

SPIRITUAL INFIDELITY

Malachi 2:10-11 ... "Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously with one another by profaning the covenant of the fathers? Judah has dealt treacherously and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the Lord's holy institution which he loves; he has married the daughter of a foreign god."

In case the word "infidelity" is not familiar to you, we use it most often for a married person who cheats on his or her spouse. It means unfaithfulness, or disloyalty. The book of Malachi speaks about the fall of Israel in terms of infidelity. This is important for us because it explains why the world has suffered so much, so many wars, so many mass exterminations, and so much unrest over several thousand years. Today's passage is somewhat cryptic if you are not a Bible scholar, so allow me to dissect it for you.

The first point is that all mankind has one Father, Father God. No person or race exists that was not created by God. So, whether you are Filipino, Arab, African, Canadian, Tboli or Blaan, we share the same Father. The second point is the "covenant of the fathers," which refers to God's agreement with the earliest man to bless and provide for man as long as man worshipped the one true God. But men profaned (disrespected) that agreement and made their own choices.

When the passage speaks of "Judah," it is referring to the Jewish people and accuses them of committing the sin of corrupting Jewish blood by marrying women and men from the tribes of God's enemies, including those who worshipped other gods. This is the primary downfall of the Jews, who God promised to protect and elevate as his chosen people, if they obeyed him. And, their failure affects all people in the entire world because when Israel was living according to God's commands, there was peace on earth. And, that is the key to the mess our world is in today: Man's disloyalty toward God. In other words, man's infidelity towards God.

As we have spoken in previous lessons, our relationship with God sets us apart from those who practice other religions and from those who live in sin. As believers, we are actually forbidden from inter-marrying with nonbelievers or those who have no beliefs at all. In fact, many other religions have the same rules. The same failure that affected the Jews and the entire world by their infidelity toward God, can affect you if you marry an unbeliever or someone who practices another religion (or no religion at all). Just as God's blessing and protection of Israel was lifted when the Jews disobeyed God, we can suffer the same result if we disobey God.

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