



MALACHI

A Call For Pure Devotion

Why Study Malachi?

- **Relevant** ~ Covers topics we need to hear:

- Call for authentic devotion to the Lord
- Reminder about God's love, glory, & worthiness
- Confront hypocrisy & offers cleansing

- **2025 Initiatives** ~ Our church has set priorities this year:

- He is worthy of our love, our life, & our all
- Cultivate deeper love for Jesus

Malachi Review

- **Written:**
 - Probably 100 years after return from Exile in 538 BC
 - Was likely contemporary of Ezra & Nehemiah
- **Malachi 1:**
 - Israel doubts God's love (how have you loved us?)
 - Israel offers blemished sacrifices
- **Malachi 2:**
 - Unfaithfulness leaders and priests
 - Unfaithfulness to the Lord and in marriage
- **Malachi 3:**
 - Messenger coming; return to me
 - Robbing God in tithes and offerings

Malachi

ESV

The Book of Remembrance

¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. ¹⁷ "They shall be mine," says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸ Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

The Great Day of the LORD

⁴ ^a "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act," says the LORD of hosts.

Notice anything different?

A Book of Remembrance

NKJV

Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, saying, "The LORD has remembered us, for He has heard our prayer, and the LORD listened and heard the voice of our cry." So a book of remembrance was written before Him, for those who fear the LORD and who ^bmeditate on His name.

- ¹⁷ "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels."^b And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him."
- ¹⁸ Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.

The Great Day of God

- ⁴ "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. 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. ³ You 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.

Malachi 3:16-4:6

- **Three main points today:**

- **Malachi 3:16-18 Book of Remembrance**
- **Malachi 4:1-3 The Great Day of the Lord and the Sun of Righteousness**
- **Malachi 4:4-6 The Law of Moses & Elijah**




Book of Remembrance

Malachi 3:16-18

Malachi 3:16 – 3:18

The Book of Remembrance

¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. ¹⁷“They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.”

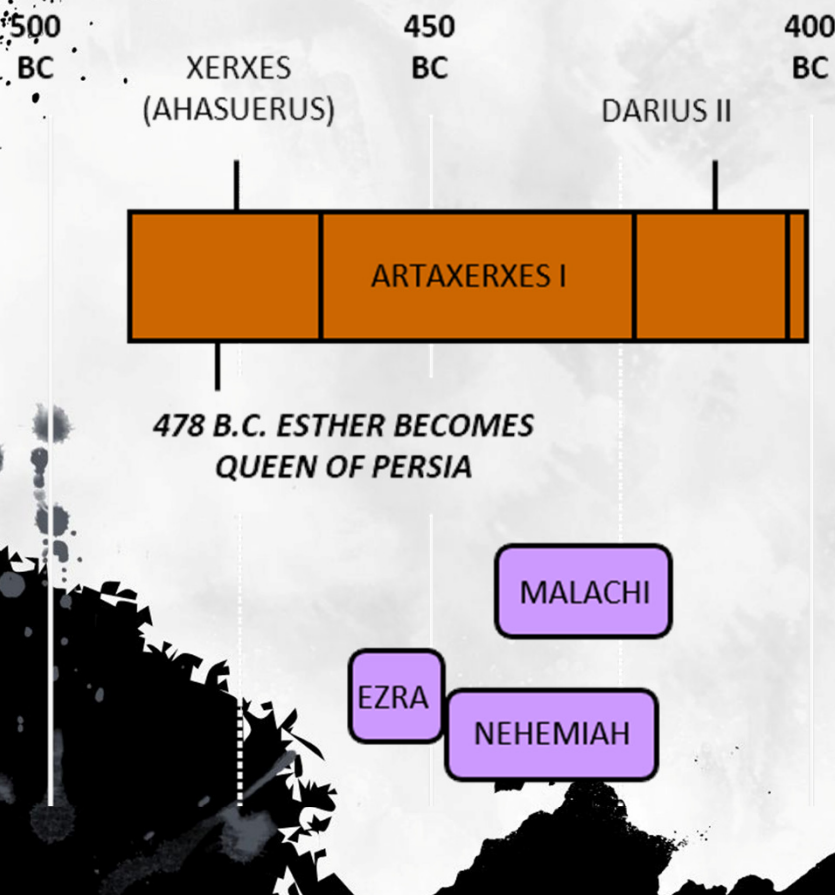


Remembrance

zikārôn / (H2146)

memorial, reminder, remembrance.

