

From the Book of Malachi.

## THE UNIVERSE UNDER GOD.

### PART 1: THE FIELD OF SUPERNATURAL FORCE & HUMANISTIC COUNTER-FORCE, 1:1-5.

#1. "The oracle of the word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi", v.1.

#2. A portal had been opened again between the Eternal & the temporal. Propositional truth was, once more, forced into time. A mere man was to stand in the tidal flow & declare the revealed words of God.

#3. Necessarily, therefore, inherent human limitations were by-passed. There would be no human effect upon the portal, nor upon its message.

#4. Ultimately, this portal between the two dimensions would be called the Bible. The word of the Lord, the "oracle" is in fact the substance of the phenomenon of the portal.

#5. The opening of this supernatural portal was an exact unity between the mind of God & the mind of a man (Malachi). That is the purpose of revelation; no relic of the past, this, it is a transmission between two magnitudes of mind.

#6. In consequence, the word of God imposes itself upon the affairs of men in time & circumstance. The people of Israel were to be confronted, rebuked & corrected by the action of the portal.

#7. Culture & social influences have no place in this arrangement! Malachi will be heard in the negative. By his position in the portal, the prophet, stands with the Lord, with revealed truth & against the then standing spiritual conditions among the people.

#8. The church, through the ages, & the contemporary church were & are located within the structure of the portal. Every believer is to recognize the significance of this spiritual positionally. It is not of this world & it has a carrying capacity.

#9. This role we have in time carries the believer above & beyond immediate circumstances & historical conditions.

#10. The believer's thought, speech & behavior should remain within the parameters of the portal.

From the Book of Malachi.

## THE UNIVERSE UNDER GOD. PART 2: THE FIELD OF SUPERNATURAL FORCE & HUMANISTIC COUNTER-AGENCY, 1:1-5.

#1. Malachi puts into evidence a commanding factor. Time, history, life, the world & the universe are all locked into a FIELD OF SUPERNATURAL FORCE & HUMANISTIC COUNTER-AGENCY. These two exist in a state of mutual contradiction.

#2. "'I have loved you', says the Lord..." , v.2. His reference is to Israel. That thought did not originate with the prophet. Immediate response from the people was to the counter, "...How have you loved us?" Israel, at that point, recognized no supernatural agency as causal in their circumstance. The people, of that time, acknowledged no deeper reality than human experience. Connection to & dependence upon revelation had been lost to them.

#3. "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?...Yet I have loved Jacob", v.2. "but I have hated Esau...", v.3. The love that God had for Israel was a causal force in their development. The hate that the Lord had toward Esau was, equally, a supernatural force.

#4. This exchange between the Almighty & Israel reflects the consequence of cause-->to effect. Proof: "...and I have made his mountains a desolation and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness", v.3.

#5. Edom (a country) is illustrative: "Though Edom says, 'We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins; thus says the Lord of hosts, 'They may build, but I will tear down'..." , v.4.

#6. Almost graphic, here is supernatural force & humanistic counter-agency exercised against it! Human counter-agency will face enforced futility; Malachi preaches the impossibility of humanistic circumvention of the will of God.

#7. Question: Where does this leave nature? It cannot be inherently causal. One must decide on which side of this divide, one wants to stand. By this, the universe, in general, time, materiality are objectified. There is no inherent causation in the objectified external world of men. Supernatural force rules everywhere; "Your eyes will see this and you will say, 'The Lord be magnified beyond the border of Israel'", v.5.

From the Book of Malachi.

## THE UNIVERSE UNDER GOD.

### PART 3: THE FIELD OF REVEALED LANGUAGE & HUMANISTIC COUNTER-LANGUAGE, 1:6-9.

#1. "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?, says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, 'How have we despised Your name", v.6.

#2. The word of God is spoken, revealed truth is pushed into the circumstance at hand. However, what came back was humanistic counter-language.

#3. The Almighty says one thing & the counter-language of men says something else; "...How have we despised Your name?...How have we defiled You?"; denying guilt.

