

The Justice & Immutability of God

Malachi 3:3-6
June 2, 2013
CFBC

Introduction:

IV. The Fourth Disputation: *God affirms His justice with the promise of the Messenger of the covenant who would refine the people of God/Israel 2:17-3:5*

A. The Affirmation: *The Lord affirms they have wearied Him 17a.*

B. The Interrogation: *The people ask how they have wearied the Lord 17b*

C. The Refutation: *"In that you say..."*

1. The Lord EXPLAINS how they have wearied Him.

a. Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them
b. Where is the God of Justice

2. The Lord EXPANDS on His Justice 3:1-5

a. I am going to send My Messenger
Zechariah 13:9; Proverbs 17:3.

2Cor 6:16-18

Sorcerers- A reference to witchcraft, black magic, Ex.7:11; 22:18; Dt. 18:10

Adulterers- Those who had relations with the wife or fiancé of another man. Ex.20:14;Dt.5:18. Incur the death penalty- Lev. 20:10; Dt.22:22; Ezk.16:40;Jn.8:5

Perjurers- Someone who swore falsely in the name of God. Ex. 20:7,16; Lev 19:12; Jer.29:33; Zech 5:3-4

Oppressors- of the wage earner. Lev.19:13; Dt.24:14 Of the widows & orphans who were often objects of social injustices because no one took up their cause. Ex.22:22-4; Ezk.22:7; Zech 7:10 to provide for- Dt.10:18;14:29;16:11,14;26:12

Turn aside aliens- The foreigner was dependant on Israel's goodwill Ex.22:21;23:18

V. The Definition of IMMUTABLE:

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

VI. The Demonstration of IMMUTABILITY

A. Psalm 102:25-27

B. James 1:17

C. Malachi 3:6 Classic verse

III. The Implications of IMMUTABILITY

A. God's **BEING/NATURE** is Unchangeable

B. God's **PERFECTIONS/ATTRIBUTES** are Unchanging

"The doctrine of God's immutability is of the highest significance for religion. The contrast between being & becoming marks the difference between the creator and the creature. Every creature is continually becoming. It is changeable, constantly striving, seeks rest & satisfaction, and finds this rest in God, in Him alone, for only He is pure being, and no becoming. Hence in Scripture God is often called the Rock.." Bavinick

1. God is truth Ps. 119:89

2. God is love Jer. 31:3

3. God is mercy Ps. 100:5

C. God's **PROMISES** are Unchangeable

Numbers 23:19

Samuel 15:29

D. God's **PURPOSES/PLANS** are Unchangeable

Psalm 33:11; Matthew 13:35; 25:34; Eph.1:4,11; 3:9,11; 2 Tim. 2:19; 1 Pe. 1:20; Rev. 13:8

1. God's purposes are never frustrated:

Prov. 19:21; Isa.14:24-27; 46:10-11; Ps. 115:3; 135:6; Rom. 9:19

2. God's purposes are extensive

a. Good & evil events: Isa 45:7; Amos 3:6; Job 1:21; Jer. 15:2

b. Sinful acts: Gen.50:20; 2 Sam.16:10-11; 24:1; Job 1;11-12,21; Lk.22:22; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28

c. free acts of men: Pro 16:1; 21:1; Rom. 8:28,35-39

d. "Chance" occurrences 1 Kings 22:28-34; Job 5:6; 36:32; Pro 16:33; Jon. 1:7

e. personal details of our lives Job 14:5; Ps. 139:16; Mt. 10:29-30; James 4:15

f. affairs of nations 2Ki 5:1; Ps.75:1-7; Pro. 21:31; Da.2:21

g. Final destruction of wicked 1 Sa. 2:25; Pro. 16:4; Rom.9:17; 1 Pe. 2:8; Ju. 4

E. Scripture Seems to Indicate **God Changes** His Mind.

1. The Examples

a. Gen. 6:5-7

b. Exodus 32:9-14

c. 1 Samuel 15:11

d. Jonah 3:3-5,10

e. Isaiah 38:1-6

2. The Solutions: 3 part

"..the character of God who as holy can never approve of evil and who must always recoil again;.. who as just must always approve obedience, pronounce it good, and rejoice over it even though, where it actually exists in the creature, he is the ultimate author of it; and who simply because he is good, must always respond to the sinner's evil with grief and to the sinner's repentance with delight. ...we must be willing to say that God has willed all the actual conditions of the world in order to accomplish the particular ends he has determined, even though some of those conditions would offend & grieve him." Robert Reymond:

PART B: Ezek. 33:11; Hab. 1:13

PART C:

"It is meaningless to talk of God literally repenting, for God is in Himself, but one single & pure act." Edwards

"He may will a change, but not change His will." Watson

F. If God's decrees are unchangeable then don't our endeavors toward salvation change nothing?

IV. The **Applications** of IMMUTABILITY

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

A. The Immutability of God Is a **Comfort & Encouragement** to the Believer

1. In contrast to the best of friends God can be totally relied upon.

Isaiah 54:10

2. We can take great comfort in God's Immutable Character.

Jeremiah 31:3

3. The Immutable character of God is an encouragement to pray.

4. God's purpose for us will never change.

Heb. 6:13-19

B. The Immutability of God is a **Terror** to the Unbeliever.

Ex. 34:7; Ezekiel 8:18; Acts 14:28

Conclusion

Psalm 66:9 ;Acts 17:28 ;James 1:17