

CRY

2026

OUT

POSTEXILIC PROPHETS

HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH & MALACHI

COVENANT^{EFC}

STUDY 9

GOD, THAT'S UNFAIR!
(Malachi 2:17–3:5)

COVENANT^{EFC}



WELCOME

Ice-breaker Activity: “So unfair!”

Each person shares (in one minute) on either of these questions:

- When was the last time you felt unfairly treated? **OR**
- What are some examples of unfairness that you see present in the world today?

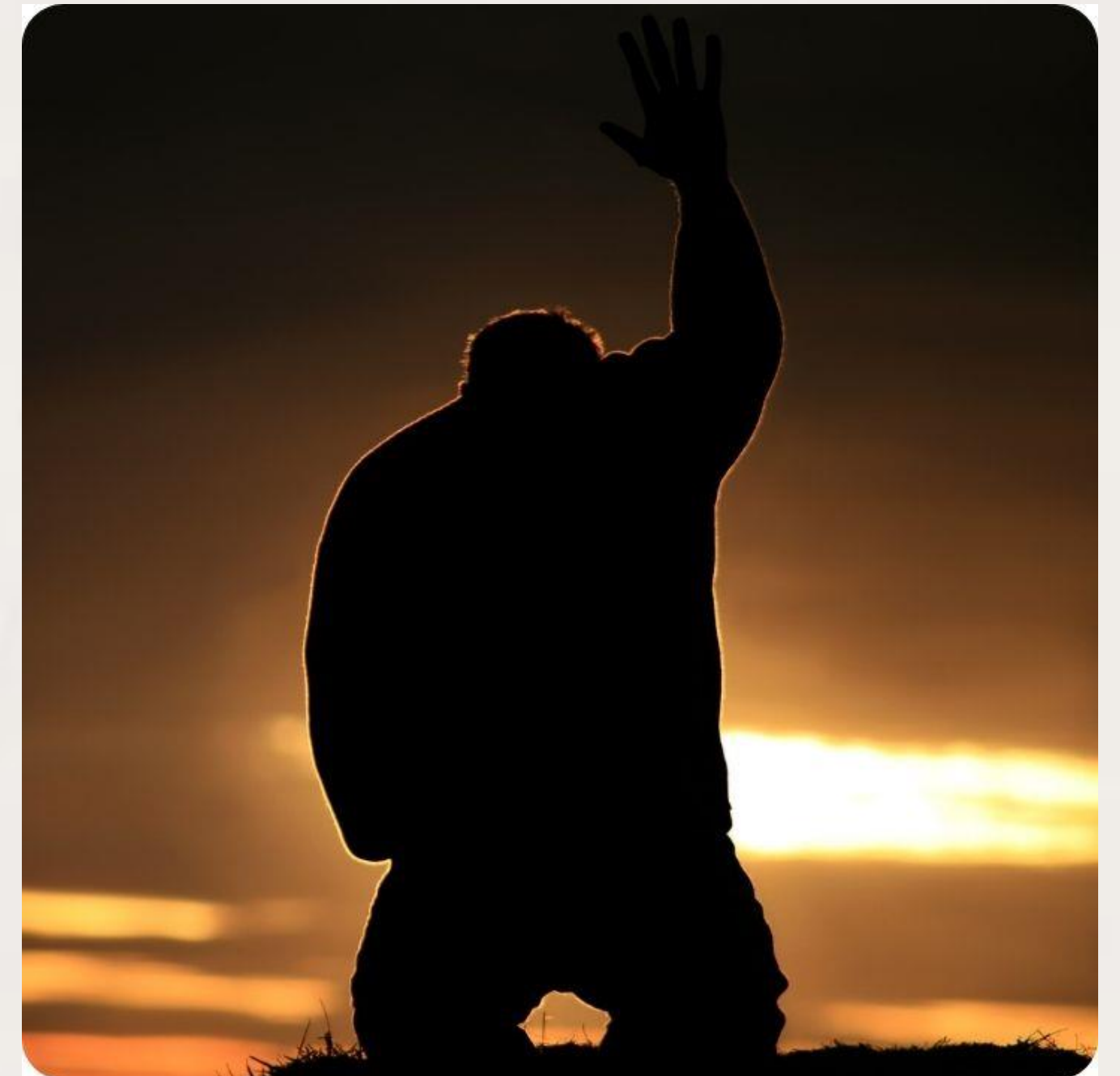




WORSHIP

Let's prepare our hearts to worship our God of justice, mercy and grace.

