

Haftarah for Tol'dot

Malachi 1:1-2:7

This translation was taken from the JPS Tanakh

Chapter 1

¹ A pronouncement: The word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi.

² I have shown you love, said the Lord. But you ask, "How have You shown us love?" After all-declares the Lord-Esau is Jacob's brother; yet I have accepted Jacob ³ and have rejected Esau. I have made his hills a desolation, his territory a home for beasts of the desert. ⁴ If Edom thinks, "Though crushed, we can build the ruins again," thus said the Lord of Hosts: They may build, but I will tear down. And so they shall be known as the region of wickedness, the people damned forever of the Lord. ⁵ Your eyes shall behold it, and you shall declare, "Great is the Lord beyond the borders of Israel!"

⁶ A son should honor his father, and a slave his master. Now if I am a father, where is the honor due Me? And if I am a master, where is the reverence due Me?-said the Lord of Hosts to you, O priests who scorn My name. But you ask, "How have we scorned Your name?" ⁷ You offer defiled food on My altar. But you ask, "How have we defiled You?" By saying, "The table of the Lord can be treated with scorn." ⁸ When you present a blind animal for sacrifice-it doesn't matter! When you present a lame or sick one-it doesn't matter! Just offer it to your governor: Will he accept you? Will he show you favor?-said the Lord of Hosts. ⁹ And now implore the favor of God! Will He be gracious to us? This is what you have done-will He accept any of you?

The Lord of Hosts has said: ¹⁰ If only you would lock My doors, and not kindle fire on My altar to no purpose! I take no pleasure in you-said the Lord of Hosts-and I will accept no offering from you. ¹¹ For from where the sun rises to where it sets, My name is honored among the nations, and everywhere incense and pure oblation are offered to My name; for My name is honored among the nations-said the Lord of Hosts. ¹² But you profane it when you say, "The table of the Lord is defiled and the meat, the food, can be treated with scorn." ¹³ You say, "Oh, what a bother!" And so you degrade it-said the Lord of Hosts-and you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; and you offer such as an oblation. Will I accept it from you?-said the Lord.

¹⁴ A curse on the cheat who has an [unblemished] male in his flock, but for his vow sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord! For I am a great King-said the Lord of Hosts-and My name is revered among the nations.

Chapter 2

¹ And now, O priests, this charge is for you: ² Unless you obey and unless you lay it to heart, and do honor to My name-said the Lord of Hosts-I will send a curse and turn your blessings into curses. (Indeed, I have turned them into curses, because you do not lay it to heart.) ³ I will put your seed under a ban, and I will strew dung upon your faces, the dung

of your festal sacrifices, and you shall be carried out to its [heap]. ⁴ Know, then, that I have sent this charge to you that My covenant with Levi may endure-said the Lord of Hosts. ⁵ I had with him a covenant of life and well-being, which I gave to him, and of reverence, which he showed Me. For he stood in awe of My name.

⁶ Proper rulings were in his mouth, And nothing perverse was on his lips; He served Me with complete loyalty And held the many back from iniquity. ⁷ For the lips of a priest guard knowledge, And men seek rulings from his mouth; For he is a messenger of the Lord of Hosts.

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