

MALACHI

DAN STOLEBARGER - HGE
KFIR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY - SESSION 3
CHAPTER 3&4

REVIEW

Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord
Where is the God of Justice

YOU have wearied the LORD with your words

God responds to their complaint by saying, "I will set things right with My Messiah, and before Him will come **My messenger.**"

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me; and the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, behold, he comes!” says Yahweh of Armies.

COMMENT

Jesus quotes this passage and points to John the Baptist (Matthew 11:10, Mark 1:2, and Luke 7:27)

Isaiah 40:3 He will Prepare the way for GOD (Elohim)

The voice of one who calls out,

“Prepare the way of Yahweh in the wilderness!

In an ancient royal procession the messenger went before the King to announce his arrival, to indicate the route, and to remove any obstacles in the road. John the Baptist fulfilled this exact ministry for Jesus. The same idea is indicated in Isaiah 40:3-5.

Before Me: The LORD promises that He Himself will come - not merely a new or better prophet, but the LORD Himself. **Suddenly** ... only a few were looking for Him - Anna and Simeon

² "But who can endure the day of his coming? And who will stand when he appears? **For he is like a refiner's fire, and like launderers' soap;** ³ and he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi, and refine them as gold and silver; and they shall offer to Yahweh offerings in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to Yahweh, as in the days of old, and as in ancient years.

COMMENTS

The coming of this second Messenger will be awesome and terrible, but with a purpose. Both the launderer and the refiner work to clean, not to destroy.

We are not to expect Christ to come and save us **in our sins**, he will come and save us **from our sins**; therefore, if you are enabled by faith to take Christ as a Savior, remember that you take him as the purger and the purifier, for it is from sin that he saves us." (Spurgeon)

The problem of our nation is that there is no fear of God

⁵ I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against the perjurers, and against those who oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and who deprive the foreigner of justice, and don't fear me," says Yahweh of Armies.

COMMENTS

The problem of our nation is that there is no fear of God.

Sorcerers - pharma DRUGS

Adulterers - Perjurers - Oppressors - No Justice for foreigners - NO FEAR

Any country come to mind besides Israel?

When Jesus returns He will cleanse society!

⁶**"For I, Yahweh, don't change**; therefore you, sons of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned away from my ordinances, and have not kept them. **Return to me, and I will return to you,"** says Yahweh of Armies. **"But you say, 'How shall we return?'**

COMMENT

I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed: If it were *possible* for God to change His mind about us, He might very well do it and we would be **consumed**. Fortunately the LORD does **not change** in His love or His choice towards us.

I do not break my promises! Unconditional Covenants / God STILL has a plan for Israel.

⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me! **But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In tithes and offerings.** ⁹ You are cursed with the curse; for you rob me, even this whole nation. ¹⁰ **Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and test me now in this," says Yahweh of Armies, "if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there will not be room enough for.** ¹¹ I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast its fruit before its time in the field," says Yahweh of Armies. ¹² **"All nations shall call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,"** says Yahweh of Armies.

COMMENTS

storehouse - the Granary in the Temple

Tithe- 10th of the their increase sheep, oxen, grain etc

He wants a seventh of our time and a tenth of our resources. Father God vs the Godfather. Remember 10% tithing was given before the Law - Abe and Mal

23% if you add up all all the OT commands

devourer for your sakes - Haggai / a bag full of holes!

Test me - It's hard to find a comparable passage of Scripture - where the LORD *commanded* His people to test Him. Here, in regard to giving and His blessing of it, He told His people **"try Me now in this."** It was as if God said, "See if you can give to Me and be the poorer for it. See if you can out-give Me."

¹³ "Your words have been stout (harsh) against me," says Yahweh. "Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against you?' ¹⁴ **You have said, 'It is vain to serve God;** and 'What profit is it that we have followed his instructions, and that we have walked mournfully before Yahweh of Armies? ¹⁵ Now we call the proud happy; yes, those who work wickedness are built up; yes, they tempt God, and escape.'

COMMENTS

Degrading God's work

You cannot take it with you but you can send it ahead

16 Then those who feared Yahweh spoke one with another; and Yahweh listened, and heard, and a book of memory was written before him, for those who feared Yahweh, and who honored his name. 17 They shall be mine," says Yahweh of Armies, "my own possession (jewels) in the day that I make, and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son who serves him. 18 Then you shall return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him who serves God and him who doesn't serve him.

COMMENTS

'Then' is EMPHATIC

The JEW does not know his name G-D but we do!

Listen and heard ... His ears perk up and He bends down ... and a book is written

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For, behold, the day comes, it burns as a furnace; and all the proud, and all who work wickedness, will be stubble; and the day that comes will burn them up," says Yahweh of Armies, "that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

COMMENT

Controlled burn - not out of control

God promised a fire for His people ([Malachi 2:2-3](#)) and here He promised a fire for the wicked. But there is a big difference between the refining fire applied to God's people and the burning fire against the ungodly.

“² **But to you who fear my name** shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in its wings. You will go out, and leap like calves of the stall. ³ You shall tread down the wicked; for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I make,” says Yahweh of Armies.

COMMENT

We look for the bright and morning star - the last idiom Jesus uses to describe himself in Revelation

From the time of early Christians like Justin Martyr to today, Christians have regarded the **Sun of Righteousness** as a reference to Jesus.

“Understand the figure. The calf in the stall is shut up, tied up with a halter at night, but when the sun rises the calf goes forth to the pasture; the young bullock is set free. So the child of God may be in bondage. The recollection of past sins and present unbelief may halter him up and keep him in the stall, but when the Lord reveals himself he is set free.” (Spurgeon)

4 "Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded to him in Horeb for all Israel, even statutes and ordinances.

COMMENTS

We never need to despair when God seems silent, because what He has already said is rich enough – if we will only remember.

⁵Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of Yahweh comes.** ⁶He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

COMMENTS

Elijah in Revelation 11

lest = grace

The OT ends with the word CURSE

The Old Testament ends with the threat of a curse, but also with the expectation of a new dawning of the Sun of Righteousness.