

Behold, He is Coming

Malachi 2:17–3:7

"Either God wants to abolish evil, and cannot; or he can, but does not want to. If he wants to, but cannot, he is not all-powerful. If he can, but does not want to, he is not good. If God can abolish evil, and God really wants to do it, why is there evil in the world?"

Epicurus (341–270 BC)

1. How do WE respond to the evil in our WORLD? (2:17)

- a. We assume God isn't INTERESTED (relativism)
- b. We assume God isn't THERE (atheism)

My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? ... Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too—for the argument depended on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my fancies. (C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity)

2. How does GOD respond to the evil in our WORLD?

a. His PRESENCE (3:1)

I/me	my messenger
The LORD	the messenger of the covenant

b. His PUNISHMENT (3:2)

c. His PURIFICATION (3:3-4)

	Malachi's Audience		Church (1 Peter 2:5)
Temple	“close the doors” (1:10)	The temple of his body The curtain of the temple was torn in two (see John 2:21; Mat 27:51)	Living stones are being built up as a spiritual house (see 1 Cor 3:16; Eph 2:21)
Priests	“I have no pleasure in you” (1:10)	We have a great high priest (see Heb 4:14)	A holy priesthood (see 1 Pet 2:9; Rev 1:6)
Sacrifice	“polluted” (1:7) “evil” (1:8) “vain...I will not accept (1:10)	The lamb of God takes away the sins of the world Christ has offered...a single sacrifice (see John 1:29; Heb 10:12; 1 Pet 1:19)	Offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God (see Rom 12:1; Heb 13:15-16)

3. How do WE respond to the evil in our HEARTS?

a. Recognize how far you have WANDERED (3:5-6)

i. SPRITITUALLY

ii. SEXUALLY

iii. RELATIONALLY

iv. FINANCIALLY

b. Return to GOD (3:7)