#4. The very purpose of the "...priests..." was to elevate revelation above humanistic counter-language. To some major magnitude the priesthood held the spiritual survival of the souls of Israel in their hands!

#5. Israel's problem & that of the world is the elevation of humanistic counter-language above the word of God. This was calculated, "You are presenting defiled food upon My altar...In that you say, 'The table of the Lord is to be defiled'", v.7.

#6. Those corrupt priests were voicing a fixed opinion, not subject to revealed truth. The word of God was not given priority over personal opinion, experience, nor over personal preferences.

#8. The resort to disrespectful counter-language showed that those of the religious establishment did not "honor" God, did not "respect" Him. The causal reality of God had been despised. Their practice of offering the unacceptable was proof of that, v.8.

#9. Malachi invited the priests to "...to entreat God's favor...", v.9. That would have been the resolution of the problem. Turning away from counter-language & to revelation, was the only way back.

#10. The resort to humanistic counter-language is now often called "postmodern de-construction". Ancient, received ideas are despised, unbelievers claiming there is no fixed truth. Received wisdom is discredited by suspicion of its potential power to control personal behavior & that is not allowed.

#11. Today, in some churches, de-construction is a platform for despising the Bible. It's truths & demands are relative to the times in which it was written, it is claimed. Sexual distortions now finding acceptance, abortion quite routine, forbidden ways of reasoning remain unchallenged.

#12. Ours is an age in which humanistic counter-language is very adept & persuasive! It just rolls over us.

From the Book of Malachi.

## THE UNIVERSE UNDER GOD.

### PART 4: KEEPERS OF THE NAME, 1:10-14.

#1. "For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts", v.11.

#2. The name of the Lord is a symbol representing the absolute reality behind it. The Almighty vigorously expressed His aversion to any careless disregard of or abuse of His name.

#3. Symbols are extraordinary; they create a RANGE OF KNOWABILITY. Therefore, symbols (symbolism) are, in fact, a medium of knowledge.

#4. A STRANGE COINCIDENCE, that the temporal world (time) & symbolism are concomitant (at same place & at the same time) with each other. If something can be known, it can only be known through symbolism.

#5. Knowability precedes meaning; & symbolism alone determines knowability. God, the super reality precedes-->the symbols, like "My name" , which precedes-->knowability.

#6. The words of God are symbols, the biblical miracles stand as symbols & the function of symbolism is to allow knowability.

#7. "But you are profaning it, in that you say, 'The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised'", v.12.

#8. There is a move from the defamation of the name of God to the accusation of the conscious practice of warped, corrupt religion. The priest should have known better. It was stipulated in the ancient scrolls.

#9. This means that "My name" is no less than a COMPLETE SYSTEM OF KNOWING! The name of God must, in consequence, include everything God wants us to know. This would embrace the the entire word of God, the Bible.

#10. Well beyond just historicity, the Bible is a system of knowing composed of revealed symbolism & usable to create knowability beyond the human frame of reference. But the priests had no serious respect for it.

From the Book of Malachi.

## THE UNIVERSE UNDER GOD.

### PART 5: KEEPERS OF THE NAME. 1:10-14.

#1. The Lord entrusted the people of Israel & their priesthood with the revealed truth. That is, everything He said, everything He commanded, every promise He made. This is everything crowded under the name of God. His name symbolizes the determinant yet invisible & unknowable God; were it not for the symbolism pushed into time by Him, that could not be known.

#2. Israel did not like nor approve of the honor & privilege of protecting & defending the integrity of "My name". Humanistic counter-agency & counter-language had swamped their state of being.

#3. Their religion was, in fact, a counter-religion. "Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you, says the Lord of hosts, nor will I accept an offering from you", v.10.

#4. The Almighty was fully displeased with the people & the then practicing priesthood. It would have been better & wiser to have closed the temple & extinguished the altar fires. The best thing to do with a false religion is to abruptly abandon it!

#5. The priests, themselves, were rootless in the spiritual sense. They were, in effect, gripped by meaninglessness. "You also say, 'My, how tiresome it is!' And you disdainfully sniff at it...", v.13.

