

# THE STORY



# **Hope and Silence**

**Malachi 3:1-5**

**In the cliffhanger of redemption,  
God has a story to tell  
that includes you and me.**

**1. The *Certainty* of Christ's Coming—God's people anticipated the Messiah's personal presence (3:1).**

- God promised to send a forerunner to announce the arrival of the Messiah (3:1a).
- God promised to send the Messiah, the incarnation of God Himself (3:1b).

**2. The *Characteristics* of Christ's Coming—God's people anticipated the Messiah's purifying power (3:2-4).**

- The impurity of God's people was evident (3:2).
- The refinement of God's people was essential (3:2b-3a).
- The acceptance of God's people was expected (3:3b-4).

**3. The *Consequences* of Christ's Coming—God's people anticipated the Messiah's perfect justice (3:5).**

- The Messiah will judge human injustice (3:5a).
- The Messiah will judge heartless irreverence (3:5b).

#### 4. The *Expectation* of Christ's Coming—God's people experienced an extended period of silence.

- Severe Oppression—Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the Temple.
- Zealous Opposition—the Maccabees cleansed the Temple (Hannukah).
- Messianic Opportunity—reverent people waited for deliverance (Anna and Simeon).

**In the cliffhanger of redemption,  
God has a story to tell  
that includes you and me.**



# THE STORY