Another Book of Remembrance



Mordecai Discovers a Plot

²¹In those days, as Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. ²²And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai. ²³When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. **And it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.** – Esther 2:21-23

The King Honors Mordecai

¹On that night the king could not sleep. **And he gave orders to bring the book of memorable (*zikārôn*) deeds, the chronicles,** and they were read before the king. ²And it was found written how Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, and who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. ³And the king said, "What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" The king's young men who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him." – Esther 6:1-3



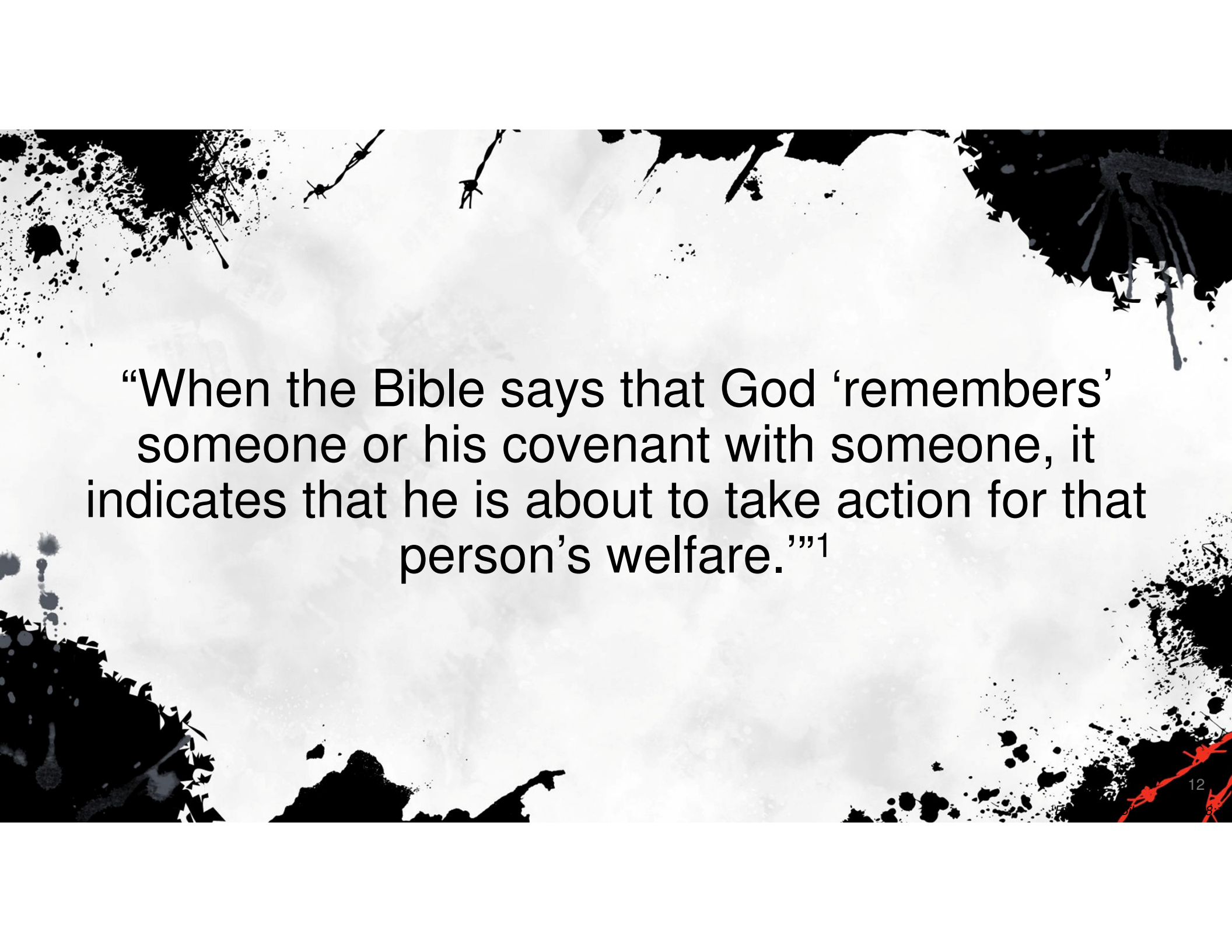
**Does God need to write things down
to remember?**

Book of Remembrance

• God's people can become discouraged:

“¹⁴You have said, ‘**It is vain to serve God.** What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? ¹⁵And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’” – Malachi 3:14-15 ESV

