

CONNECTING THE DOTS - JUST BEFORE THE SILENCE – PART 2

*Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked,
between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not. Malachi 3:18*

THE ACCUSED

God is very thorough in His accusations as He divides the guilty into two groups deserving judgment:

- a) the _____ **priests** _____ – 2:1-17
- b) the _____ **people** _____ – 3:4-15

Whenever God calls Israel Jacob, the context indicates God's _____ **disapproval** _____ or judgment upon the people of Israel.

God's Relationship with His People during Judgment

In verse 2, God contrasts Israel and Esau – the _____ **protected** _____ versus and the enemy.

The name, Lord of Hosts, conveys God's _____ **power** _____ to bring judgment – 1:6.

God uses two relationships to suggest chastisement rather than destruction – 1:6.

- 1) a _____ **son** _____ to his father
- 2) a _____ **servant** _____ to master

Both relationships cannot be _____ **dissolved** _____.

God expected His people to be totally dependent upon Him and to remain _____ **faithful** _____ in their walk with Him – illustrated by marriage, v. 14-17.

There was to be no spiritual adultery, for they were to stay true to Him _____ **regardless** _____ of their circumstances during “marriage.”

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Malachi 3:6

“putting away,” or divorce, creates the _____ **wrong** _____ picture of our relationship to our Lord.

Priests Guilty but so too, the People

The people could have asked questions and inquired about the teachings of God. I believe God would have _____ **led** _____ them to someone capable of teaching them about the True God.

It is only a small _____ **minority** _____ that makes the effort to grow in the Lord – 2 Peter 3:18.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.