

## ***Believing You're Beloved Malachi 1:1-5***

### ***Historical Background:***

*722 BC:* Backslidden Israel (northern tribes) overtaken by Assyria

*586 BC:* Backslidden Judah (southern tribe) overtaken by Babylon

*538 BC:* First of a series of 3 returns of Judah's exiles. Temple rebuilt in 516

*464-423 BC:* Under Persia Malachi, Ezra and Nehemiah push for reforms

*TILL JESUS:* 400+ years of silence.

Malachi = Six messages filled w/God's charges & Jewish skeptical questioning.

### ***FIRST DISPUTE, 1:1-5***

#### **God's claim:**

"I have loved you."

Perfect tense (loved in past and now)

Note: vanished Israel vs. just Judah

#### **People's question:**

"How have you loved us"?

Why the cynicism about God's love?

Why can we sometimes be like this?

#### **God's response:**

*Follow-up question about Esau is to remind Israel of her election.*

Why is God down on Esau (descendants = Edom next door)?

\*Heb. 12:16,17

\*Num. 20:14-21

\*Rom. 9:10-15

*love / hate = choice / preference not disgust (Lk. 14:26)*

Why is it easy to forget our special place of privilege as the elect? Recall David in Ps. 73.

If I'm feeling disillusioned and have dashed expectations, where do I start?