).	Question #8: "What have we spoken against You?" (3:13b).	God's Answer #8: "You have said, 'It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts?'" (3:14, 15; see 4:1–3).