



RECALL THE TWO REASONS THAT GOD GAVE US THE “MINOR PROPHETS.”

1. God gave them to warn me about being ungodly.

These things happened for a reason: to sound a warning. They were written down and passed down to us to teach us. They were meant especially for us .....<sup>12</sup> So let even the most confident believers remember their examples and be very careful not to fall as some of them did. **1 Corinthians 10:11-12** (VOICE)

2. God gave them to encourage me to be Godly.

For all those words...written long ago are meant to teach us today; that when we read in the scriptures of the endurance of men and of all the help that God gave them in those days, we may be encouraged to go on in our time. **Romans 15:4** (Phillips)

## FIVE WAYS I CAN MAKE THE MOST OF LAST WORDS AND LAST CHANCES

1. BY BEING AWARE OF WHO IS SPEAKING.

This is a message from the LORD to Israel. God used Malachi to tell this message to the people. **Malachi 1:1** (ERV)

- **Key Word:** LORD

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things.<sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. **2 Peter 1:20, 21** (NIV)

...we thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. **2 Thessalonians 2:13** (NIV)

2. BY BEHAVING THAT THE ONE SPEAKING LOVES ME.

“I have always loved you,” says the LORD. **Malachi 1:2a** (NLT)  
I, the LORD All-Powerful, have something to say to you priests. Children respect their fathers, and servants respect their masters. I am your father and your master... **Malachi 1:6** (CEV)

- **Key Words:** Always loved, Father

3. BY BEING HONEST ABOUT MY DOUBTS AND ADDRESSING THEM.

**First, be honest and tell God how I feel.**

“I have always loved you,” says the LORD. But you retort, “Really? How have You loved us?” **Malachi 1:2b** (NLT)

“Come now, and let us debate your case...” **Isaiah 1:18a** (NASB)

**Second, be humble and listen to the evidence God provides in response.**

**Item #1 - His work in their past.**

And the LORD replies, “This is how I showed My love for you: I loved your ancestor Jacob,<sup>3</sup> but I rejected his brother, Esau, and devastated his hill country. I turned Esau's inheritance into a desert for jackals.” **Malachi 1:2c-3** (NLT)

- **Key Word:** Selection

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son...<sup>4</sup> I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them...” **Hosea 11:1, 4** (NIV)

“But the more they were called, the more they went away from me.” **Hosea 11:2** (NIV)

**Item #2 - His work in their present.**

- **Key Words:** Direction, Discipline

**Item #3 - His work in their future.**

“But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings.<sup>1b</sup> And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.<sup>5</sup> “Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives.<sup>6</sup> His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse.” **Malachi 4:2, 5-6** (NIV)

- **Key Words:** Fear, turning hearts

4. BY REPENTING FOR MY LACK OF TRUST IN AND LOVE FOR GOD.

I am the LORD, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed.<sup>7</sup> Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my decrees and failed to obey them. Now return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. **Malachi 3:6, 7** (NLT)

<sup>16</sup> Then those who feared the LORD spoke with each other, and the LORD listened to what they said. In his presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared him and always thought about the honor of his name. **Malachi 3:16** (NLT)

- A. By refusing to tolerate or participate in manipulative repentance.

“Listen, you priests—this command is for you!<sup>2</sup> Listen to me and make up your minds to honor my name,” says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, “or I will bring a terrible curse against you. I will curse even the blessings you receive. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you have not taken my warning to heart.<sup>3</sup> I will punish your descendants and splatter your faces with the manure from your festival sacrifices, and I will throw you on the manure pile.<sup>4</sup> Then at last you will know it was I who sent you this warning so that my covenant with the Levites can continue,” says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.<sup>5</sup> “The purpose of my covenant with the Levites was to bring life and peace, and that is what I gave them. This required reverence from them, and they greatly revered me and stood in awe of my name. **Malachi 2:1-5** (NLT)

- **Key Words:** Mind, Heart

- B. By refusing to tolerate or participate in contemptible offerings.

If I am your father and master, where are the honor and respect I deserve? You have shown contempt for my name!“ But you ask, “How have we ever shown contempt for your name?”<sup>7</sup> “You have shown contempt by offering defiled sacrifices on my altar. **Malachi 1:6, 7** (NLT)

- **Key Words:** Defiled, Depleted

- C. By refusing to tolerate or participate in careless relationships.

Are we not all children of the same Father? Are we not all created by the same God? Then why do we betray each other, violating the covenant of our ancestors? <sup>11</sup> Judah has been unfaithful, and a detestable thing has been done in Israel and in Jerusalem. The men of Judah have defiled the LORD's beloved sanctuary by marrying women who worship idols. <sup>12</sup> May the LORD cut off from the nation of Israel!<sup>12</sup> every last man who has done this and yet brings an offering to the LORD of Heaven's Armies.<sup>13</sup> Here is another thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, weeping and groaning because he pays no attention to your offerings and doesn't accept them with pleasure. <sup>14</sup> You cry out, “Why doesn't the LORD accept my worship?” I'll tell you why! Because the LORD witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows. <sup>15</sup> Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his.<sup>15</sup> And what does he want? Godly children from your union. <sup>16</sup> “For I hate divorce! **Malachi 2:10-16** (NIV)

- **Key Words:** Detestable, Divorce