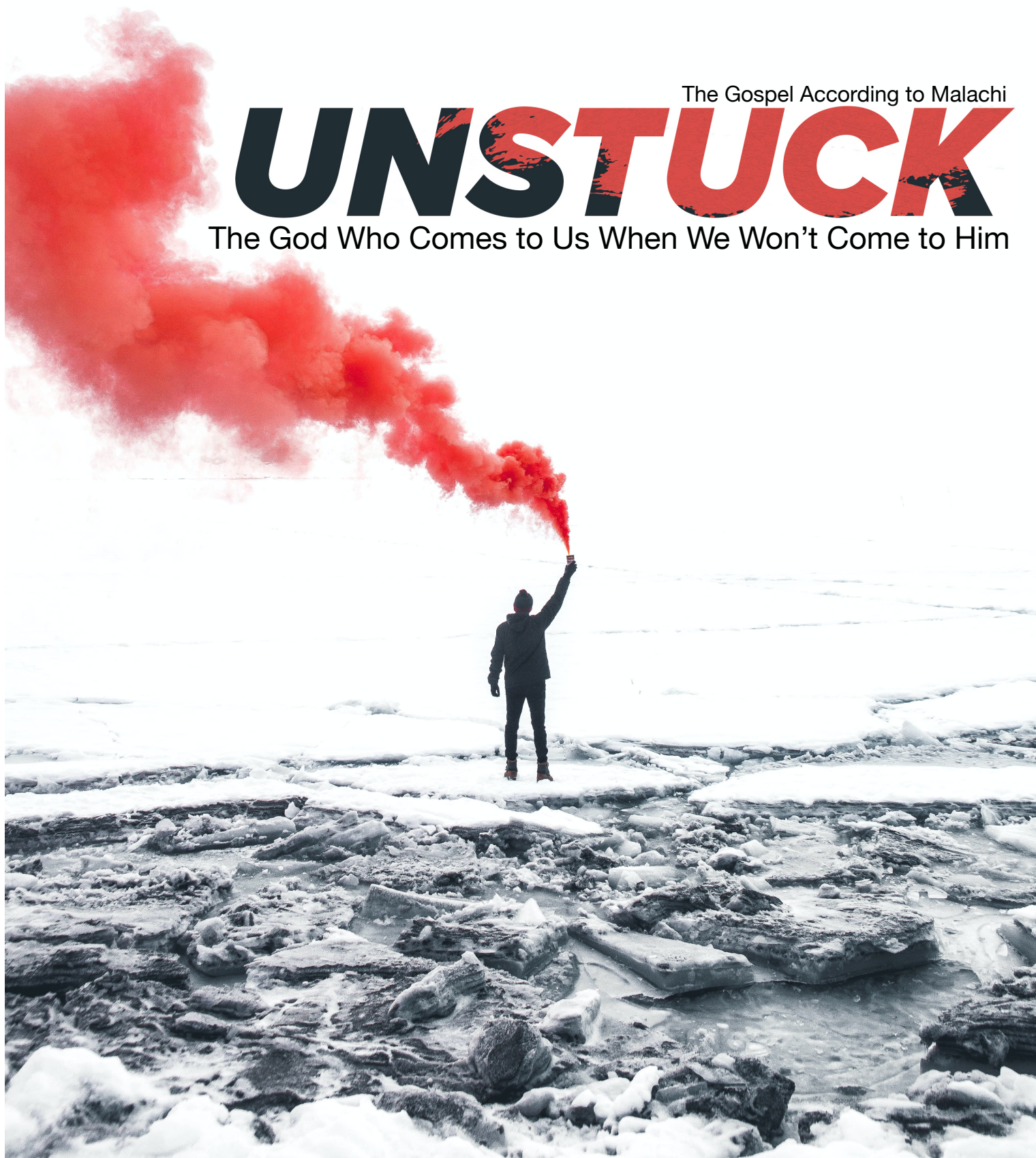


The Gospel According to Malachi

# UNSTUCK

The God Who Comes to Us When We Won't Come to Him





## Welcome

### Read Malachi 1

<sup>1</sup> The oracle of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi.

<sup>2</sup> “I have loved you,” says the Lord. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob's brother?” declares the Lord. “Yet I have loved Jacob <sup>3</sup> but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert.” <sup>4</sup> If Edom says, “We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins,” the Lord of hosts says, “They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called ‘the wicked country,’ and ‘the people with whom the Lord is angry forever.’” <sup>5</sup> Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, “Great is the Lord beyond the border of Israel!”

### A Little Malachi Background Info

Who wrote it?

To whom was it written?

Why was Malachi written?

Malachi 3:7 - Return to me and I will return to you.

### People Far from God even in the Presence of God

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## The Answering Grace of God to Guilty People (1:2-4)

God does not give us what our sins deserve.

## The Love of God in the Perfect Tense (1:2)

The Perfect Tense of Love tells us about the enduring love of God.

The Love of God is expressed to us in the Old Testament in Covenant.

Deuteronomy 7:9 - Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

Jesus is the Fulfillment of all of God's Old Testament Promises.

Speaking of Jesus in Isaiah 42:6-8, the Lord says:

"I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make **you to be a covenant for the people** and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another."

That's why the Jews were not going to be judged. God in his love was going to send his Son to take their sins on himself.

Hebrews 9:15 - For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

In the Son, we receive the greatest treasures of heaven.

“Jesus Christ, God’s perfect Son, is the Beloved of the Father, the Song of the angels, the Logic of creation, the great Mystery of godliness, the bottomless Spring of life, comfort and joy. We were made to find our satisfaction, our heart’s rest, in him.” *Rejoicing in Christ*, Michael Reeves

This changes our entire approach to God

“Christians are people who have given up all claims to both our badness and our goodness—and instead gotten him.” *Rejoicing in Christ*, Michael Reeves

“Christianity is not primarily about lifestyle change; it is about knowing God. To know and grow to enjoy him is what we are saved for.” *Delighting in the Trinity*, Michael Reeves

“If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means he does not understand Christianity very well at all.” J. I. Packer

## Gospel Perspective on Suffering

Here is the principle to wrap our minds around: We are anchored in his love despite life circumstances. God's people do not begin with their love for God but with God's love for them. We look for it not in circumstances but beyond circumstances.

Romans 5:3-5 - We rejoice in our sufferings.

James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds.

1 Peter 1 sufferings

## Gospel Necessity of Community