#6. Under those conditions, the priesthood made no efforts to correct the blatant violation of the word of God. Heedless of the knowable factor of the supernatural force that governs the universe they & the people pursued humanistic counter-agency & had become adept at generating humanistic counter-language to revealed truth.

#7. Spiritual consequences were adding up. "But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King, says the Lord of hosts, and My name is feared among the nations", v.14.

#8. They did not know Him!

From the Book of Malachi.

## THE UNIVERSE UNDER GOD.

### PART 6: THE PHENOMENON OF KNOWABILITY, 1:10-14.

#1. Generalization from scripture to temporal, material existence is founded upon one thing: biblical symbolism. The Bible is not a mere historical narrative. It is a collection of revealed symbols.

#2. The reader is not trying to connect the biblical past to the present circumstance, which cannot be done because the past is gone. Believers are using the word of God in order to index, to connect the phenomenon of KNOWABILITY to the temporal world & to personal circumstances & historical conditions.

#3. God is the starting point, & He has acted in time & materiality. Each of those interventions constitutes a revealed symbol generating things knowable about the invisible, causal reality of God.

#4. The miracles performed by the Almighty over Egypt were to be treated not just as facts, registered by human experience; they are rightly understood as symbols carrying eternal (unchanging) & knowable characteristics of the Almighty. Turning the Nile River to blood, along with all standing bodies of water in Egypt makes knowable that God can do anything & that nature has no inherent causation. That must obtain in the then & in the now, Exodus 7!

#5. The biblical miracles are symbolic, conveying important KNOWABILITY to men & women in the temporal condition.

#6. Jesus' feeding of the five thousands (Mark 6) is symbolic, supplying the KNOWABILITY that nothing is beyond the reach of the power of God, in that age or any other age.

#7. The Bible is the universal-solitary SYSTEM OF KNOWABILITY! The meaning of scripture is had, when biblical revealed symbolism is connected to, mapped onto material/temporal circumstances.

#8. The name of God is a symbol for an entire system of knowing. And it is this divine gift of knowability that connects the word of God to time.

#9. The priests in Israel had defamed & despised the supernatural system of knowability. The contemporary churches can, & some have, taken the same path. Literary criticism & the philosophy of historicism has defamed & despised the function of biblical symbolism. Knowability has all but disappeared. This loss must be recovered!

From the Book of Malachi.

THE UNIVERSE UNDER GOD.

PART 7: THE ADVANTAGES OF SYMBOLISM, 1:10-14.

#1. Generalization is productive because the word of God, the Bible, is an inventory of symbols. And all symbols refer to something beyond themselves. The approach of generalization is strictly founded upon the nature of symbolism.

#2. It is the nature of symbols that they establish a range of knowability, accessible through their structure. The structure of a symbol is a doorway to higher order understanding.

#3. The name of God, as mentioned in the indicated text, is a symbol & is presented in relation to an entire system of knowing. It is a miscalculation, if not an outright error, to think of scripture as an historical narrative.

#4. The function of historical narrative is, essentially, reportage. That purpose is entirely different than that of symbolism.

#5. It is the act of generalization that carries the meaning of the particular symbol beyond its historical setting. It becomes generalizable to all of time. Readers of the Bible who treat the Scripture as historical narrative are taught to believe that the text is relative to the time in which it was written & to the audience to whom it was written.

#6. Therefore, the issue becomes: how does that historical setting address the contemporary period? History becomes the master; the question being, how does human reasoning take the measure of the truth within it?

#7. Literary approaches are applied to the text. Interpretations begin to come out of all of this. Problem: Through all of that, human rational capacity is brought to bear upon the word of God. Textual meaning is obliged to conform to the standard of human reason. This was the mistake the priests in Israel made; thinking that human reason & experience should be set above revelation. And that is called INTERPRETATION.

#8. But symbolism is altogether different. Symbolism is given by the Lord to express His understanding of time, man & circumstance. The symbols, then, are to be brought to bear upon the human mind, upon human ways of reasoning & upon human experience.

