

Malachi 3

Jesus

Ch's 1 and 2: I have Loved You
4 of 7 Questions back to the LORD

1. **1:2 How have You loved us?** I Chose/Delivered/Sustained/Protected you
2. **1:6 How have we despised Your Name?** By your entitled/prideful/disrespectful attitude of service...
3. **1:7 How have we defiled You?** By offering defiled sacrifices. Garbage.
4. **2:17 How have we wearied You?** ...You misrepresent My just/good character

Malachi 2:17b ...you say, "Everyone who does evil Is good in the sight of the Lord, And He delights in them," Or, "Where is the God of justice?"

After Malachi, God will not speak again until Jesus

I. Coming Messengers Silent Years Approach

1 "Behold, I [Father] send My messenger [J the B], And he will prepare the way before Me [The LORD]. And the LORD, **whom you seek**, Will **suddenly come to His temple**, Even the Messenger of the covenant [Jesus], **In whom you delight**. Behold, He [Jesus] is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.

- **V1** Two Messengers

1. **My messenger:** John the Baptist
2. **The Messenger** of the Covenant: Jesus

I and My Father are one. Jesus
[John 10:30]

Verse 1 Paraphrase: I, God the Father will send *My messenger* [1] **John the Baptist** to prepare the way for Me to come to earth in the Person of *the Messenger* [2] **My Son Jesus**. He will proclaim the message of a New Covenant. At that time I the LORD whom you say you seek will come suddenly to My temple to those who delight in Me and to those who do not. I will later come again in the Person of My Son Jesus during the Tribulation, ushered in by another of My messengers, [3] the prophet **Elijah**. He will bring a message of repentance followed by My active judgment/wrath. [NJC]

John will prepare the way for God to come to earth
Make no mistake: Jesus coming to earth is God coming to earth

- **Near Prophecy:** J the B prepares for Jesus 1st Coming
- **Distant Prophecy:** Elijah prepares for Jesus 2nd Coming [Ch. 4]

Jesus was ushered in by John the Baptist

Luke 1:76 [John's father Zechariah] "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For **you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,**

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, **whose name was John**. 7 This man came for a witness, to **bear witness of the Light**, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light

to every man coming into the world. ...**23** [John] said: "**I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'**"

The LORD whom you seek/delight?
Will *suddenly* come to His temple

- **Some were delighted** w/Jesus at the Temple...Anna and Simeon
- **Some were angry** w/Jesus at the Temple: Religious Leaders

John 2:14 [Jesus] found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. **15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables.**

To those who receive John's message of Repentance...
These will Delight in the Message of the New Covenant of Grace

1 Corinthians 11:25 In the same manner [Jesus] also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the **new covenant in My blood**. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- Near Prophecy 1st Coming: Jesus *the Messenger* of the Covenant
- Ushered in by *Gods messenger* John the Baptist...

v2 Malachi moves to Jesus 2nd Coming/Day of the LORD
Ushered in by Elijah [Ch. 4]

2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. **3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.**

Who can endure His coming?/Remain standing in His presence?
He comes to Refine/Cleanse/Purify/Purge of Dead Hypocritical Religion

Malachi 2:3 [To the priests at His first coming] "Behold, I will rebuke your descendants And **spread refuse on your faces**, The refuse of your solemn feasts; And one will take you away with it. **4 Then you shall know that I have sent this commandment to you, That My covenant with Levi may continue,**" Says the Lord of hosts.

The Tribulation will bring refinement to Israel

4 "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years.

God will be pleased w/Israel after their refinement by fire
God will remove the dross of unrighteousness until He sees His clear reflection

5 [But to those that do not fear God, He says...] I will come **near you for judgment**; I will be a **swift witness...**

Jesus will come suddenly a second time to earth
Come near as a swift witness/Deal with the sin of the world...

All who do not Fear the LORD/Do not exalt His Name

5b ... Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien— **Because they do not fear Me,**” Says the LORD of hosts.

Unrepentant sinners will be taken at Judgment
Sought out/Removed/Consumed...

Zechariah 5:3 “This *is* the curse that goes out over the **face of the whole earth**: ‘Every **thief shall be expelled,**’ according to this side of *the scroll*; and, ‘**Every perjurer shall be expelled,**’ according to that side of it.” ⁴“I will send out *the curse,*” says the Lord of hosts; **“It shall enter the house** of the thief And the house of the one who swears falsely by My name. It shall remain in the midst of his house And consume it, with its timber and stones.”

6 “For **I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed,** O sons of Jacob.

I AM the LORD I do not change
IOWs I will not be provoked to act/judge until I am ready...You should be happy

7 [Because] ...from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them...**Return to Me,** and **I will return to you,**” Says the LORD of hosts. “But you said, ‘**In what way shall we return?’**”

II. Return to Me Put Me First

8 “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘**In what way have we robbed You?’** In tithes and offerings. **9** You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.

Q.5 In what way shall we return? **A.5** Begin by not continuing to rob Me

Q.6 In what way are we robbing you? **A.6** In My tithes/offerings

Tithes/Offerings belong to God
We rob God by not giving back to Him what is His

10 Bring all the tithes **into the storehouse,** That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, **“If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.** **11** “And I will **rebuke the devourer for your sakes,** So that he will not destroy the fruit of your

ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts; 12 "And **all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land,**" Says the LORD of hosts.

I will open the windows of heaven c.f. Gen 7 Flood

Genesis 7:11b ...on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; 10 So your **barns will be filled** with plenty, And your **vats will overflow** with new wine.

