

God's Unchanging Love: "O Priests..." (Malachi 1:6—2:9)

The Problem of the Priests (1:6)

The Dishonoring Sacrifices of the Priests (1:7-14)

Warnings and Reminders to the Priests (2:1-9)

A Kingdom of Priests

Magnify God's Great Name...

- By declaring God's greatness to people who do not yet have a relationship with Him (1:5, 11, 14).
- By giving God your best (1:8, 13, 14).
- By standing up for God's name when no one else does (1:10).
- By listening to Him and setting your heart to honor Him (2:2).
- By speaking and teaching God's Truth to others (2:6).
- By not using words that would diminish God's greatness (2:6).
- By maintaining a daily, personal relationship with God the Father (2:6).
- By helping struggling people turn away from sin and back to God (2:6).
- By not going through the motions in your faith.
- By remembering that God is still great even when things don't work out according to your desires, plans, or timing.
- By being more concerned about magnifying God's name than your own.

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For Further Study:

1. Read back through each of the ways we can magnify God's great name. List the three action steps that are most difficult for you and answer these questions: What is keeping me from magnifying God's name in this area? What specific steps do I need to take to begin to change in this area? How can I encourage others to magnify God's name in this area?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

2. Read through Psalm 145. In v. 3 He wrote, "Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable." What are the evidences of God's greatness that David goes on to give in this psalm?

3. Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29.
 - a. What did God just tell David that prompted him offer this prayer (vv. 8-17)?
 - b. Look again in vv. 22, 26. What does David say about God's greatness?
 - c. What truths does David say about God in this prayer that would be easy for you say right now? Which would be difficult?

4. Read 1 Peter 2:4-10 and answer these questions:
 - a. In vv. 5, 9 it talks about the priesthood of the believer (that's YOU). In v. 5 Peter states that there is a purpose for which believers "are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood." What is that purpose?
 - i. What are these "spiritual sacrifices?"
 - ii. Why does it say these sacrifices are "acceptable to God through Jesus Christ?" What role does Jesus fill in these sacrifices?
 - b. In v. 9 Peter lists another purpose for the priesthood of the believer. What is that purpose? What are some ways you can fulfill this purpose?