

The background of the image is a photograph of a dry, cracked earth surface, likely a salt flat or a parched field, under a bright, clear sky. The cracks in the earth are deep and form a grid-like pattern across the foreground and middle ground.

**MALACHI**

*no > more > excuses*



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**DEFIANCE**  
(Malachi 3:13-4:6)

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## **The Issue of Defying God**

(Malachi 3:13-15)



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<sup>13</sup>“Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD.

**Malachi 3:13**



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<sup>13</sup>But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?'

**Malachi 3:13**



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<sup>14</sup>‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? <sup>15</sup>And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

**Malachi 3:14-15**



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**The Problem with Defying God**

(Malachi 3:16-4:3)



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<sup>16</sup>Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.

**Malachi 3:16**



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<sup>17</sup>“They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.

**Malachi 3:17**



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<sup>18</sup>Then once more **you** shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

**Malachi 3:18**



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4:1“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

**Malachi 4:1**



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<sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the **sun of righteousness shall rise** with healing in its wings. You shall go out **leaping like calves** from the stall. <sup>3</sup>And you shall **tread down the wicked**, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

**Malachi 4:2-3**

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**The Solution to Defying God**

(Malachi 4:4-6)



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4“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes, and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

**Malachi 4:4**





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<sup>5</sup>“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.  
<sup>6</sup>And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

**Malachi 4:5-6**



**Defiance in “us”**



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<sup>21</sup>“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

**Matthew 7:21-23**

<sup>22</sup>On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' <sup>23</sup>And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

**Matthew 7:21-23**



**Defiance in "us"**



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<sup>3</sup>Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup>Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

**Romans 2:3-5**



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<sup>5</sup>But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

**Romans 2:3-5**

<sup>9</sup>There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, <sup>10</sup>but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. <sup>11</sup>For God shows no partiality.

**Romans 2:9-11**



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**Repent and Hope  
in the Gospel**