

Malachi 4:1-6

As we finish up Malachi today, we will learn one final thing about this Lord of Hosts who has been the central and key figure of our study. We will see that The Lord of Hosts is coming to bring judgment to the wicked, joy to the righteous, and restoration to families for the good of the land.

READ/PRAY for yourself, each other, and for me.

The Lord of Hosts is coming to bring judgment to the wicked, joy to the righteous, and restoration to families for the good of the land. There are four ways that this truth is fleshed out in this text.

I. Look Out v1

Judgment is coming. And this judgment is going to be extremely severe!

1. It is coming like a furnace and the wicked will be like chaff
 - a. Chaff generally refers to the husks when separated from wheat by thrashing or winnowing.
 - b. It would be broken from the grain and tossed into the air so that the wind could separate it.
 - c. Psalm 1
 - d. The wicked, the arrogant, the evildoer will be like chaff that the wind drives away.
2. They will be set ablaze
 - a. John 15:6 *If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.*
 - b. Their branches will be consumed all the way to their roots!
3. They will become nothing more than ashes under the feet of the righteous (v3).

Amos 5:18-20 *Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, 19 as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. 20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?*

II. Look up v2-3

Healing is Coming!

1. The wicked will be consumed by the fire, but the righteous will be warmed by it.
2. Matt 13:40-43 *Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.*

This Sun is a

1. A Righteous Sun

- a. the sun of righteousness will rise
- b. Jesus is perfectly righteous.
- c. He makes man righteous.
- d. He corrects all of His spiritual diseases!

2. A Healing Sun

- a. the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings
 1. Christ came into the world to be the great physician
 2. Matthew 9:20-22 *And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak; 21 for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I will get well." 22 But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." At once the woman was made well.*
 3. She was certain that by touching the hem of His garment, she would be healed.
 4. In doing so, she was confessing that Jesus Christ was the sun of righteousness from Malachi.
- b. She recognized that Jesus was not only the physician...He was also the medicine

3. A Joyous Sun

- a. you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.
- b. The coming of Jesus means freedom not bondage.
- c. It will move us to leap like calves from the stall with joy!
- d. John 15:11 *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*
- e. John 10:10 *I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

The day will finally have arrived when the righteous will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of our feet.

III. Look Back v4

Remember the Law.

According to Numbers 15:28-40 Moses had instructed the people of Israel to wear "tassels" as constant reminders of the Lord's commandments.

1. They were thus encouraged to see all of life through the lens of the law of God.
2. This is why we need the Word of God!
3. So look back to and measure yourself by the law standard of God
4. As we look at the law we see...
 - a. We fall short
 - b. We will be judged
 - c. We see our need for the gospel

2 Peter 1:13 *I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder*

2 Peter 3:1 *This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder*

IV. Look Forward v5-6

Elijah is Coming!

1. The Prophet Elijah is coming first
2. Mal 3:1 "*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 in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.*"
3. He came in the person of John the Baptist and he came to prepare the way of the Lord

He came also to turn hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers.

1. Fathers are the subject of the last Old Testament revelation, and they are the subject of the first New Testament revelation.
 - a. Malachi 4:6
 - b. Luke 1:17 *and he will 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 for the Lord a people prepared."*
2. There is a negative warning and a positive promise in these verses.
 - a. **The Negative:**
 1. Father's failing to turn their hearts to their children equals God striking the land with a curse.
 2. Malachi 4:6
 3. If we fail to turn our hearts judgment will continue to come and utter destruction will fall upon us.
 - b. **The Positive:**
 1. Father's fulfilling this mandate equals a people prepared to meet God.
 2. Luke 1:17
3. You will either turn your hearts toward your children and make ready a people prepared for the Lord
4. Or you will refuse to turn your hearts toward your children and see God continue to strike this land with destruction.
5. There is no middle ground.

The Lord of Hosts is coming to bring judgment to the wicked, joy to the righteous, and restoration to families for the good of the land. May it be so!