- I. Introduction (1:1)
- II. Israel's questions to God (1:2—4:3)
 - A. How has God loved us? (1:2-5)
 - 1. God states His love, Israel doubts it, and God demonstrates it (1:2-5)
 - a. His choice of Jacob (1:2)
 - b. His preservation of Israel (1:3-5)
 - B. How have we (priests) despised God's name? (1:6—2:9)
 - 1. God's statement of being despised and Israel's questioning reply (1:6)
 - 2. God's defining answer (1:7—2:9)
 - a. Their improper sacrifice (1:7-10)
 - b. Their improper respect for God's name (1:11-14)
 - (1) The Gentiles will honor God's name (1:11)
 - (2) The priests do not honor God's name (1:12-14)
 - c. Their improper obedience (2:1-9)
 - (1) The warning to the priests: their disobedience and condemnation (2:1-3)
 - (2) The example of Levi (2:4-7)
 - (a) The purpose of the covenant (2:4)
 - (b) The practice of Levi (2:5-7)
 - [1] Fears God (2:5)
 - [2] Truthful and upright (2:6)
 - [3] Mediates (2:7)
 - (3) The present priesthood (2:8-9)
 - (a) Their practice: they turn away from God, cause others to stumble and corrupt the covenant (2:8)
 - (b) The judgment (2:9)
 - C. How do we (the people) profane the covenant? (2:10-16)
 - 1. The question from Israel (2:10)
 - 2. The reply to Israel (2:11-16)
 - a. The reasons for profaning the covenant (2:11-13)
 - (1) They marry foreign wives (2:11-12)
 - (a) The fact of unfaithfulness (2:11)
 - (b) The result of unfaithfulness (2:12)
 - (2) They offer unacceptable sacrifices (2:13)
 - b. The reason of foreign marriages repeated (2:14-16)
 - (1) The fact (2:14)
 - (2) The counsel (2:15-16)
 - D. How have we wearied God? (2:17—3:6)
 - 1. Israel's accusation of God's injustice (2:17)
 - 2. God's reply of true justice (3:1-6)
 - a. The precursor of the judge and the advent of the judge (3:1)
 - b. The purging and purification of Israel (3:2-3)
 - c. The restoration of true worship (3:4)
 - d. The judgment of the unrighteous (3:5)
 - e. The preservation of the remnant (3:6)
 - E. How shall we return to God? (3:7-12)
 - 1. The exhortation to return to God and the question about returning (3:7)
 - 2. The explanation of Israel's sin (3:8-9)
 - 3. The result of Israel's repentance (3:10-12)
 - a. Blessing (3:10)
 - b. Protection and provision (3:11)
 - c. Exaltation (3:12)
 - F. How have we spoken against God? (3:13—4:3)

- 1. The accusation of the Lord and the reply of Israel (3:13)
- 2. The explanation of the accusation (3:14-15)
 - a. It's vain to serve God (3:14)
 - b. Evil doers are better off than the righteous (3:15)
- 3. The answer to the accusation (3:16-4:3)
 - a. The faithful will be rewarded (3:16-17)
 - b. The wicked will not prosper (3:18—4:1)
 - c. The righteous will triumph in the "Sun of Righteousness" (4:2-3)
- III. God's exhortation to Israel (4:4-6)
 - A. Remember the Law of Moses (4:4)
 - B. Expect the coming of Elijah (4:5-6)
 - 1. The promise and time of his coming (4:5)
 - 2. The ministry of his coming (4:6)