

Malachi

Oracle 4: God's Justice Delivered
(part 1)

2:17-3:5

1. Claim: You have
wearied the Lord with
your words (2:17a)

Isa. 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

Isa. 1:14 "I hate your new moon *festivals* and your appointed feasts, They have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing *them*.

Isa. 43:24 "You have bought Me not sweet cane with money, Nor have you filled Me with the fat of your sacrifices; Rather you have burdened Me with your sins, You have wearied Me with your iniquities.

What does God's immutability mean?

God is *unchanging* in His being, perfections, purposes, and promises, yet God does act and feel emotions, and He acts and feels differently in response to different situations.

Psalm 102:25-27 ²⁵ "Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. ²⁶ "Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. ²⁷ "But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.

God does *act* and *feel*
differently in different
situations.

Walt Kaiser, “God is not a frozen automaton who cannot respond to persons, he is a living person who can and does react to others as much, and more genuinely, than we do to each other.”

Bible Doctrine, MacArthur and Mayhue –

“Immutability does not mean that God is static or inert, nor does it mean that he does not act distinctly in time or possess true affections. God is impassible – not in the sense that he is devoid of true feeling or has no affections but in the sense that his emotions are active and deliberate expressions of his holy dispositions, not (as is often the case with human emotions) involuntary passions by which he is driven.

2. Question: How
have we *wearied*
Him? (2:17b)

3. Explanation:

Distorting evil,

good, and *justice*

(2:17-3:5)

Isa. 5:20 Woe to those who
call evil good, and good
evil; Who substitute
darkness for light and light
for darkness; Who
substitute bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter!

Job 21:7 "Why do the
wicked *still* live, Continue
on, also become very
powerful?"

Eccl. 8:14 There is futility which is done on the earth, that is, there are righteous men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked. On the other hand, there are evil men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I say that this too is futility.

Jer. 12:1 Righteous are You, O LORD, that I would plead *my* case with You; Indeed I would discuss matters of justice with You: Why has the way of the wicked prospered? *Why* are all those who deal in treachery at ease?

Psalm 73

2 Pet. 3:8-9 But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.