
Malachi 3:12-18
Malachi 4:1-6

Topic: the book of Malachi is so important because it's the last time God sent a prophet to Israel before He cut them off because of their behavior and attitude. So this is the last warning God gave Israel.

Vs12: when are the nations going to call Israel blessed? God is telling the nation of Israel to straighten up and behave, so He can bless them. He says, "Israel, if you will give me what's due Me, I will bless you to overflow and the surrounding nations will be envious of you and call you blessed. The reason you don't have any of this yet is because you have robbed Me of what is due Me."

Vs13: God says Israel is talking very bad about God, being very sarcastic. Every time God tells Israel what their doing wrong, Israel comes back with a sarcastic remark, denying the accusations.

Vs14: Israel says, "Why should we serve a vain God, serve Him to get something in return? We've kept your ordinances, sacrifices, fasts, and all that. But it's gotten us nothing." Here's God's answer to them: "Your sacrifices were not from the heart. They were just actions with no feeling. In your heart, you hate Me." It's not how much you give, it's how much you give of what you have, and the intent and feeling behind it. Man started making up his own religion, doing his own thing. But that's not how it works.

Vs15: All the nations around Israel are succeeding in a material way, and Israel is looking at them, thinking, "why them and not us?" The successful surrounding nations are looking at Israel thinking, "losers!" It's not what you have, but how you behave that matters.

Vs16: this is saying how to love your fellow Christians, the ones you get together with to fear the Lord and talk about Him and learn about Him. God is keeping a record of this activity.

Vs17: if you serve the Lord right, He will bring out all your jewels. He will find a way for you to serve, in any way, no matter who you are.

Vs18: salvation is by grace, rewards are for service.

Chapter 4

Vs1: this skips to the end of the tribulation, the Day of the Lord. All the proud and wicked will be purified with fire. All the evil will be burned away. This is Judgement Day.

Vs2: but those who Fear God helps you to behave. A healthy fear is good and molds you into a good person. Those who fear God, the **sun** of righteousness, means the brightness that's coming, the sun that rises, in Hebrew is means Christ rises with healing in his beams. This means when the sun rises, the beams stretch out. Christ will also have these light beams radiating out of him, and the beams will heal all touched by them. He will take care of those who fear the Lord.

Vs3: again, this is at the end of tribulation. Christ is coming back to earth a second time in judgement and mankind's time of creating havoc will be over.

Vs4: the law was given to Israel only.

Vs5: this means really Elijah, it is a literal verse. Elijah the prophet himself will return and be one of the two witnesses on the revelation that we already studied. He'll be in a fiery chariot.

Vs6: this is very important. This is talking about the spiritual relationship between Israel and Christ. Spiritually they will get together, and be like they were with the preaching. The last word in the Old Testament is "**CURSE**". Unless this spiritual event happens with Israel after the tribulation period, God will destroy the whole earth. If they don't behave and get their hearts right with God, God will destroy the earth. Only 1/3 of the Jewish people will survive and only they can save the earth with their behaviour and good relationship with God.