

MALACHI – GIVING GOD OUR BEST #7

“The Big Day is Coming”

Malachi 3:13 – 4:6

This is it! The end of the Old Testament! You would think that the story ends with the Messiah showing up and everybody lives happily ever after, but that’s not how it ends! The Messiah has not arrived, the people are still disappointed and discouraged. Malachi fast forwards to a distant point in the future, and describes a Day that will be horrible, terrifying, and hellacious for some people. For others, this Day will be a great day, unlike any other! Everyday pales in comparison to this day that is coming. It’s the Day of the Lord! In today’s message Malachi ends his prophesy, and we will get a glimpse into the biggest day in world history that is coming!

#1. GOD-MOCKERS MAKE FALSE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE LORD, vv. 13-15

- A. We said harsh things against God, v. 13
- B. What did we gain from being obedient?, v. 14
- C. What good does it do to mourn?, v. 14
- D. We call the arrogant blessed, v. 15
- E. We think evildoers prosper, v. 15
- F. We think those who challenge God escape, v. 15

#2. GOD-WORSHIPERS RESPOND TO THE LORD WITH REVERENCE FOR HIS NAME, vv. 16-18

- A. Those who feared the Lord were heard, v. 16
- B. They honored God’s name, v. 16
- C. They wrote a scroll of remembrance, v. 16
- D. They are the Lord’s treasured possession, v. 17
- E. The Lord will spare them – the remnant, v. 17
- F. The Lord will have compassion like a Father, v. 17
- G. Their will be a distinction between the righteous & wicked, v. 18

#3. THE GOD-MOCKERS WILL RECEIVE JUDGMENT ON THE DAY OF THE LORD, 4:1

- A. The Day of the Lord is the coming
- B. The Day will be like a furnace
- C. The Day will be like a fire, (Mal 3:2-3)
- D. The Day will be judgment on the God-mockers

#4. THE GOD-WORSHIPERS WILL RECEIVE HEALING ON THE DAY OF THE LORD, vv. 2-3

- A. The sun of righteousness (Jesus) will rise, v. 2
- B. The people will leap for joy, v. 2
- C. The people will trample down the wicked, v. 3
- D. The Lord will do these things, v. 3

#5. THE PROPHET ELIJAH WILL PRECEDE THE DAY OF THE LORD, vv. 4-6

- A. Remember the law of Moses, v. 4
- B. I will send Elijah before the Day comes, v. 5 (1 Ki 19:8f, Joel 2:31, Mal 3:1)
- C. John the Baptist came in the spirit & power of Elijah (Lk 1:17)
 - 1. Elijah represents the prophetic office
 - 2. Elijah had a huge impact on his culture
 - 3. Elijah’s spirit & power were passed to Elisha (2 Kings 2:15)
 - 4. The scribes thought Elijah would precede Messiah, (Mk 9:12)
 - 5. Elijah never died (2 Kings 2:11)
 - 6. Elijah will be 1 of 2 witnesses in the end times (Rev 11:3-12)
- D. Elijah’s mission will bring restoration to the family, v. 6
- E. If Elijah fails the Lord will strike the land with a curse, v. 6

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:13 - 4:6

"You have said harsh things against me," says the LORD. "Yet you ask, 'What have we said against you?' ¹⁴"You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty? ¹⁵But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.'" ¹⁶Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his

name. ¹⁷"They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

4:1 "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. ²But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. ³Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the LORD Almighty. ⁴"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

Philippians 3:20-21: But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

1 John 3:2-3: Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Joel 2:28-32: 'And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ³¹The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ³²And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. Why do God-mockers make false accusations at God?
 - #2. Discuss the false accusations that were made at God. (vv. 13-15)
 - #3. Explain what happened to the people that wrote the scroll of remembrance. (v. 16)
 - #4. How did the Lord respond to these people? (vv. 17-18)
 - #5. What is the Day of the Lord?
 - #6. Why is that Day a time of blessing for the people of God?
 - #7. Why is that Day a time of dread for nonbelievers? (Malachi 4:1, Rev 19:11-21, Joel 3)
 - #8. How do you think most nonbelievers feel about the concept of an apocalyptic ending for humanity?
 - #9. Explain how John the Baptist's ministry paralleled Elijah's ministry.
 - #10. How do you feel about the ending of Malachi and the Old Testament?
 - #11. What is your takeaway from this passage?
-