

## ***Malachi Chapter 4***

V: 1 Judgment day is coming, one way or the other.

**Hebrews 9:27** “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

- Speaking of the great tribulation, the wrath of God being poured out on a Christ rejecting world is a form, or a partial judgment but the real judgment comes with three events.

1. **The crucifixion**, where judgment for all sin is rendered and atoned for on the cross of our Lord Jesus. Jesus took our judgment, the wrath of God upon Himself.
2. **The Great White Throne judgment** described in Revelation Ch. 20.

**Revelation 20:11-15** “<sup>11</sup>Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup>The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup>Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup>And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

- This is where those who've rejected Christ throughout their lives and died in that state are brought before the judgment seat of Christ, that great white throne and judged for that final time and cast into the lake of fire.
3. The third judgment spoken of in the Bible is the **Bema Seat judgment** of the believers works. The believers sins have already been judged on Calvary, so it's not the the men and women who are judged, but their works.

**2 Corinthians 5:10** “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

**1 Corinthians 3:11-15** “<sup>11</sup>For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup>each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup>If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

- I believe that the fire that will test the works of men is the actual gaze of our Lord Jesus.

**Revelation 1:14** “His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;”

**Revelation 19:12-13** “<sup>12</sup>His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no man knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup>He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.”

- So... that day of judgment is coming, burning like an oven:

**2 Peter 3:7** “But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-8** “<sup>7</sup>... when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup>in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Instead of God being the lawnmower that cuts down the unbelievers like grass, He'll be the blowtorch, the all consuming fire that burns the stubble to nothingness.

**Hebrews 10:26-27** “<sup>26</sup>For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup>but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.”

V: 2 “*But...*” big contrast - those who fear His name have a completely different future:

**Proverbs 9:10** “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.” Truly!

- Jesus, referred to as the “*Sun of Righteousness*” shall arise in your hearts signifying a new day, no longer the day of wrath, but the day of healing and restoration, the day of glory!

**Luke 1:78** “Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;”

**Revelation 22:16** “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

*“The Sun of Righteousness” with “healing in His wings:”*

- **Jehovah Tsidkenu, the LORD our Righteousness & Jehovah Rapha, the LORD our Healer.**

**Isaiah 53:5** “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

**Psalm 103:2-3** “<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:  
<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquities, and heals all your diseases.”

- We’ll grow fat like stall-fed calves! Meaning they will be sheltered, protected, blessed and prosper. I believe God has given me a head start!

V: 3 You - Israel, the believers - will trample the wicked under the soles of our feet. They’ve already been judged, consumed in His flaming fire of judgment, turned to ash and now trampled upon by the righteous.

**Micah 7:10** “Then she who is my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me, “Where is the LORD your God?” My eyes will see her; now she will be trampled down like mud in the streets.”

**1 Corinthians 15:57** “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Revelation 11:15** “Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

V: 4 Remember the Law of Moses, don’t forget the Word of God.

**Deuteronomy 28:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup>And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you because you obey the voice of the LORD your God.”

- Israel is special in that God gave them the Scriptures, His Law, His Word.

**Psalm 147:19-20** “<sup>19</sup>He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel. <sup>20</sup>He has not dealt thus with any nation;...”

V: 5-6 The promise of Elijah before the coming the the great and dreadful day of the LORD

- Partially fulfilled in John the Baptist who came in the Spirit and power of Elijah.

The angel Gabriel informed Zacharias:

**Luke 1:16-17** “<sup>16</sup>And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepare for the Lord.”

- This will be completely fulfilled as it is described in the book of Revelation, Chapter 11.

**Revelation 11:3-6** “<sup>3</sup>And I will give power to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. <sup>4</sup>These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. <sup>6</sup>These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.”

- We know the identity of one of those witnesses is Elijah.

**Matthew 17:11** “... Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.”

- Turning the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers - speaking of revival, the nation turning back to God, to Jesus!

**Luke 1:16-17** “<sup>16</sup>And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

- While the OT ends with a curse, the NT ends with God's grace.

**Revelation 22:21** “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”

- It's appropriate that the OT should end with a curse and the NT with grace, because no one is saved by the Law.

**John 1:17** “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

**Galatians 2:16** “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.”

## Overview / Introduction:

**Authorship:** **Malachi (Messenger)** We know almost nothing about him apart from what he actually wrote. No information about his call, heritage or history, his family, upbringing - not a thing.