#9. One factor should never be forgotten: The truth conveyed by the symbols applies to the present & the past, alike. The meanings of the symbol are equidistant from past & present.

#10. Revealed truth from the God of the universe can be not subject to literary criticism, nor to historical limitations. To think otherwise is to declare the text relative to human reason, human experience; making the text less than absolute! The priests made that same disastrous blunder!

From the Book of Malachi.

THE UNIVERSE UNDER GOD.

PART 8: THE SUPERNATURAL POINT OF INFLECTION, 2:1.

#1. "And now this commandment is for you, O priests, 2:1.

#2. The commands of God, having a supernatural source, become the rules of conduct in situation & circumstance. Thought, speech & behavior can, no longer, be, uniquely, circumstantial.

#3. In which case, "this commandment", changes the meaning of the term "relativity". The priests had, without doubt, made relative the word of God to human will. But the commandment of the Lord, turns that around. The commandment makes everything else relative to it. Relativity is reversed.

#4. "this commandment" represents a kind of beginning point in any situation gone bad. In any aberrant circumstance, the right thing to do is to push the commands of the Almighty into that circumstance.

#5. This is THE POINT OF INFLECTION; the supernatural point of inflection. Any time the revealed will of God is forced into any temporal condition, then, it has a modulating influence over that state of affairs.

#6. Obedience to the commands of God happens at some measurable point in time; and that, without knowing the precise outcome. This is necessarily so, despite surrounding conditions.

#7. The Commandments of God are alien in character to all human circumstances; being beyond the culture, the social & personal limitations.

#8. Human wisdom is transcended by obedience. The human proclivity is to search for worldly wisdom & or for natural explanations. The priests forfeited the multiple powers of revealed truth & led Israel away from the living, absolute modulating force of historical conditions.

#9. Whatever the circumstances may be, they are incomplete until THE SUPERNATURAL INFLECTION POINT has been forced into it.

#10. Cultures, societies, churches, marriages, families & individual minds need the SUPERNATURAL INFLECTION POINT. Looking for "solutions" is a very different proposition. Sometimes there are no solutions; wherein the believer pushes into the aberration the powers of supernatural inflection. Despair & resignation are never necessary. Those priests underestimated the power of revealed commandments & their effects upon time!



From the Book of Malachi.

THE UNIVERSE UNDER GOD.

PART 9: BELIEF IS ANTI-POSITIVISM, 2:2-3.

#1. POSITIVISM is an old sin, first surfacing in the Garden of Eden, Genesis 3. POSITIVISM asserts that all materiality is subject to "the laws of nature". However, the Bible, everywhere rejects that assertion. Scripture stipulates that materiality is directly & immediately subject to spiritual absolute causation (God).

#2. "If you do not listen, if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My name, says the Lord of hosts...", 2:2.

#3. The revealed truth teaches that the discipline of spirituality has INDIRECT EFFECTS upon material conditions. One's belief in God & confidence in the word of God (the phenomenon of revelation) directly & immediately have influence upon the Almighty. That direct influence can translate into His direct action upon material conditions.

#3. "if you do not...then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have...already... because you are not taking it to heart", v.2.

#4. The priests had departed from faith in revelation & had turned to what today is called POSITIVISM. Belief demands proof. True belief becomes the will to act in concordance with revealed truth. Unbelief is the refusal to act upon propositional revelation.

#5. The axis of all this is HUMAN WILL. The relation between the word of God-->& obedience is non-linear. Obedience is not necessarily going to materialize because one has an, even ample, understanding of revelation. However, the relation between right belief--> & obedience is quite linear. Belief forces action.

#6. In consequence, human personal will stands between the word of God & obedience to it. It's the word of God-->personal will-->obedience in time.

#7. This means that at the appearance of the absolute word of God, human will is under immediate testing. Either the word of God is elevated above human will or human will overrules revealed truth.

#8. There is no ambiguity here; the development of faith necessarily involves the growing strength of personal will.

#9. The priests in Israel were weak-willed & fell away from revealed truth into something like contemporary POSITIVISM. Link human will to POSITIVISM & faith melts away.