

# JESUS COMES WITH GOOD NEWS AND JUSTICE.

MALACHI 3:1-5

1 "Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

## **JESUS IS COMING.**

Malachi predicts the Messiah AND John the Baptist coming to the Temple 400 years beforehand.

*Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting, "Clear the way through the wilderness for the LORD! Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God! **ISAIAH 40:3***

3 In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, 2 "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." 3 The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

*"He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord's coming!  
Clear the road for him!'" **MATTHEW 3:1-3***

## **JESUS IS COMING AGAIN.**

**WHEN JESUS CAME THE FIRST TIME, IT WAS TO SAVE, NOT CONDEMN.**

**WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN, IT WILL BE TO BRING JUSTICE AND NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO DEFY HIM.**

2 "But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes. 3 He will sit like a refiner of silver, burning away the dross. He will purify the Levites, refining them like gold and silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the Lord. 4 Then once more the Lord will accept the offerings brought to him by the people of Judah and Jerusalem, as he did in the past.

5 "At that time I will put you on trial. I am eager to witness against all sorcerers and adulterers and liars. I will speak against those who cheat employees of their wages, who oppress widows and orphans, or who deprive the foreigners living among you of justice, for these people do not fear me," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

*MALACHI 2:17 You have wearied the Lord with your words. "How have we wearied him?" you ask. You have wearied him by saying that all who do evil are good in the Lord's sight, and he is pleased with them. You have wearied him by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"*

**The cynicism and ingratitude of God's people is laid bare in the just and generous Son of God.**

**In response to a people who say God is unfair, our Father says "you 're right, you got my Son."**

**In response to a people who say God doesn't know our pain, Jesus bathes Himself in a Cup of Suffering.**

**In response to a people who say God doesn't love us enough, our Father says, "I have always LOVED you.**

**In response to those who mistreat the widow, the stranger, the orphan, our Father says, "I am coming with justice."**