

THE RISING SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Malachi 3:16-4:6

December 4, 2016

“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.” Malachi 4:16

Malachi preached to a remnant of the nation of Israel that had returned from foreign captivity to resettle their homeland. They retained their Jewish traditions, but practiced them insincerely, without any regard for God who had established, protected and sustained Israel, who had established the traditions as reminders of His own goodness.

Within the remnant, a small segment remained faithful unto God. Their faithfulness was evident as they gave serious attention to the prophet’s message. In these verses, Malachi addressed them.

I. THE CONDITION OF THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD (3:16-18)

- A. Fear the Lord
- B. Speak often with one another regarding their God
- C. God hearkens to their cry
- D. Their faithfulness is remembered, as is God’s faithfulness to them
- E. They think on God’s name
- F. God claims them as His jewels
- G. They will be spared in the day of wrath

II. THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD CONTRASTED WITH “THE PROUD” (4:1)

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.”

III. THE COMFORT OF THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD (4:2-3)

- A. “The Sun of Righteousness (Jesus Christ) shall arise with healing in his wings”
“The dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:78, 79)

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (John 9:5)

- B. Those who fear God will be liberated and full of life
- C. Those who fear the Lord will be vindicated, triumphing over the wicked.