

Malachi 3.16 - 4.6

The Son Will Rise Again

1787 Philadelphia > Group of Citizens of Newly-formed USA

Gathered to write CONSTITUTION: Define & Direct New Nation

Geo. Washington Pres of Convention: Sun Painted on Back of Chair

Oldest Delegate > Benj Franklin > Looked Daily at Painted Sun

AS DIVERSE DELEGATES STRUGGLED TO REACH UNITY

"I could never tell whether it was a Rising Sun or a Setting Sun"

Come in Scripture to Setting Sun & Rising Sun > End of Malachi

Written to Jews > Living in Persian Colony of Judea > 450 B.C.

Malachi preached God's word to those who listened in Israel

God draws Distinction > 2 Groups People Who Listen / People Won't

Final Destiny? Choice woven into Nearly every page of the Bible

Our Parents: Adam & Eve 2 Sons, One Accepted by God / One Rejected

Moses: Deut 30.19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live"

Joshua 24.15 "choose this day whom you will serve...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord "

Jesus: Matthew 6.24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Luke 11.23 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

One of my Favorite Theologians sings: You may be an ambassador to England or France, You may like to gamble, you might like to dance, You may be the heavyweight champion of the world, You may be a socialite with a long string of pearls

[Chorus] But you're going to have to serve somebody, yes indeed, You're going to have to serve somebody, Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord, But you're going to have to serve somebody > Bob Dylan

1. The Sun is Going Down

a. On our Self Righteousness > People Very Religious

Sacrificing Animals > Saying Prayers > Sending in their Offerings

"having a form of godliness but denying its power" 2 Tim 3.5

NEW CAKE MIX > ONLY Add Water > Stir > Bake > Enjoy!

Product TEST > FAILURE > Not Enough Work > Too Easy!

Change Formula: + Water & 1 EGG > Now Cook Making Cake!

Relation w/GOD: See I DID! God did 99% of Work, I Laid EGG!

LEGALISM: Proud Notion we EARN Favor w God, Our WORKS

What Righteousness do we have to be SELF RIGHTEOUS About?

OT Prophets God's PROSECUTING Attorneys > God vs. Nation

Malachi's Legal Brief > Irrefutable Evidence Rebellion against God

1.6 "priests, who despise my name 1.7 "offering polluted food on my altar

1.13 "you bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sins, and you bring this as your offering!"

2.1 priests...will not listen...do not take it to heart to give honor my name

2.8 "you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction; you have corrupted the covenant"

2.11 "Judah has profaned the sanctuary the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god"

2.14 "the wife of your youth to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant"

2.17 "U wearied the Lord w your words... "Where is the God of justice?"

3.5 "...sorcerers...adulterers...swear falsely...oppress the hired worker... widow...fatherless...sojourner & do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts"

3.8,9 "you are robbing me. In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you"

3.14 U said, 'It is vain to serve God... put God to the test & they escape'"

ESCAPE? R they Really going to ESCAPE GOD'S JUDGMENT?

4.1 "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. **How HOT must Fire Be have No Unburned Stubble**

4:1 Arrogant = Latin word = draw things to yourself, Nose up in the air

pull things to yourself > power, honor, esteem, status = evildoers

3.2 Who can endure day his coming? Who can stand when he appears?"

b. On our Excuses > Hearers Sneer “How?” to God 7 times:

Malachi’s listeners NOT have Wisdom to be Silent in their GUILT

Hired Expensive DEFENSE ATTORNEY > Dream up EXCUSES

1.2 "I have loved U," says the Lord. But U say, '**How** have you loved us?'"

1.6 O priests who despise my name. U say **How** have we despised your name?

1.7 “By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, '**How** have we polluted you?'"

2.17 "You have wearied the Lord with your words. But you say, '**How** have we wearied him?'"

3.7 "...Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, '**How** shall we return?'"

3.8 "Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, '**How** have we robbed you?'"

3:13 "Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, '**How** have we spoken against you?'"

7 Complaints > But God NOT WAVER: 3.6 "I the Lord do not change"

Always OMNISCIENT / SOVEREIGN / HOLY / GRACIOUS / JUST

Justice Delayed NOT JUSTICE DENIED > in God’s Perfect Timing

GOD 3.18 “you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not”

c. On Guilty Sinners PURIFYING JUDGMENT > REPENTANCE

3.2,3 “he will be like a refiner's fire...he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness” >
RESTORATION

PUNISHING, Final Judgment > NO 2nd CHANCE: 4.1 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. '

TIMETABLE? 4.5 “great and awesome day of the LORD”

OT > 1 Great Event > Day of the LORD > 1 Great, Terrible DAY

4.5 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.

ELIJAH > Called Holy Fire Down on God’s Enemies
Taken Alive to Heaven > thus he Still Lives to Serve God

WAS JOHN the Baptist this Elijah? BIBLE says YES and NO

Jews of Jerusalem sent priests to ask John who he was... "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"
He said, "I am not." John 1.19-21

JESUS: "all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. He who has ears, let him hear." Matthew 11.13-15

JOHN fulfills Promise of Malachi > Not Reincarnation of Elijah

John Baptizer > OT Prophet > written about in New Testament

GOD PATIENT > But NOT Distracted > Terrible Day is Coming!

