

## God's Vision

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**Mal. 1:6** A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master: if then I *be* a father, where *is* mine honour? and if I *be* a master, where *is* my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

**Mal. 1:7** Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD *is* contemptible.

**Mal. 1:8** And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, *is it* not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, *is it* not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

**Mal. 1:9** And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts.

**Mal. 1:10** Who *is there* even among you that would shut the doors *for nought*? neither do ye kindle *fire* on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

**Mal. 1:11** For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name *shall be* great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense *shall be* offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name *shall be* great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

**Mal. 1:12** But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD *is* polluted; and the fruit thereof, *even* his meat, *is* contemptible.

**Mal. 1:13** Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness *is it!* and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought *that which was* torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

**Mal. 1:14** But cursed *be* the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I *am* a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name *is* dreadful among the heathen.

Here in our text chapter, God is fed up with the hypocritical worship and service of the Jews. He has tired of their cheapness when they come before Him with their offerings that are polluted and second-rate. He is tired of their spiritual leaders conspiring with the people, whether intentionally or through neglect. They conspire with the people in that they offer the substandard sacrifices that the people bring. From this we learn that our God hates half-hearted service and half-hearted worship. We also learn what happens to a people who come before Him in such a

profane manner. It is a conspiracy of the carnal heart to offer something to God which He will not have and which He detests. In our present age, the Lord still deals with people who dishonor His name in the same way he did in the past. Though this is the age of Grace, yet God will not put up with cheapness in service and worship to Him. Jesus condemned the continued false worship and service of the Jews in **Matthew 15:7-8** *Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.* And by His rebuke He reminds us that this is a New Testament attitude of God toward these things. Also, when I say that God deals in the same way with slovenliness in service and worship, we are reminded of the messages of warning that the Mighty Christ gave the seven churches in Asia by the pen of John. In those messages, He lays out a fair warning to some of those churches who had gotten to the place where their service was sickening to the Lord. We hear things like: **(Rev. 2:5)** *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. (Rev 2:16) Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. (Rev. 3:1,3) I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead...Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.*

Some may wonder how I would dare to transfer the attitude of the God of the Old Testament to the attitude of the God of the New Testament. There is more than one reason. First, God does not change. With that being true, we have to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. So, what God hated and declared judgment on in the Old Testament, He declares judgment on in the New. The second reason is found in the verse I want us to focus on today. **Verse 11** says, **“For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.”** Within that statement He shares with us His vision. He is speaking at a time when His dealings with men in regard to worship are with the Jews. But here, He is talking about a future time when the very thing He has desired would be true among the Jews will be true among the heathen. That time is now. And in this time, God is intent on realizing His vision. Whatever, among His subjects, His children or in the Lord’s church

that is not in fulfillment of that vision is unacceptable to the Him, because it is within His people that He will realize those things set forth in this verse. Just like His anger was stirred by what the Jews were doing in their worship and service, so a falseness, a mediocrity offered today by people who say they are His servants angers Him. We can be thankful that His anger at sin and negligence in our lives, as believers, results in chastisement and not a rejection or cutting off of us when we offend. But I believe we need to take heed to any threat of anger from our heavenly Father and we need to dread chastening that comes from it.

So, let's look at God's vision, and let's be stirred to do what we can to become part of the fulfillment of that vision. I think it is imperative that we as the children of the Kingdom living in this crooked and perverse generation should do everything we can to bring to pass the vision of God.

I. His name shall be great among the Gentiles from horizon to horizon and daylight 'til dark.

**(For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles)**

- ◆ The Lord's name should be great throughout our entire day and across the landscape of this world and our lives:
- ◆ So now, let's look at some of the names of God, because for every name He possesses, this statement by Him is His vision for the Gentile world.
- ◆ His name is "**hayah**" (haw-yaw) = **that "I AM"**(Ex. 3:14): The Self Existent and always the same
  - ▶ We live in a world that is forever changing...from year to year we wonder if things will fall to pieces around us
  - ▶ We see changes in the price of gas, changes in our financial security, bizarre changes in our culture, changes coming for our future here, we see changes in our jobs, our family's well being, changes in a multitude of things - these changes can really seem to turn things upside down
  - ▶ But, the vision of God sees His people acknowledging Him as the Self Existent essence of stability. We acknowledge His name as Hayah when we rely on Him and say so in a topsy turvy world.
- ◆ His name is **Elohim: The One to be worshiped**
  - ▶ People who call themselves Christians today are worshiping a diversity of gods. They worship their money, their pastimes, their families, their possessions, their personal pursuits in general.

- ▶ The vision of God sees His people rejecting every idol and worshiping Him alone.
  - What does this thing of worshiping God mean? Worship: Heb.: shachah (shaw khaw): prostrate oneself; do reverence. Greek; 3 nouns, 5 verbs translated worship and they all carry the idea of reverence
  
- ◆ His name is **Elion (or Elyon) (Gen. 14:19 et al.): The Most High One or Supreme One**
  - ▶ People today are notorious for putting other humans on a pedestal; they put a lot of things on pedestals;
  - ▶ The vision of God sees His people recognizing His exalted position and character; sees us putting Him on the pedestal where He rightly belongs.
  
