

Malachi 07 – Transitioning from Old to New Covenant

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Malachi 3:16-4:6

Readying People for Transition

- God, referring to His Covenant on Mt Sinai, prepares His people for His New Covenant (Ex 19:10)
- The Old Covenant showed the futility of meeting God's righteousness without a sinless sacrifice
- He ends warning, "I am coming," herald by Elijah the prophet {John the Baptist} preaching, "Repent!"

God Commends His Faithful

- Those faithful to God discuss Malachi's message among themselves, accepting it as **Truth**
 - Herein is mentioned *The Book*, contains the names of those faithful to God {Man's perspective}
 - *The Book*, associated with His Covenant, continues into eternity future (Ex 12:31-33; Re 21:22-27)
 - Those in *The Book* are His *treasured possession*, metaphor that extends into the New Testament (Ex 19:5-6; 1Pe 2:9)

Many References to His *Book*

- God needs no *book* – He has immutable memory
 - *The Book* assures us that we are legally His people (He 5:1-9)
 - Lucifer does not have access to *The Book*; nor do we
 - Thus, no one can remove us from *The Book* (Isa 10:18)
 - His book spans man's creation to man's end including all whom He predestined before creation (Isa 10:14-18; Eze 1:7-14)
 - But, it is not His only book (Books of Works) (He 20:11-15)

God's *Treasured Possession*

- This term, used at Mt Sinai, refers to the goal He has prepared for His people {Those whom He has called} (Ex 19:5-6; Is 64:6; 1Co 2:9-10)
- This term persists in the New Testament when He addresses Diaspora (Jews) reminding them of His Old Testament promises to them as His *possession* (1Th 2:9-10)
 - This links Malachi's message to Zechariah's with His promise of their future glory in *due time*

"You Want to See My Righteousness?"

- The unrighteous accused God of unrighteousness as He allowed the unrighteous to persist without penalty
- God promises to visit them in righteousness so they will know the difference between true righteousness and false righteousness (them)
 - Asking God's judgment is asking God to judge you first (1Pe 4:17)

Malachi Warns of Tribulation

- Purpose of Tribulation - Separation: righteous from unrighteous (Unintended Consequences)
 - The righteous, though judged, turn to God
 - The unrighteous, when judged, reject God
- Tribulation precedes His Coming which is compared to the rising of the sun whose light reveals **Truth** (Day of Revelation (Revealing))

Day of Revelation - No Root

- For the Unrighteous that day will be a burning heat revealing their works, unmasking them as sinners
- They will have no Root (Root of Jesse) - Christ (Lost)
 - Christ only means of salvation: Jew and Gentile (Ro. 1:18-19)
 - Paul's analogy of the olive tree and the sprouts grafted in again (Jews recalled during Great Tribulation) (Ro. 11:13-24)

Day of Revelation - No Sprout

- Sprout (Usu. translated as Branch) - Christ (Salvation)
- When the sun of Truth rises they shall be revealed to have no sprout, no life, for they rejected Christ
 - Bud shall sprout from the root of *Jesse*, infused with His Spirit, bringing life to those who are His (Is. 11)
 - His people shall be called beautiful after He has cleansed Zion from the filth of Zionists (False Jews) (Is. 4:2-6)

Righteous Experience That Day

- However, the Righteous have a different experience on the dawning of that Day of **Truth** - Sun rising with healing in its rays {Not a direct reference to Christ}
 - They will be purged of any wood, hay & stubble (1Co. 3:12-15)
 - They will be revealed as His *precious treasures* of grace
 - They will joy in the Lord of Grace; not their works
 - Sun rises in the East: Christ lands on Mount of Olives and enters Temple via Eastern Gate (Mt 41:1-5, 44:1-5, Zc 14:4)

One Coming - One Day of Truth

- The Day of His appearing when the Truth of His Word appears to everyone (Mt 25:31-46)
 - The Lost experience that Day in Judgment that burns away their false truths revealing their sinfulness justifying His judgment against them based on their own works
 - The Saved experience that Day in Blessing with their works burned away revealing the truth of their salvation in Him bringing them everlasting joy

Joy of Salvation

- Hitherto the saved were persecuted, killed for clinging to the truth of God, hated by the world (Mt 11:32-38)
 - They were driven either to death or into seclusion, including hiding in caves, clinging to the **truth** of God
 - In that Day they shall find true joy in their salvation
 - In that Day they shall be His force in liberating Jerusalem from *False Jews* who rejected Christ's truth

Reference the Law of Moses

- This direct reference to the Law of Moses (Ten Words) brings God's Word concerning His people to a close
 - His Covenant through them to mankind was to reveal
 - His Holiness
 - Man's Sinfulness
 - God's answer in Himself as the sacrifice for sin
 - His *false* people rejected His message & joined the world

Tale of *False* Jews

- *False* Jews
 - Persecuted *True* Jews to hide the message of **truth**
 - They would *repent* for a time under the consequences of sin but returned to their sin during pleasant times
 - They were of their father Lucifer; hence, *False* Jews (Jo 8:44)
 - Korah's Rebellion best illustrates them' (Nu 16)
 - This rebellion continues via false gospel teachers (Jo 8:11)

Tale of *True* Jews

- Treasured Possessions
- Nation of Priests
- Being built up into His Temple offering up sacrifices to Him as He foretold on Mount Sinai (Ex 19:5; 1Pe 2:1-10)
- They were called out of Darkness into Light - Truth

Finally, The Promise of Elijah

- Though God, via Malachi, pronounces judgment and blessing; He again shows His mercy and long suffering
 - He promises to send them Elijah to announce the coming Day of the Lord (First & Second Advents) (13: 1-6)
 - This refers to John the Baptist who called the people to repent for the Day of the Lord was at hand (16: 11,13-15)
 - Christ also called on people to repent (16: 4,17)

God Grows Silent – Times Grow Hard

- Malachi is the last word from God the people will receive until the coming of John the Baptist
- Gospels reveal the hearts of the majority of people did not changed despite the hard times they experienced during the Intertestamental period (17: 11)
- They rejected then killed both John and their Messiah

Old Covenant Prep for New Covenant

- Old Testament was not the end but a transition to the New Covenant which was *always* the final destination for God's people
 - Old Covenant *proved* man insufficient to meet God's righteousness - Unsuitable as a sacrifice unlike religions that demand works/sacrifices from men for *heaven*
 - History confirms man's inherent sinfulness and need for Christ as sacrifice for sin

Malachi: Grace & Failure

- The story of man in general and the Jew in particular is the failure of sinful man contrasted against God's grace
 - Sinful man seeks to live in his self-righteousness: suppresses truth of God that exposes his sinfulness
 - God's mercy and long suffering keeps giving man the truth of His sacrifice of Himself for sin until the time for accountability arrives (Day of Revelation (Revealing))

Gentiles Given God's Grace

- We owe our salvation solely to God's grace and the failure of Jews to accept their Messiah, even today
 - No reason Christians can glory over Jews (Replacement Theology) as our salvation is only by God's grace alone
 - No different from Jews and have no reason to claim superiority over them: any truth we possess comes only by Holy Spirit (1Co. 2:13)

Our Time of Darkness – Then Hope

- Since Christ's Ascension the world has been plunged into Darkness until He reappears bringing the Day (1Jo 2:13)
 - Christ the Light was in the World for a time and left
 - Christians await His call (1Co. 15:50-58; 1Th. 4:16-18)
 - Christians will first stand in judgment (2Co. 5:6-10)
 - All will be reunited in the New Jerusalem forever (Re 21:1-4)
 - All will have joy in Him forevermore (Ps 16:9-11; Re 21:22-27)