4.3 "And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

2. The Sun Will Rise

Worst Ever News: Unending Torment, Eternal Separation from God

The Darkest Hour, is Just before the Dawn

4.1,2 "The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings"

Blessed 3 Letter Word – BUT - **Might Adversative** in Scripture

Romans > 3 Chpts Relentless Attack > Guilty before a Holy God

3.21 *But* now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made kn

"we were by nature objects of wrath. *But* because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ" Ephesians 2.3-5

Sun of Righteousness > Rising for RIGHTEOUS REMNANT

Prophecy: Justice Vindicated, Righteous God & all hidden in Him

LUTHER "Under the Law there is weakness and condemnation; under the wings of Christ, under the Gospel, there is strength and salvation"

a. On those who Revere God's Name 4.2 "But for U who fear my name, sun of righteousness shall rise"

God's name expression of all that he is > nature of his personality Honoring God's name means honoring God > Made much of Him

Valued God enormously > His Name was special.

Why people use God's name in vain? God not mean that much.

Treasure Names of People who mean the most to us > Precious

How we use God's name? What think of God? Think of Jesus?

See what MALACHI NOT say – 4 Tithers, Not Divorced, Nice Prayers
 ...bring Clean Animals 4 Sacrifice....Sun of Grace Rises on Good?
 Clear Message OT & NT > Salvation by Grace thru Faith > FEAR Name

“know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ”
 Galatians 2.16

God’s 1st Word thru Malachi: 1.2 “I have loved you”

“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4.19

Gospel for People who NOT Deserve it > NEVER Will!

Humbled / Overwhelmed / Fear / Awestruck / Revere His NAME

b. On those who Remember 4.4 "Rem. the law of my servant Moses”

Malachi > “If NOT hear ME, then HEAR MOSES!” > GOD!

13 X’s Deuteronomy > God says thru Moses > REMEMBER!

Moses > Lawgiver > Unable Lead People into Promised Land

JOSHUA= God is Savior: Leads them Safely into Promised Land

BUT “Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone...Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face” Deut 34.7

The Man > LIKE HIS LAW > Remains FULL OF STRENGTH

Law Reflects Righteous Character of Unchanging God

3.16 Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name.

c. On those who Reconcile > True Religion: Starts in the Home

4.6 “And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers”

5th Comm > HOME is School of Community > World in Miniature

LEARN Love, Trust, Respect, Listen, Authority, Vision God & W

“JESUS grew in wisdom & stature & favor w God & men” Luke 2.52

JESUS “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God” Matthew 5.9

Only Jesus can CHANGE HEARTS > Bitterness, Unforgiving, Hatred

“For he himself is our peace...He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near” Eph 2.14,17

All Hearers of Malachi > Jews, God’s Covenant People, Israel

Only a Remnant Truly Believed / Repented > Others Just Religious Ritual

Matthew & Mark say Both thieves on Cross initially mocked Jesus

Luke > One thief changed > Rebuked other Thief for Mocking Jesus

He confessed GUILT “We are receiving the due reward of our deeds.”

He recognized Jesus' INNOCENCE “This man has done nothing wrong.”

He believed Jesus was KING “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom” (Luke 23:42,43).

Jesus promised SALVATION “Today you will be with me in paradise”

CHURCH > created to be God’s Peace Agency: 2 Corinthians 5.18-20

“God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God”

C.S Lewis > expressed what Malachi is saying brilliantly

Choose Live Apart from Jesus > Prayers Answered > HELL

There only 2 sorts of people / Those who say to God Your will be done.

And those to whom, in end God says to U > Your will be done.

d. On those who Rejoice in Him > 4.2 “You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall”

Cows I Enjoy Lying on my Dinner Plate > Probably NOT Joyful End

NEVER SEEN > Cows jumping for Joy > Hawaiian Cows!

3.17 “They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.

They are his! Mine says God! They will be mine, says Lord Almighty

Day when I make up my treasured possession. Belonging to God.

Know what it means? Deep down in heart, you belong to God.

Whatever changes take place in your life, you are his.

Tremendous Assurance. God gives to his children.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” Phil 4.4

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you & that your joy may be complete” John 15.11

SUN SETS ON OLD COVENANT > Last Words of Old Covenant

4.6 “or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

Back 1787 Difficult Constitution Convention finally Ended Well

Old Benjamin Franklin said: “I have often looked at that sun painted on Mr. Washington’s chair and wondered whether it was rising or setting. But now at length I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun.”

4.2 But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings.

Wings of Healing: Sun of righteousness rises w healing in wings

Malachi saw Coming of Messiah > brings Healing & Hope

Hark Herald Angels Sing > Chas Wesley > Risen w Healing in Wings

One day Jesus will End all Sickness, Pain, Sorrow, Crying forever

Last words New Covenant Promise of Blessing for God’s People!

"Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. Revelation 22.20,21

What’s the Difference? Grace of Lord Jesus has LAST WORD!

Psalm 89.19-37 Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said: “I have granted help to one who is mighty; // **I have exalted one chosen from the people.** // I have found David, my servant; // **with my holy oil I have anointed him,** // so that my hand shall be established with him; // **my arm also shall strengthen him.** // The enemy shall not outwit him; // **the wicked shall not humble him.** // I will crush his foes before him // **and strike down those who hate him.** // My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, // **and in my name shall his horn be exalted.** // I will set his hand on the sea // **and his right hand on the rivers.** // He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’ // **And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.** // My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, // **and my covenant will stand firm for him.** // I will establish his offspring forever // **and his throne as the days of the heavens.** // If his children forsake my law // **and do not walk according to my rules,** // if they violate my statutes // **and do not keep my commandments,** // then I will punish their transgression with the rod // **and their iniquity with stripes,** // but I will not remove from him my steadfast love // **or be false to my faithfulness.** // I will not violate my covenant // **or alter the word that went forth from my lips.** // Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; // **I will not lie to David.** // His offspring shall endure forever, // **his throne as long as the sun before me.** // Like the moon it shall be established forever, // **a faithful witness in the skies.” Amen and Amen.**