

God has a burden for His people (vs1) *An oracle: The word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi.*

God's Love is our hope (vs2a) *"I have loved you," says the Lord*

God's love is everlasting

God's love is unchanging

When we question God's love (vs2b) *"But you ask, 'How have you loved us?'*

We fail to recognize His blessings

Our faith becomes casual

God addresses our questions through His love.

God's love is unmerited (vs2c-3a)

"Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" the Lord says. "Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated,

God's love is powerful (vs3b)

and I have turned his mountains into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals."

God's love is faithful (vs4)

Edom may say, "Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins." But this is what the Lord Almighty says: "They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the Lord.

God's love reveals His glory (vs5)

You will see it with your own eyes and say, 'Great is the Lord--even beyond the borders of Israel!'

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35-39 (NIV)