- We do know that the message is more important than the messenger.

**Background:** Malachi is the last “messenger” of the Old Testament. In our English Bibles, Malachi is the last book of the OT, but in the Jewish Bible 2 Chronicles is considered the last book of the Bible. This is because all the prophets prophesied during the time span of 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, and 1-2 Chronicles.

- Malachi prophesied about 100 years after the children of Israel had first returned from their Babylonian captivity. They hadn't fallen back into idolatry, but they made other compromises, which led to others. They began to put away their wives and marry foreign women. The priesthood had been defiled, they had begun to oppress the poor, they slacked off in their support of the Temple, meaning their tithes and offerings, and offered God substandard sacrifices. Their passion and zeal for the Lord was fading, cooling.
- After Malachi's prophecy there were about 400 years of silence from God. Malachi prophesied about the coming of Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD. The next prophetic word after Malachi is of John the Baptist coming in the spirit and the power of Elijah who would be the last prophet of the OT speaking for God after this long period of silence.

**Type:** **Prophetic**, last of the “minor” prophets. This book, divided up into 4 chapters has 55 verses total, in 47 of those verses God is the One speaking, this is a higher percentage than any other book of the Bible.

**Time Written:** **450-400 BC.**

**Theme:** While Malachi's prominent message was the **rebuke** of the remnant and the announcement of future purging and blessing, the keynote of his prophesy appears to be the unchangeableness of God, and His unceasing love.

### **Key Verses:**

**Malachi 1:2** “I have loved you, says the LORD...”

**Malachi 3:6** “For I am the LORD, I do not change;...”

**Written to:** **Israel**, the nation as a whole, to Judah & the Northern kingdom.

- All the other prophetic books of the Bible end with an encouragement of what the future brings. Malachi stands alone in that it is the only prophetic book of the Bible that ends with a warning of the judgment to come.
- Malachi's message regarding the sins of the saints is particularly applicable for the saints of our age.

## **Chapter 1: "Contempt For God."**

V: 2-3 "2I have love you, says the LORD. Yet you say, In what way have You loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? says the LORD. Yet Jacob I have loved; 3But Esau I have hated..."

- Questioning God's love, growing weary of serving Him.

**Proverbs 8:17** "I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me diligently will find Me."

- If you don't love God, why should you care if He hates you? You don't care about Him.

V: 6 It is normal for a son to honor his father, (5<sup>th</sup> Commandment) or for a servant to honor his master - why haven't you honored Me? Says the Lord.

- Why should the God of all creation even have to say this!?

**Proverbs 28:14** "Happy is the man who is always reverent, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity."

- The people and the priests haven't honored God or given Him true reverence, they have despised His name.

V: 10 He has no pleasure in them or their crummy sacrifices, the lame, the blind, and the stolen.

## **Chapter 2: "Treachery!"**

- Their treachery towards God was manifest in their treachery towards their wives, whom they divorced and married the pagan idol worshipping of the nations around them.

V: 1-7 (read)

V: 11, 13-16 Treachery / abomination

### **Chapter 3: “My Messenger is Coming!”**

V: 1-3 (read)

V: 5 He will deal with wickedness.

V: 6 God doesn't change! That's the only reason they're still around.

V: 8-10 Don't rob God, bring the tithes and the offerings into His house.

V: 16 God's book of remembrance.

### **Chapter 4: “The Coming Day of the Lord.”**

V: 1

**Hebrews 10:31** “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

V: 2 But to you...

V: 5 “... the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord...”

**Isaiah 28:9-12a** “<sup>9</sup>Whom will he (Isaiah) teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk. Those just drawn from the breasts? <sup>10</sup>For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little. <sup>11</sup>For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, <sup>12</sup>to whom He said, this is the rest with which you may cause the weary to rest, and, this is the refreshing...”

- 66 books in the Bible, 39 Old Testament, 27 New Testament.
- 1,189 chapters in the Bible, 929 chapters in the OT, 260 chapters in the NT.
- 31,102 verses in the Bible, 23,145 verses in the OT, 7,957 verses in the NT.
- 783,137 words in the Bible, 602,586 words in the OT. 180,541 words in the NT.

By the grace of God:

**Acts 20:27** “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”

Book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse, word for word.

**Rev. 22:20** “... surely I am coming quickly, Amen, even so come Lord Jesus!”