

06 – Malachi – The God Of Judgment

REVIEW: Chapter two ends with the people crying out, "*Where is the God of Judgment?*" Chapter three begins by telling them, the God of Judgment is coming to them ... personally ... in the form of human flesh.

TODAY'S LESSON:

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Notice the "tense" used in verse one. "I" will send "my" messenger ... before "me." This is the Word Himself speaking. **It is the preincarnate Christ, the second member of the Godhead, the Son Himself, Who at this moment is speaking through the prophet Malachi ... He Himself is coming "in the flesh" to visit His temple.**

Anyone who was aware of his own guilt would never ask for the judgment of God, because he would be aware that they would be calling for their own judgment as well. They were blind, completely blind, to their own sinfulness. **The God of judgment, the Lord Himself, is about to come to His temple. He will be the Messenger of a New Covenant.**

He is sending another messenger ahead of Him to prepare the way of the Lord. He is speaking of John the Baptist of whom Isaiah had prophesied:

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Matthew 3:1-3 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, (2) And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (3) For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

What is the first word out of the mouth of John the Baptist, this messenger the Lord sent to prepare the way for Him? **REPENT! Regardless of what is taught**

in pulpits today, REPENTANCE is the preparation required to enter the kingdom of Christ, the Messiah.

Notice that when Jesus "began to preach," according to Matthew's gospel, His message was:

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Jesus began by preaching the same message preached by John the Baptist. THERE IS NO SALVATION WITHOUT REPENTANCE. PEOPLE WHO NEVER CHANGE WERE NEVER SAVED. SOMETIMES THE CHANGE IS SLOWER THAN IN OTHERS, BUT CHANGE ALWAYS COMES. IF CHANGE NEVER COMES, THEY WERE NEVER BORN AGAIN.

1 John 3:7-10 Boys (lads), let no one deceive and lead you astray. He who practices righteousness [who is upright, conforming to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action, living a consistently conscientious life] is righteous, even as He is righteous. (8) [But] he who commits sin [who practices evildoing] is of the devil [takes his character from the evil one], for the devil has sinned (violated the divine law) from the beginning. The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil [has done]. (9) No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, for God's nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God. (10) By this it is made clear who take their nature from God and are His children and who take their nature from the devil and are his children: no one who does not practice righteousness [who does not conform to God's will in purpose, thought, and action] is of God; neither is anyone who does not love his brother (his fellow believer in Christ). AMPC

If you did not hear the series I taught on 1st John, I highly recommend it to you. It will remove the gray from your gospel. It will narrow your path.

Malachi 3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

Jesus appears as light shining in the darkness, like a refiner's fire, and whiter than the purest soap.

John 1:4-5 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. (5) And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 3:19-20 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (20) For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

Who was it that hated Jesus the most? Was it the tax collectors, like Zacchaeus? No, he repented and received Jesus joyfully. Sinners flocked to Jesus. Who did not? It was the religious leaders, the scribes and the Pharisees, whose deeds were evil. They kept them hidden under a cloak of religion. These would not come to Jesus, the light, because they knew their deeds would be exposed as evil.

For proof of this, in Matthew chapter 23. Jesus says to the scribes and Pharisees, "Woe unto you ..." EIGHT TIMES in that single chapter. He is exposing their evil deeds. And that is just a summary of what the "light" could have exposed of their "darkness." Talk about the blind leading the blind.

"Who may abide the day of His coming?" No one. You must "die" in order to be "born again." You must "die as a son of Adam" to be "reborn as a son of God." To enter into the life of Christ, you must be baptized into His death.

Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

You are not the same old sinner, saved by grace. No, you were an old sinner, you died in Christ, and you were resurrected to new life by the power of His life in you. Now you are the righteousness of God in Christ! Now you are a child of God!

Malachi 3:3-4 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. (4) Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

Remember in the previous verses the Lord had said He had no pleasure in them and He would not receive their offerings. Unless "they" changed ... the "offering" would not be accepted. Remember from chapter one:

Malachi 1:10 Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

In verse three the Lord is giving a preview of the new covenant. Notice carefully the wording of how the purifying is to be done. Up until now (and all through the old covenant), the emphasis was on the people to keep the law. But in Malachi 3:3 God says "He" shall sit as a refiner. "He" shall sit as the purifier. "He" shall purify the sons of Levi. "He" shall purge them as gold and silver. He is giving a glimpse of the new covenant. He is giving a glimpse of the coming "change of heart" He will bring through the New Covenant. He is giving them a little preview of the grace of God that empowers the new birth:

Hebrews 8:10-12 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: (11) And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. (12) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Other prophets had seen this heart changing covenant also such as:

Ezekiel 36:26-27 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. (27) And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.

He has purified our hearts and purged us from the sin nature by the new birth. He has given us His own nature by birthing us with the very spirit of Christ. With the new birth came a sanctified conscience that lights our path regarding righteousness. He has purified our hearts so we can offer Him sacrifices that are pleasing to Him again. We are the priests, the Levites of this covenant, whose lips proclaim the Word of the Lord to the people.

Revelation 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Malachi 3:5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

If all you had was this verse concerning the coming of the Messiah, you would expect that Jesus would have held court in Jerusalem and passed judgment quickly on the sorcerers, adulterers, liars, oppressors of the poor, the widows, the orphans, and the strangers. You would expect something apocalyptic, something like the judgments seen in the book of Revelation. That time is coming when the Lord returns the second time. But at the first coming, the God of Judgment did render full and complete judgment ... **ON HIS SON INSTEAD OF ON MANKIND.**

Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. (5) But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

1 John 5:10-12 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. (11) And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Romans 10:9-13 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (11) For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. (12) For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. (13) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

**CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD TODAY
AND YOU SHALL BE SAVED!**