The Irreverence of Israel
Malachi 1:6

Introduction:
A. When Malachi prophesied, Israel was sowing the seeds of destruction by their irreverence for God.
1. “Burden” was an oracle or utterance of doom (v. 1; cf. Zech. 9:1; 12:1).
2. In time of Nehemiah — 445-432 BC — After second group returned from captivity.
3. Israel had learned little from captivity — became corrupt, wicked and arrogant.
4. God’s last warning to Israel until the Messiah came.
   a. The coming of Messiah would bring opportunity of for repentance.
   b. The coming of Messiah would also mean judgement against Israel. (4:1, 4-6).
   c. The coming of Messiah brought destruction of Ancient Israel in A. D. 70.
B. When Malachi prophesied, Israel’s irreverence for God was demonstrated in 3 areas:

Discussion:
I. A Breakdown in Religious Values.
   1. Had forgotten their God-given function (2:7) — Preachers, elders, etc. often forget function.
   3. Had come to deserve little respect (2:9) — Like many leaders today.
B. Corrupt religious service.
   1. They offered sick, blind and lame sacrifices. (1:7-8).
      (1) Required that best be offered.
      (2) Do we give God our best service?
   2. They robbed God of tithes and offerings (3:8 cf. 1 Cor. 16:2).
   3. They considered service a weariness (1:13) — “want to” vs “have to”. (cf. Ps. 122:1; 2 Cor 9:7)
      a. May not have purpose and significance at heart.
      b. May have our hearts is elsewhere. (Cf. Amos 8:5).
II. A Breakdown in Family Values.
A. Israel’s disregard for the institution of marriage.
   1. Divorce and marrying foreign women. (2:11-16; cf. Ex. 34:15,16).
   2. Caused God to not regard their worship. (2:13-14).
B. America’s disregard for the institution of marriage.
   1. 1935 (Year of my parents marriage) 9.3 marriages, 1.7 divorces per 1,000 population.
   2. 1955 (Year of my marriage) 9.5 marriages, 2.3 divorces per 1,000 population.
   3. 1992 9.2 marriages, 4.7 divorces per 1,000 population.
   4. A marked increase in “non-traditional” families.
   5. A separation of sexual relationships and marriage.
C. God’s law for the institution of marriage. (Heb. 13:4; Matt. 19:1-9; 1 Cor. 7:1-5).
III. A Breakdown in Moral Values.
A. Israel had no clear view of right and wrong. (2:17; 3:18; cf Isa. 5:20).
B. Today’s society lacks same moral direction.
   1. Relativism — no absolutes.
   2. Situation Ethics — Right & wrong determined by situation.
   3. Moral neutrality — No right and wrong way to do things, just alternative ways.
   4. Humanistic morality — Morality determined by effects in humanity, as we perceive it.
   5. Evolutionary morality — Animal rights equated with human rights, etc

Conclusion:
A. Any nation without these values is in trouble.
B. Any congregation without these values is in trouble.
C. Any person without these values is in trouble.