

MALACHI
Chapter 4 - 9-4-16

Malachi Chapter 4 closes out the Old Testament writings. These verses are APOCALYPTIC in nature. Here we have the Lord reminding His servants of the outcome of this world and the powers that be. God is going to burn up those who do wickedness and are proud and haughty against the Lord.

Malachi 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.

Malachi 4:2 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 4:3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Malachi 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

I. THE LORD REMINDS US WHAT THE WICKED HAVE STORED UP IN THE FUTURE:

Malachi 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.

Peter probably referred back to these verses when he wrote in his epistle:

II Peter 3:

1. Peter in Harmony with This Passage Reminded His Readers -- that men will scoff at the prophetic warnings of judgment of what we read in Malachi.

Peter alludes to the fact that in the last days men will react to these predictions much the same way they reacted to the warnings of a flood in the days of Noah.

II Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

II Peter 3:2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

II Peter 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

II Peter 3:4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

II Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

II Peter 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

1. Men will scoff at the warnings and the prophetic predictions:

For the most part people interpret what the Bible says about the Lord's return the same way they interpret Star Wars movies: to them it is just another fable.

2. Their motive for scoffing will be their desire to walk after their own lusts.

Immorality, lust ... involves the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, greed, and selfishness.

3. Their willing ignorance prevents them from learning from the errors of the past.

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II Peter 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

II Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

THEY ARE WILLINGLY IGNORANT, meaning there is no excuse.

A. Though you can look everywhere and see evidence of the flood, they are still willingly ignorant.

B. The fossil evidence alone would mandate a worldwide flood. Only by a flood could so many fossils abound.

C. Note - II Peter 3:5: They are willingly ignorant of the fact that God made the world just like He said. Water, upon the face of the earth ... they think the earth was at first an inferno. The Creation story says this world abounded with water.

THEIR IGNORANCE INCLUDES...

(a) that God created the world, which at first was covered with water (that is, it was cool);

(b) that God once judged this world with a global cataclysmic flood called Noah's Flood; and

(c) that God is coming back to judge this world again, but next time it will be by fire.

THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR THIS IGNORANCE:

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

2. We as Christians should not be ignorant of the way God works:

II Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

II Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

God does not see time as we do: 1000 years go by like a day, a day is like 1000 years. God can accomplish in one day what we think would take a thousand years. God can wait to accomplish in 1000 years what we think should take a day.

What evolutionists think would take their god (which is nature or the environment) to accomplish in billions of years, God did in 6 days.

What the world would expect God to do in one day, He is taking 6000 years to do.

3. Mankind should be thankful that God is longsuffering!

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God is looking to salvage as many as He can by delaying His judgment.

4. Peter gives practical application to these truths.

II Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

II Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

II Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

This truth should motivate us to live for God and walk in such a way as to please Him.

Remember—everything we hold so dear will burn and be destroyed.

Peter reminds us that we need to be looking for a new heaven and a new earth.

How sad it is that we spend so much time busying ourselves about things that are going to burn.

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II. MALACHI REMINDS THE RIGHTEOUS THAT GOD HAS GREAT PROMISES FOR US:

Malachi 4:2 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 4:3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

1. The Sun of Righteousness will come (4:2) ...

The Lord's return to us is a sweet thing—something we look forward to.

The Bible promises a crown for those who love His appearing.

When Christ returns, the unsaved will pray for the rocks to fall on them.

Yet to us who believe, the Bible says we should daily be praying:

THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

For the righteous, we might like to have things, but we always must weigh whether having those things will take us away from serving the Lord.

I might want a nicer vehicle, but I am not going to work overtime on Wednesdays and Sundays to get it.

I might want a nicer house, but I am not going to ask my wife to work away from the home and children to have it.

REASON - I WANT TO BE LIVING IN A SUCH A WAY THAT WHEN THE LORD COMES BACK, I WILL BE PLEASING TO HIM.

NOTICE - Judgment will come to the wicked.

Malachi 4:3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

Our judgment comes on this side of the fence.

I Peter 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

I Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

I Peter 4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

III. SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN LIGHT OF THESE PROPHECIES?

Malachi 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

There is only one thing that God asks of us:
Fear Him and keep His commandments.

Jesus said.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

I John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

NOW WHAT ARE HIS COMMANDMENTS FOR US?

So many emphasize grace and liberty until there is nothing that Christ commands of us. It is as if we could just go ahead and live any old way we want, and Christ will be pleased.

WHAT COMMANDMENTS HAS CHRIST GIVEN US TO KEEP?

We are not under the law for salvation. We are under Christ for salvation. Whatever we do, we should do to please Christ, and there is much that is written in the Bible concerning our Lord's teachings.

We don't trust in the Law to save us. We trust in Christ to save us. When we receive Christ, we commit our lives to Him, and now it is only reasonable that we should want to obey Him.

THE FIRST THING THAT WE SHOULD DO AFTER WE GET SAVED IS TO SEEK TO OBEY HIM—AND FOLLOW HIM IN BELIEVERS' BAPTISM.

V. A PROPHETIC SIGN THAT GOD WILL GIVE IN THE LAST DAYS:

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Malachi 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

1. God will send Elijah the prophet.

John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah.

However, most Bible scholars believe that God is actually going to send Elijah back during the tribulation.

I believe he will be one of the two witnesses in Revelation.

Revelation 11:3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

Revelation 11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

Revelation 11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

These two witnesses will come to fight against the kingdom of the Antichrist.

2. *This Elijah will seek to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers.*

More and more we are seeing a failure on the part of fathers to care for their children.

Malachi 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

The family provides a foundation for true spirituality.

Children who cannot honor their parents will find it hard to honor God. Fathers who pervert their role as a parent dishonor God and cripple their children spiritually. Fathers need to remember they represent God to their children. Many children have a perverted view of God because of their fathers.

Malachi 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

During the tribulation the earth will be smitten with a curse.

Conclusion:

Amazing how it is that so many live for the world; yet the things of the world will perish. Why do we neglect the eternal for those things that will burn up?

How sad it is that we do not see things from God's perspective.

Live for the eternal and not the temporal. Jesus put it this way:

Matthew 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Yes, we have to do the necessary evils to live in this world, but our heart does not have to be pre-occupied with these things.

In 1974 when I gave my heart to the Lord, I was in the middle of the things of the world. I saw the evil all around me and realized to succeed in this world I had to acquiesce to these evils and go along with them wholeheartedly. I decided to bail out and live for the Lord. Now, 42 years later, I realized I made the right choice. Soon our lives will be but a memory, and all that we accomplished apart from spiritual things will be burned up. I turned my back on my career, my livelihood, and most of my worldly associates, but now 42 years later I can say with King David:

Psalms 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

I hope you will join me in this journey and pilgrimage for the Lord.