

Malachi 3:13-4:3 – The Coming Day (Part 2 of 6th Discourse)

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, February 18, 2024 AM

Last Time: First Five Discourses [Charge (God), Question (Israel), Response (God), Foundation];

- **Sunday Jan 7** – “I Have Loved You” **Despite their blindness, there was evidence of His love in front of them.**
Foundation: “The Lord will be magnified beyond the borders of Israel.”
- **Sunday Jan 14** – “I Am a Great King” **Their worship of a great God was weak and they were unaware.**
Foundation: His name would be great from rising of son to setting of the same & pure incense.
- **Sunday Jan 21** – “A Godly Seed” **Their actions were undermining His desire to perpetuate Israel.**
Foundation: He is seeking a godly generation to be raised up by the prior generation.
- **Sunday Jan 28** – “An Unchanging God” **God was frustrated by their ignorant complaints about His inaction.**
Foundation: His faithfulness to His people & promises is anchored in His unchanging character.
- **Sunday Feb 4** – “Try Me” **The people were robbing God by withholding tithes & offerings.**
Foundation: Test me by stepping into My will and I will pour out a blessing on you that cannot be contained.

Mal 3:13-4:3 – Sixth Discourse (Began Sunday Feb 11)

Context: The adjoining idolatrous nations prospered while they struggled.

Charge: Strong Words

Mal 3:13a *Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD.*

stout – brave, bold. **There is no fear of God or trust of God among the people. They are incredibly brave (or foolish).**

Question: What Did We Say? **Mal 3:13b** *Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?*

Response: Saying it is Vain to Serve God and Exalting the Wicked

Mal 3:14-15 *Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? And now we call the proud happy; Yea, they that work wickedness are set up; Yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.*

The people were saying to each other 1) it was vain to serve God & 2) the wicked prospered.

Foundation 1: I’m Listening

Mal 3:16 *Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: And the LORD hearkened, and heard it, And a book of remembrance was written before him For them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.*

The first thing we learn is that everyone in Israel wasn’t bad. There were a faithful few and they stuck together.

What Did They Say? We aren’t told specifically, but we know that it pleased the Lord.

Book of Remembrance. **Context:** the Lord allow us to peak behind the veil into the throne room of Heaven

These words & deeds were recorded before God because they are precious & will be addressed at a later time.

Foundation 2: The Coming Day

Mal 3:17-4:3 - *And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, In that day when I make up my jewels; And I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. 18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, Between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not. 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; And all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: And the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, That it shall leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise With healing in his wings; And ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. 3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet In the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.*

There are six direct or indirect references to a “day” in this passage. He points them ahead to the Day of the Lord.

What do we learn about this day from Malachi?

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A Day of Revelation

- This will be a day of revelation (3:18)
There is an implicit concession that right now, based on outward circumstances, you cannot easily tell the difference.
Illus: Watching meringue form. You can be tempted to give up.
On that day, what is clear to God will be clear to all. Everything will be revealed.
- “Then shall *ye return*, and discern between the righteous & the wicked...” (KJV) (3:18)
“Then you shall *again* discern between the righteous & the wicked...” (NKJV)
“So you will *again* distinguish between the righteous & the wicked...” (NASB)
“Then *once more you shall see* the distinction between the righteous & the wicked...” (ESV)
The sense is that the distinction between righteous & wicked was made before, but they didn’t acknowledge it.
When had this happened?
 - Abraham bailing out Sodom & Gomorrah
 - Jacob’s flocks outnumbering Laban’s
 - Joseph rescuing the Israelites in Egypt
 - The Israelites being spared in the plagues
 - Israelite conquest of the Promised Land
 - The reigns of David & Solomon
 - Restoration from Babylonian captivity**Their present complaint had no weight with God because of His works and His Word.**

A Day of Retrieval, Restoration and Rejoicing

- And they shall be Mine... in the day when I make up my jewels... (3:17a)
This refers to a ruler taking possession of personal property.
 - Jewels – a treasure of great value
 - “my jewels” – something that is personally His!**All of Creation is His, but the righteous are His in heart as well.**
Illus: The things in my office. Some are mine by office, some are just mine.
- Doubly spared (son & servant) (3:17b)
 - Spared – to show mercy
 - Spared as a Son – a family connection
 - Spared as a Faithful Servant – a connection built on faithfulness**The Lord is revealing His heart towards His people and how He will respond to them.**
- Sunrise with healing in His wings (4:2a) – The power of His presence
 - Wings – rays of the sun. **There will be healing and restoration occurring for His people as the Day dawns.**
- Go forth as Calves of the Stall (4:2b-3)
 - These calves are pen-fed and are healthier, fatter, and stronger than purely grazing cows.
They can jump higher and run harder because they are well cared for.
 - The enemies are tread down as ashes under their feet.
This is a picture of rejoicing, strength and victory over sin and sinners.

A Day of Ruin

- Burn like an oven (4:1a)
The oven represented here is of the hottest furnaces designed to build the most heat.
There will be an intense, terrible fiery burning on that day.

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- All the proud and those that do wickedly will be stubble (4:1b)
This is not the first time we have heard of these people. (Mal 3:15)
Stubble – it the dried-up remnant of a former plant. **It has no value and it burns REALLY fast.**
Illus: Trash can of kindling in the garage
- The day that cometh shall burn them up (4:1c)
This means that the Day shall set them ablaze.
No root... no branch – nothing left
All you built your life upon and all that came of it is reduced to ashes.

Application: The Coming Day

A Day of Revelation

Matt 13:24-30 – Parable of the Weeds

Matt 13:30 *Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

Again, a concession that from outward appearances, it can be hard to tell the righteous from the wicked in this age.

But again, a day is coming when the distinction will be made.

A Day of Retrieval, Restoration & Rejoicing

Titus 2:11-14 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

Peculiar people – a people of His own possession

- His own people. **We are His jewels!**
- We are children of the Father and called to faithfulness that will please Him.
If He gave us His Son, He will freely give us all things.
- His arrival is our Blessed Hope. **A day of restoration and rejoicing!**

A Day of Ruin

Matthew 3:10-12 *And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*

This is the language of John the Baptist as He preached. He is the one prophesied by Malachi as the forerunner.

- Unquenchable fire – the hottest fire of the furnace.
- Stubble is chaff.
- The axe is laid to the root and He will thoroughly purge His floor. **No root or branch of the wicked or arrogant left.**

One Day, Two Distinct Destinies (4:2)

- One Event triggers two different destinies. The rising of the Sun.
The rays of the sun will heal the righteous and burn the wicked. The Sun on this day isn't a thing, it represents a person.
 - **Luke 1:78-79** – Zachariah (John the Baptist's father) calls the coming of Jesus the sunrise from on high.
 - **1 John 3:2** *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*
 - **Revelation 6:12-17** – The great day of His wrath is come... **Hide us from His face.**
The condition of your heart will be revealed and magnified. What does His appearing mean to you?