- ◆ His name is **Jehovah (Gen. 2:4, et al., 6,580 instances): Chief Father**
  - ▶ We live in a very possession oriented culture; people want, want, want; people try to fill those wants by finding more and more sophisticated ways to get those things they want; a lot of people sacrifice their honor, their honesty, their credibility, and their credit to get those things.
  - ▶ The vision of God sees His people among the heathen acknowledging Him as the Father to top all Fathers; the Father who is omniscient, omnipotent and owner of all things, and He who brings those attributes to the forefront in His acts toward His children
  - ▶ The way this principle of our Chief Father is explained in **Mat 7:11** by Christ: **If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?**
  - ▶ We make the name of our God, Chief Father, to be great among the heathen when we acknowledge that
    - a) He **knows how** to give to us
    - b) He knows how to give us **good things** (only)
    - c) **Gives** to us **good things when we ask for good things**
  
- ◆ His name is El Shaddai (Shad-dah'ee), the **Almighty God: He who possesses all power**
  - The vision of God sees His people recognizing and understanding that it is He who possesses all the power of the universe.
    - This means that His vision sees the people of God in the land of Gentiles depending upon Him to exercise power to arrange all things, to direct all

things, to change all things that get changed, to protect His people from the powers of wicked men who are empowered by Satan, and to sustain His people when they are tried

- ◆ His name is the **Lord of Sabaoth: God of armies or hosts** (pursue idea of all His creation being part of His army):
  - ▶ (Hitler tried to take Russia during his push to overthrow all of Europe. The winter and the snow defeated him - the weather elements created by the Lord)
  - ▶ (It was the Red Sea that defeated Pharaoh and his army - the Lord made the seas)
  - ▶ In **2 Kings:6** the King of Syria sends an army to Dothan to capture Elisha (because Elisha knew everything the king of Syria was planning and he notified the king of Israel about it before it happened); the army got there and Elisha's servant was terrified of this great army being there and Elisha told him: (**2Kings 6:16**) "...Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them. **2Kings 6:17** And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the **mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.**
  
- ◆ His name is the **Everlasting Father**: He who commands eternity and is without beginning or end
  - ▶ We have concerns about our mortality; we get sick; we grow old; we die...we worry about these things
  - ▶ We forget that we are in Christ and He is in us;
  - ▶ The vision of God sees us acknowledging the eternal nature of God by acknowledging that we are also immortal because of our relationship to Him.
  
- ◆ He is **Adonai: Lord: the prop or upholder of all things**
  - The vision of God sees His people glorifying Him by their dependence on Him proving that they believe Him to be the one on whom they can lean and find strength
  
- ◆ His name is **Theos**: a Greek word embodying the **power, authority, sovereignty, and reverence of God** among other things.
  - The vision of God sees His people among the Gentiles growing to spiritual adulthood and comprehending that their Lord has all the divine characteristics that a self-existent God must have

- The power to operate freely with unlimited power, to perform with the unquestioned authority as a God must, to reserve to Himself the right of Godhood, independent of all other things, and to demand and receive reverence from His subjects.

**II. In every place incense and a pure offering will be offered to His name.** We know here from other scriptures (e.g. **Psalms 141:12; Ephesians 5:2; Phil. 4:18; Revelation 8:4**) that this is symbolic of spiritually pleasant things such as righteousness, charity, and spiritual prayers.

This second part of God's vision is a world where any place on the compass where He might look, there He will be aware of spiritual pleasantries being generated there.

- ◆ He looks at a hidden corner of some small community and sees the incense of righteousness arising from one of His children (The vision of God is that among the heathen nations, His children should stand out because of who they are...the upright ones of God)
- ◆ He looks in the open fields of our farming country and sees acts of charity being performed by His people
- ◆ He looks in the thronging city and sees spiritual prayers arising from the hearts of His subjects
- ◆ He looks down upon multitudes of evil men striving against each other and all the iniquity is before His eyes, but look there! In the midst of that transgressing mob is a son of His who is acting out a life of honesty and good will...a flower among the rotting heaps of depraved humanity.

## God's Vision

He looks upon the stricken earth,  
With eyes of piercing gaze,  
His eyes doth seek some thing of worth,  
Where sin lies solid like a haze.

Amongst the thorns of man's foul deeds,  
He spies a splendid sight,  
For in the midst of tangled growth and awful weeds,  
He views exposed, a righteous light.

Tis light from souls fresh born again,  
Amidst earth's foulest graves,  
The brightness, void of sins great stain,  
Has been implanted there by grace that saves.

The grace that's brought by love divine,  
And planted in the heart,  
When Christ with power comes to shine,  
And set His saints apart.

So, as Jehovah inventories this old sin cursed earth,  
Fulfillment of His vision presents itself to Him each time,  
The incense of those holy things of worth,  
Come forth with sweetness so sublime.

Our God is pleased with consecrated offerings pure,  
Those songs and prayers to Him of sincere praise,  
And holy deeds of faith so strong and sure,  
While sun's own rise and set doth mark man's days.

So, shine on now thou called of God,  
And please thy Father well!  
Til one day to our Christ He'll nod,  
And we'll retire with Him to dwell.

Robert P. Myers, 2008