

09 – Malachi – The Sun Of Righteousness

Malachi 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.

Remember from the previous chapters, the people were accusing God of playing favorites. They were blind to their own disobedience. In their mind, they were obeying God and should have been blessed beyond measure. They had seen the opulence of Babylon and other heathen nations around them, and they were asking ... WHERE IS THE GOD OF JUDGMENT? If God had come and judged those heathen nations the way they wanted Him to, they would have been judged also.

Malachi 3:6 For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Only because God does not change were they not consumed. In His mercy, the God of judgment came. The Son of God came in the form of human flesh, lived a sin free life, and then died under the judgment of sin for all of mankind. They should thank God forever for His great love and mercy toward them all.

But the prophet continues to see into the future. There is a second coming of the Lord. This time He is not coming as the Lamb of God. The next time He is coming as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. All those who do not receive the Son who bore their judgment upon Himself, will have to bear their own judgment upon themselves. All of those nations whom these people called blessed, shall be destroyed on that day.

Jesus came as the light of the world at His first coming. The second time He comes as a fiery oven. That day "shall burn as an oven." Those who were too proud to receive Jesus (like the Pharisees and the scribes of the New Testament) and those who refused to repent from their wicked ways ("we will not have this man rule over us") ... shall be stubble! That day shall "burn them up." It shall leave them neither "root nor branch." If a stump has roots, there is still hope of future life. But those without Christ have no hope at all.

Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

IF YOU DIE WITHOUT CHRIST, YOU DIE WITHOUT HOPE OF LIFE!

Malachi 4:2 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.

Who are those that "fear His name?" Remember from the previous chapter:

Malachi 3:16-18 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. (17) 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.

Believers shall be spared the judgment. We are those that love Him and serve Him, and speak often of Him, and think upon His name. Jesus told us we will suffer persecution from men, but we will be spared the judgment of God. Praise God!

What is brighter than the Sun? Jesus becomes our light in every way. As the darkness leaves, so does all sickness and disease. We shall be young again like "calves in the stall."

Malachi 4:3 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.

I remind you again of how the apostle Peter described this day:

2 Peter 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. (11) Seeing then that all these things

shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, (12) Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

(13) Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

MELT in verse 10 is the same Strong's 3089 = DISSOLVED in verse 11.

THE VERY ELEMENTS WILL BE DISSOLVED!

Yet we who fear Him, honor Him, love Him, and serve Him ... will be spared!

Malachi 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

This was their covenant. Look at what respect God speaks of "His servant" Moses, even though it had been approximately 1,200 years from Moses to Malachi. The law was what had come out of the mouth of God to Moses for these people.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

The law was what they were to live by. Thank God we are under a better covenant based on better promises. Jesus did not tell us to live by the law of Moses. He told us to live by the sayings He spoke to us, because His words are spirit and life.

Luke 6:46-49 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (47) Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: (48) He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. (49) But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

It is not enough to hear the sayings of Jesus. It was not enough to hear the law read from the book. You have to do the Word of God because the Word of God is the will of God.

We have the commandment to "love one another." As we keep that commandment, we keep the law of Christ.

Romans 13:8-10 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. (9) **For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.** (10) Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Why don't Christian's steal? Is it because it is written in the law of Moses? No. Christians don't steal because it is not their nature to steal. If you habitually steal, you need to be born again.

Romans 2:14-15 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: (15) Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Notice, in this second covenant, the law is written in our hearts, we have a sanctified "conscience" to guide us, and our "thoughts" have been renewed to know right from wrong. We are to bring every "thought" into the obedience of Christ. That IS doing what HE SAID!

Malachi 4:5-6 **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: (6) And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.**

In Elijah's day, most of the people of Israel were worshipping Baal instead of Jehovah, the God of their fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

1 Kings 18:21-24 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. (22) Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. (23) Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: (24) And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

1 Kings 18:37-39 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. (38) Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. (39) And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

Elijah turned the heart of the children back to the God of their fathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jesus Himself told us that this "Elijah to come" was John the Baptist.

Matthew 17:10-13 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? (11) And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. (12) But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. (13) Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist was sent for the same purpose as Elijah. His message was to repent, and to prepare the way of the Lord. He was the Messenger who was sent before the day of the Lord, the coming of the Messiah.

To those who received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, it was a day of great joy. To those who rejected Him, it was a "great and dreadful day."

Those who became Christians became the salt of the earth and the light of the world through Christ.

For those who rejected Christ, within just a few decades their nation was utterly destroyed by Rome. The temple was torn down and burned, without one stone left upon another. The nation was destroyed, and the people scattered over the earth for over two thousand years.

As bad as that judgment was, there is an eternal judgment still coming.

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. (12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. (14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (15) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

BE SURE YOUR NAME IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE!

1 John 5:11-12 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.

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.