- O Come To The Altar (Elevation Worship)
- I Will Trust My Savior Jesus (CityAlight)
- It Is Well (Kristene DiMarco)
- Sovereign Over Us (Michael W Smith)





WORD

STRUCTURE OF MALACHI

6 PROPHETIC DISPUTATIONS

1

The LORD's
love

(1:1-5)



2

Faithless
priests

(1:6-2:9)



3

Faithless
people

(2:10-16)



4

The LORD's
messenger

(2:17-3:5)



5

Robbing the
LORD

(3:6-12)



6

The Day of
the LORD

(3:13-4:3)

Final charge:
Remember
the law!

(4:4-6)

Activity 1: Watch a Video

Watch this Bible Project video on Justice.

What is one thing that stood out to you from the video about the biblical understanding of justice?

In the rest of this study, we will be looking at a disputation in the book of Malachi that focuses on the topic of **justice**.

Activity 2: Read & Discuss

Read Malachi 2:17 and answer Questions 1 and 2:

1. What was the charge that the people were bringing against God?
2. Why do you think it was wearying to God?

🔍 Exegetical Insight: who was the messenger of the covenant (Mal 3:1)?

- 3:1 mentions the “messenger of the covenant”.
- While scholars disagree as to the identity of this messenger (whether Yahweh himself, a messianic or a prophetic figure), more important is his function – to enforce the terms of the Mosaic covenant and refine God’s priesthood and people to follow it.
- In the New Testament – John the Baptist is the fulfilment of the messenger who goes before the Lord Jesus to prepare the way.
- “The Lord suddenly coming to his temple” is also fulfilled by Jesus in the New Testament.

Activity 3: Read & Discuss

Read Malachi 3:1-4 and answer questions 3 and 4

3. How does the reply about the sending of the messenger and the arrival of the LORD Himself address the people's charge of injustice? (Read Mal 3:2)
4. What will take place when the Lord and His messenger come?

Activity 4: Read & Discuss

Read Malachi 3:5 and answer Question 5

5. How does the reply that God will draw near to His people in judgment address the people's charge of injustice?



Prayerfully reflect on these questions

1. Do you struggle with a sense that God is unfair *to you* (e.g. you may wonder why God has not blessed you in certain ways, other people have it better, etc.)?
2. Do you struggle with a sense that God is unfair to *others* in the world (e.g. because of injustices that we see)?
3. How might our study of Mal 2:17 – 3:5 changed your perspective of God's fairness and justice and our response to injustice?

Thought to chew on: When we see what's wrong in our world and cry out to God for justice, let us also consider whether we are pursuing God's justice through our own actions towards others.



Share and pray for one another

- Share your reflections on any of the three questions with others in your small group. Be as authentic as you can be.
- Use these pointers as you pray for one another:
 1. **Commit** our feelings of injustice/unfairness to God
 2. In faith, **ask** God to intervene in bleak and unjust situations – to bring healing and transformation
 3. **Pray** that God would cleanse *us* of injustice – He is our refining fire.
 4. Ask that the LORD would **empower** us to be His representatives in the world that usher in His justice and peace in our areas of influence.



Additional Resources for Further Study

- Hill, Andrew. *Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. Vol 28. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries.* Nottingham: Inter-varsity Press. 2012.
- Petterson, Anthony R. *Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Apollos Old Testament Commentary.* Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015.
- Baldwin, Joyce G. *Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi: An Introduction and Commentary. Vol. 28. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1972.
- Verhoef, Pieter A. *The Books of Haggai and Malachi.* The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987.
- Taylor, Richard A., and E. Ray Clendenen. *Haggai, Malachi. Vol. 21A. The New American Commentary.* Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2004.