

Malachi 3:1-4; 4:1-4

The Day Is Coming!

Text: Malachi 3:1-4; 4:1-4

Introduction:

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. In the writings of the prophets, much more detail about the coming Messiah was given.
6. Malachi showed that the Messiah would come and bring both judgment and salvation...

I. THE MESSIAH IS COMING IN JUDGMENT

(MALACHI 3:1-4)

- A. God promised that He would come and deliver justice toward His people.
- B. Before the Messiah arrived, John the Baptizer would prepare the way for Him.
- C. Then, the Lord - the Messiah - would come suddenly to His temple.
 1. The establishing of the church happened quickly on the Day of Pentecost.
 2. Its appearance came as a surprise to many of the Jews.
- D. He was the messenger of the New Covenant, for whom they had waited and with whom they expected to be pleased.
- E. However, His sudden coming into His temple would not bring joy for those who were self-righteous and rebellious.
- F. Jesus would come as a refiner - to purge out sin, ritualism, and legalism.
- G. Jesus would come as fuller's soap - to trample out and cleanse all sin.
- H. Thus, the Lord asks, "Who may abide the day of His coming?"
- I. Only after sinful attitudes and actions were purged could true, pure worship be offered to God.
- J. God would judge all sinners, including the Gentiles, but He would begin with His own people (cf. 1 Peter 4:17).

II. THE RIGHTEOUS ARE JEWELS OF GOD

(MALACHI 3:16-18)

- A. The book of Malachi has focused on the ritualistic, rebellious, stubborn Jews - both people and priests - who did not believe in God's love for them.
- B. Now, at the end of the book, his attention turns to the faithful remnant in Israel.
 1. Keep in mind that at one time, those who returned from captivity were the faithful remnant.
 2. Now, among them, the majority have gone astray and only a few remain faithful and loyal to God and His Word.
- C. God described them as those who feared the Lord - they continued to have reverence and respect for the name and authority of God.

Prophecy of Jesus

- D. The righteous spoke often to one another.
 - 1. The more the wicked spoke against God, the more the faithful spoke to each other the truth about God (cf. Deut. 6:6-8; Acts 4:23ff; Eph. 5:19; 1 Thes. 5:11; Heb. 3:13; 10:24-25).
 - 2. No doubt, this would include fellowship, study, worship, singing, and prayer.
- E. When they spoke to one another, God listened and made a record of their faithfulness.
 - 1. God was pleased with those who “thought upon” or esteemed His name.
 - 2. Thus, he made a “book of remembrance” to record their good deeds (cf. Psalm 56:8; Revelation 20:12).
- F. Furthermore, God declared that the faithful belonged to Him and would one day be with Him as precious jewels.
 - 1. The word for ‘jewels’ refers to “valued property” or “peculiar treasure.”
 - 2. The faithful are God’s special treasure (cf. Exodus 19:5; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9).
- G. While the wicked would be judged, condemned, and punished, the righteous would be spared by the mercy of God.
- H. On that great Day of Judgment, it would be clear to all who had served God and who had not; for the righteous and the wicked would be separated (cf. Matt. 25:31-46).

III. THE MESSIAH IS COMING WITH SALVATION (MALACHI 4:1-4)

- A. When that Day of Judgment came, it was to be like the burning of an oven – a day of fire.
- B. In that day, the wicked would be like stubble – consumed in the fire of judgment.
- C. The righteous would be delivered for the Sun of Righteousness would arise, bringing healing and blessing.
 - 1. God is described as a “Sun” to His children (Psalm 84:11; Isaiah 60:19-20).
 - 2. The coming of Jesus and the preaching of the Gospel is described as light shining in the darkness (Luke 1:76-79; John 1:4, 8; 8:12; 2 Pet. 1:19).
 - 3. By the Gospel, Jesus brings salvation and blessing to the obedient.
- D. The righteous will be victorious over the wicked.
- E. As the Old Testament concludes, God gives a final warning to His people.
 - 1. Remember – that is, obey – the Law of Moses.
 - 2. Watch – for the coming of Elijah (John the Baptist).
 - 3. Prepare – for the coming of the Messiah by turning to the Truth of God.
- F. For those who refused, the earth would be smitten with a curse.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. This was God’s final inspired word to His people for 400 years!
- 2. Yet, every prophecy made was fulfilled exactly as God had foretold.
- 3. Jesus came into the world, died on the cross, and provided the means for man’s redemption.
- 4. He was buried, raised, and ascended back to Heaven to reign as King over His kingdom – the church, which He brought into existence on the Day of Pentecost.
- 5. Because of this, the New Testament ends very differently from the Old...

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. “

Revelation 22:17, 20-21