

**A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study**  
**Date: February 2, 2020**  
**Malachi 2:17-3:5**

1. What does God say that the Israelites or priests have done, according to the beginning of 2:17?
2. How had the Israelites wearied the Lord, according to the last part of 2:17?
  - a. By suggesting that God would be pleased with a person who does evil.
  - b. By calling those who do evil, good.
  - c. By suggesting that God is not a God of justice.
3. What does God say he will do about this, according to 3:1?
  - a. I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me.
  - b. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant whom you desire, will come.
4. What messenger is God talking about here (See also Mark 1:2-5 and Matt 3:1-3)? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. If John the Baptist was the one talked about in Malachi 3:1, then who is “the Lord [they were] seeking” who would come to his temple? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What Lord were they seeking, again (see the last phrase of 2:17)? \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. What message did both John the Baptist and Jesus come preaching (See Matthew 3:1-2 and 4:17)? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What does it mean to repent?
  - a. Say I’m sorry but keep doing the things that I know I shouldn’t.
  - b. Change my way of thinking.
  - c. Change my way of living.
9. What does the Lord do when he comes, according to 3:2?
  - a. He will be like a refiner’s fire.
  - b. He will be like a launderer’s soap.
  - c. He will purify the Levites.
  - d. Purification does not come without pain, so essentially it appears that he will bring the pain!
10. How are things different after the Lord comes, according to 3:3-4?
  - a. Not much will really change. We’re all just sinners, after all.
  - b. The Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness.
  - c. The offerings of Judah and Jerusalem (representing God’s people) will be acceptable to the Lord.
11. Are there still people who weary the Lord in this way today? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_ Are you one of them? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Have you allowed/will you allow the Lord to come and purify you? \_\_\_\_\_

*metanoéō* (from [3326](#) /*metá*, "changed after being with" and [3539](#) /*noiéō*, "think") – properly, "think differently *after*," "after a change of *mind*"; to *repent* (literally, "*think differently afterwards*").

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When the Lord comes, he will perform two complementary works: he will purify some sinners (2–4) and judge others (5). The images used for that purifying work, the *refiner's fire* and the *launderer's* (or fuller's) *soap*, stress both its thoroughness and its severity. The heat of the refiner's fire was intense in order to separate the dross from the molten pure metal (Is. 48:10; Ezk. 22:18–22; 1 Pet. 1:7; *cf.* also Mt. 3:11). Similarly, the ancient launderer washed clothes using a strong lye soap, after which the clothes would be placed on rocks and beaten with sticks. If modern sinners prefer their Lord's cleansing work to his judgment, here is the price that must be paid (*cf.* Heb. 12:7–11).<sup>1</sup>

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*cf.* compare

<sup>1</sup>Carson, D. A.: *New Bible Commentary : 21st Century Edition*. 4th ed. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA : Inter-Varsity Press, 1994, S. Mal 2:17