2 Chronicles 31:10 [Message to King Hezekiah] "Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the Lord, we have **had enough to eat and have plenty left**, for the **Lord has blessed His people**; and what is left is this **great abundance.**"

Try Me in this by faith [Though counterintuitive]
Keep from Me and be in want/debt...Give to Me and have no need

How do we return to God? Seek first the Kingdom/His righteousness
Where your treasure is your heart will follow. We do what's most important to us

Judah disregarded God by robbing Him of what was already His
People exposed a lack of fear of God in the words they spoke about God...

III. Harsh Complaints Red Line Crossed

13 "**Your words have been harsh against Me,**" Says the LORD, "Yet you say, '**What have we spoken against You?**' 14 You have said, '**It is useless to serve God; What profit is it** that we have kept His ordinance, And that we have **walked as mourners** Before the LORD of hosts?"

Q.7 What have we spoken against You?
A.7 You tell others...

We're no better off when we serve God than when we don't...

15 So now **we call the proud blessed, For those who do wickedness are raised up; They even tempt God and go free.'** "

Again blaming God? Your refusal to act LORD is why we envy/praise the wicked

Jesus: Blessed are you who are not offended because of Me
My ways. My timing. I'm God. You're not

Judah: Act how we want when we want or we just won't serve You?
They were the ones tempting God...Most will not go free

IV. Book of Remembrance Those Fear God/Speak well of God

16 Then **those who feared the LORD spoke** to one another...

Godly fear fell on the remnant of God's people
If this is us...We must repent...

16b ...And the LORD listened and heard them So a book of remembrance was written before Him For **those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name.**

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the **eyes of the Lord run to and fro** throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of **those whose heart is loyal to Him.**

Book of Remembrance
Those who fear the LORD/Meditate on His Name

17 **"They shall be Mine,"** says the LORD of hosts, **"On the day that I make them My jewels.** [lit. Special Treasures]

Those who fear Me are those who are Mine. Those who are mine fear Me
I will make My precious jewels/Pearls of great price/Treasure

17b ...And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him."

God will spare those who Fear Him/Meditate on His Name

18 **Then you shall again discern** Between the righteous and the wicked,
Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.

To those who fear God/Meditate on Him
You will see the end of the wicked and rejoice...

Psalm 58:10 The **righteous shall rejoice when he sees the vengeance;** He shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked, 11 So that men will say, **"Surely there is a reward for the righteous; Surely He is God who judges in the earth."**

Most people will take a loving God for granted all the way to Hell
Every idle Word will be judged...

Malachi 4

Jesus

I. Great Day of God Elijah Returns

1 "For behold, **the day is coming, Burning like an oven,** And all the **proud,** yes, all who do **wickedly** will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall **burn them up,**" Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch."

Psalm 21:9 You shall make them as a **fiery oven** in the **time of Your anger**; The Lord shall swallow them up **in His wrath**, And the **fire shall devour them**.

Nahum 1: 6 **Who can stand before His indignation?** And who can endure the **fierceness of His anger**? His fury is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him.

2 Peter 3:7 ...the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are **reserved for fire** until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Isaiah 5:24 Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, So their **root will be as rottenness**, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, And **despised the word** of the Holy One of Israel.

A Burning Oven to those who do not Fear Him
The Sun of Righteousness to those who do Fear Him

2 But to **you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings**; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.

Light/Warmth/Comfort/Beauty of our King
The Sun of Righteousness

- Light/Revelation of the Son of God/Light of the World

Matthew 4:16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a **great light**, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death **Light has dawned**.

Luke 1:78 [Zachariah's blessing] Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the **Dayspring** from on high **has visited us...**

2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the **God who commanded light to shine out of darkness**, who has **shone in our hearts to give the light** of the knowledge of the glory of God in the **face of Jesus Christ**.

The Sun of Righteousness will arise as King of Kings in His Kingdom
Healing in His wings/Broad place for us forever w/Him in His Kingdom

Righteousness will prevail/Truth will Reign
Evil/All that is false cast out...When Jesus returns w/His saints

3 You [God's people] shall **trample the wicked**, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this," Says the LORD of hosts.

Luke 18:7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that **He will avenge them speedily**. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Mocking voice of the Devil by the tongues of his willing vessels will cease

Micah 7:10 ... my enemy will see, And shame will cover her who said to me, "**Where is the Lord your God?**" My eyes will see her; Now she will be **trampled down Like mud in the streets.**

4 "**Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments.**

To Israel personified: My Law has been broken. Judgment must come
I offered you Salvation but you rejected My Savior

5 Behold, **I will send you Elijah** the prophet **Before the** coming of the great and dreadful **day of the LORD.** 6 And **he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children,** And the hearts of the children to their fathers, **Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."**

Revelation 11:3 And I will give power to **my two witnesses,** and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days [1st 3.5 yrs of Trib], clothed in sackcloth." ... **6** These have **power to shut heaven,** so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

The Prophet Elijah will be One of Two Witnesses in the Tribulation
As John preached to repent/believe in Jesus so will Elijah

Matthew 11:3 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. 14 And **if you are willing to receive it, he [J the B] is Elijah who is to come.** 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

- Are John the Baptist and Elijah the same person? No

John 1:21 And they asked [J the B], "What then? **Are you Elijah?**" He said, "**I am not.**"...

Luke 1:17 He [J the B] will also go before Him [Jesus] in the spirit and **power of Elijah**

- **If you are willing** to receive John...receive John
- **If you are not willing** to receive John...you will receive Elijah

IOWs Accept the Grace of the Lamb ushered in by John
Receive the Wrath of the Lamb ushered in by Elijah

Revelation 6:16 [The wicked] ...said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the **wrath of the Lamb!**

To Judah personified: This is My last message until Messiah comes