

GREAT AMONG THE NATIONS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MALACHI 1:6-2:9

1 **Who is someone you admire for their devotion to their work, sport, or craft?** How would you characterize their devotion?

⚙️ *How would you compare that devotion to Christian worship? In your opinion, do the words excellence, commitment, and sacrifice describe American Christianity?*

♥️ *How could someone grow in pursuing authentic God-pleasing worship?*

2 **Sacrifices on the altar and offerings brought to a priest may seem foreign to modern Christians.** So, how does the instruction of Malachi 1:6-14 apply to us today? (See also 1 Peter 2:5, Hebrews 13:15-16, Philippians 4:14-18, and Romans 12:1) Consider the following questions as you examine the above texts:

What are we called to contribute in worship?

How can we examine sincerity and reverence in our own contributions to worship?

What can reverence and honor towards God look like in our modern worship practices?

What implications does purity in our offerings have on our daily lives and our worship?

As we worship, what should be take priority in our thoughts and actions?

3 **Robby Gallaty once said, “If there’s no sacrifice in your sacrifice, it’s not a sacrifice.”** It’s not right to give God what you won’t miss or don’t want. Discuss some of the motivations that people often have in giving to God.

🗨️ *How might churches inadvertently “teach” that nominalism and halfhearted commitment is acceptable?*

♥ *In what ways can people display genuine sacrifice in their relationship with God these days?*

♥ *How can a bored or halfhearted worshiper regain a sense of God's majesty? Share experiences in your life where God has awakened your own heart of worship toward Him.*

4 **In Malachi 1:10, the Lord says, "I will not accept an offering from your hand." In Malachi 1:14, he says "Cursed be the cheat [who] sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished."** How does Jesus and the Gospel address these problems? (1 Peter 1:19, Hebrews 10:14-25, 4:14-16)

♥ *Discuss how the gospel is a call to hear the rebuke of Malachi 1:6-14 and repent and be transformed rather than a cause for retraction, condemnation, or distancing shame.*

5 **Malachi 1:11, 14 promise that God's name will be great and feared among the nations.** Even though Israel fails to honor God in its worship, God's plan to create worshipers for himself is not thwarted. (John 4:23)

⚙️ *How has this played out so far, and what part do Christians have in the ongoing fulfillment of this?*

⚙️ *What verses come to mind that record the spread of God's name and our piece in the mission?*