

Malachi 05 – Judgment of Those Who Judge God

Dr. Leon L. Sanders
Malachi 2:17-3:5

Questions on Their Mind

- God, through Malachi, reveals the mind of the lost
- Through their questions they unmasked their hostility toward God
 - They sit as judges over God
 - Find His government lacking justice and righteousness
- They want judgment on the unrighteous, as they define

Weary God With Their Sin

- Their reply: “Who, me?” They do not see themselves as unrighteous (Do the unrighteous ever see themselves?)
 - They claim God is unrighteous by delighting in sinners
 - They do not find His righteousness in the world
- In fact, this attitude shows they stand in judgment over God which is the same position of Lucifer, their father
(De 3:1-5; Is 14:12-14); Ez 28:14-19)

If they knew God...

- They would know that God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ec 18:20)
 - It is **no** contest between God and the lost - ever!
 - It is about God giving mercy and long suffering calling forth people to understand their true need: salvation (Ro 3:23-26)
 - God's people have always tested Him, finding Him insufficient and always He has shown mercy (Nu 14:17-18)

What Did They Not Understand?

- Temple *always* about judgment of God on sin
- No shedding of blood - no forgiveness of sin (He 9:22)
- They wanted the lost to suffer - this meant *them*, though *they* excused themselves (Ro 2:1,4-5)



They Revealed Their Own Sin

- Their very questions revealed their own sinfulness in need of the justice of God of which they were blind
- They wanted God to met out justice *as they defined it*, though they excused their own sinfulness
- Rather than seek God's wisdom, they reveled in their own paltry wisdom though deserving of His judgment (Pr 8:1-11; Ec 1:12-18)

My Messenger speaks of *His* Messenger

- Famous Old Testament passage foreshadowing John the Baptist's coming - completely misunderstood (Mt 11:10)
 - John's baptism was not love but repentance (Mt 3:1-8, Lk 3:7-9)
- This prophecy speaks to both Christ's *first* and *second* comings
 - Christ's *first* coming was judgment of sin before God
 - Christ's *second* coming will be judgment of His people

Prophecy in Prophetic Language

- There is no escaping judgment: saved or lost (Ro 14:10-12; 1Co 11:32; Re 20:11-15)
 - Old Testament Jews *thought* they escaped judgment because they kept the rituals (though denying its truth) (Ro 7:6-7; 1Co 3:6)
 - They ignored the truth of David: sacrifices not sufficient (Ps 51:16-17)
 - They lived the "lie of men" rather than the "truth of God" loving commandments of men rather than God (1s 28:13-14)

General Attitude of the People

- Malachi is not illustrating the sinful attitude of a few people but of the general population: top to bottom
 - God always has a remnant yet even they were being swayed by the rise of the wicked over the faithful (Is 7:18)
 - This will remain true during Christ's *first* coming when the general population will scream for His death rather than repent of their sin in need of His mercy

Christ the Refiner

- This does not speak to His *first* coming but His *second*
- He will come to judge:
 - His people who will mourn for Him whom they pierced
(Lk 10:12)
 - The nations based on their treatment of His Gospel
(Mt 25:31-40)
 - The priesthood who will return to the ways of Aaron in loving the truth of God; displaying loyalty to God

Then Christ will then Judge

- Finally, Christ will do they expect: judge sinners
 - Sorcerers - Whisperers of night following Lucifer's lies
 - Adulterers - Physical/spiritual immorality
 - Swear falsely - Swear falsely for worldly gain
 - Oppressors - Live according to strength, not His truth
 - Do not *fear* God - Do not believe God's whole truth
- His Judgment is final: no appeal. Rejects universalism

Same Attitude Dogged Churches

- Ananias and Sapphira: No fear of God to lie to Him
- Church at Rome joined to state forming Roman Catholicism forcing its own form of works on people
- Protestant churches joined new nation-states forcing their works on adherents
- Evangelicals love worldly philosophies forsaking truth

Call for Judgment Not Heart of Christ

- Christ does not judge before its time because He has sheep of other pastures awaiting salvation (Jn 10:14-18)
 - He has determined those whom He will save (Eph 1:14)
- Those having Christ's mind seek salvation not death (Ph 2:11; 1Jo 1:5:10)
 - Believers call for life while confessing their sins rather than demanding the death of others

James Explains the Sin (Ja 4:4-5)

- Covetousness is the foundational sin that demands the death of others (competitors) (Esa 20:17)
 - Views worldly resources as "fixed pie" - Limited wealth
 - Grasping after wealth (power) to elevate one's self above the fray of destruction
 - Power is obtained standing on the backs of others; i.e., promoting one's self as righteous over others

Submit to Christ

- God is unlimited in His *good gifts* which are not limited (1Co 1:16-18)
 - God is the unlimited supplier of His goodness (Infinite)
 - He gives to His as much as needed for His will for all
 - His people are satisfied with His goodness (1Jo 10:7-9)
- Those who are not His are never satisfied but double-souled, unstable in all their ways (Ja 1:5-8)

Christians Demand Christ's Return

- Like the Jews of Malachi's day these Christians demand Christ's return to judge the world not realizing that judgment begins **first** at the *house of God* (1Pe-4:15-19)
- Many believe they are righteous because they keep certain rituals ignoring the Old Testament that shows ritual keeping is worthless for imputing righteousness

Many Worship the State

- Many Christians worship the power of the state to give them what they consider the "goodness" of the world
 - The State is an instrument of HaSatan who will use the state to accuse {satan} you for being Christian
 - This displays a hypocritical rejection of God's will all the while claiming to live by God's will
 - This conflates God's goodness with man's concept of goodness {liberty, freedom} which is neither free or good

Destruction of Others

- Today many Christians call for the destruction of other religions whom they view as threats rather than suffer for doing good while Christ works out their salvation
 - This hypocritical approach mirrors the hardness of the sinful heart that seeks death rather than life
 - Reveals the true source of one's philosophy: Lucifer rather than Christ Who died so we might live