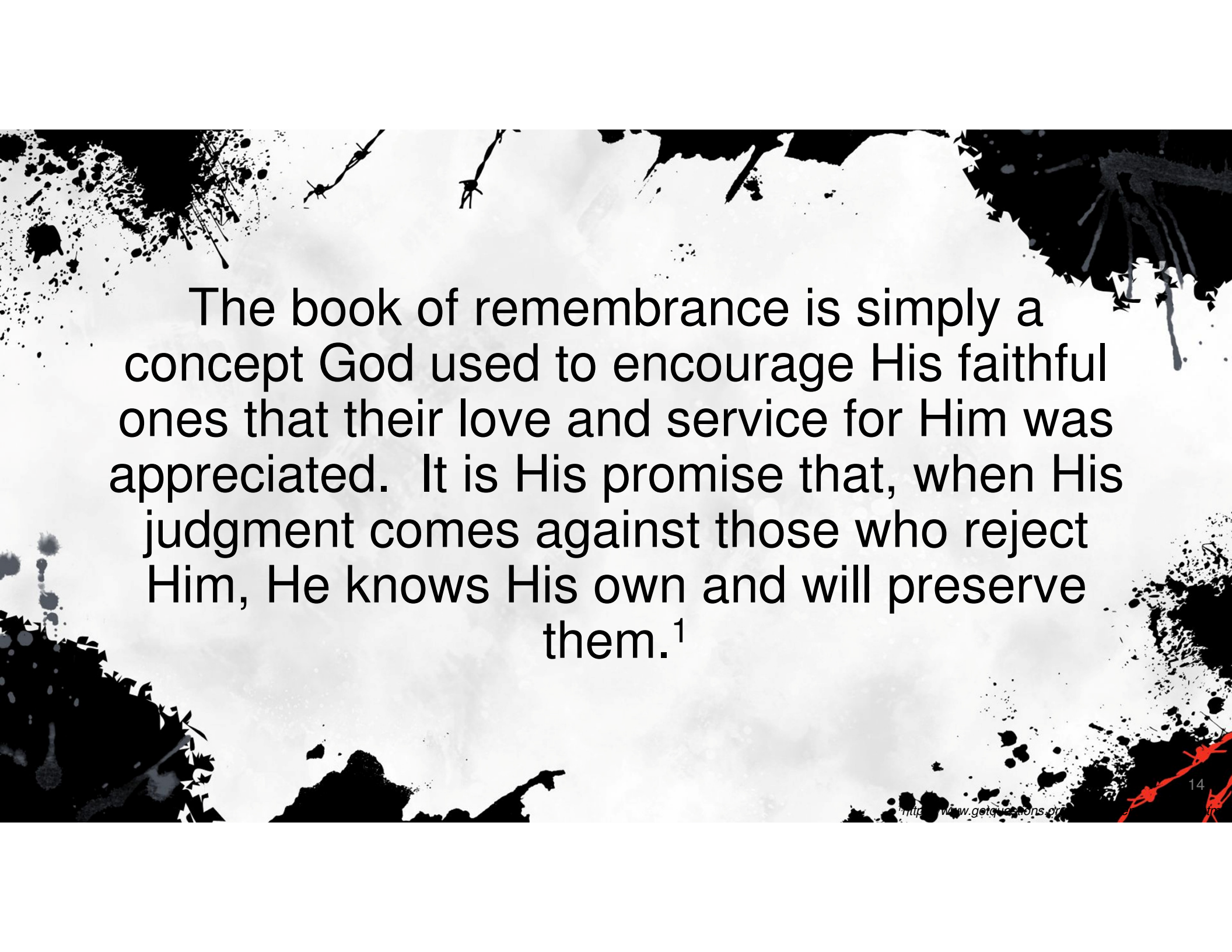
“¹⁴You have said, ‘**It is useless to serve God.** What profit *is it* that we have kept His ordinance, and that we have walked as mourners before the LORD of hosts? ¹⁵So now we call the proud blessed, for those who do wickedness are raised up; they even tempt God and are not held in awe.’” – Malachi 3:14-15 NKJV

The background is a high-contrast, abstract composition. It features a light gray, textured central area. This area is framed by dark, irregular shapes that resemble ink splatters or paint blotches. In the upper portion, there are thin, dark, horizontal lines that look like strands of barbed wire. In the lower right corner, there are some red, jagged lines that also appear to be part of the barbed wire or perhaps stylized thorns. The overall effect is one of starkness and intensity.

“When the Bible says that God ‘remembers’ someone or his covenant with someone, it indicates that he is about to take action for that person’s welfare.”¹

God's Eternal Book

Location	God's Word
Ex 32:32	But now, if you will forgive their sin – but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.
Psalms 56:8	You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book ?
Psalms 69:28	Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous.
Daniel 12:1	At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book .
Luke 10:20	Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven
Revelation 13:8	and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.
Revelation 20:15	And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life , he was thrown into the lake of fire.



The book of remembrance is simply a concept God used to encourage His faithful ones that their love and service for Him was appreciated. It is His promise that, when His judgment comes against those who reject Him, He knows His own and will preserve them.¹



The Great Day of the Lord and the Sun of Righteousness

Malachi 4:1-3

Malachi 4:1-3

The Great Day of the Lord

“¹For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

Great Day of the Lord

- Continues the theme started in Mal 3:1-5 on God's punishment of the wicked and deliverance of the godly

¹Behold, 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. 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 fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵**Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers**, against the **adulterers**, against those who **swear falsely**, against those who **oppress** the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those **who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me**, says the LORD of hosts."

Great Day of the Lord

Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; **as destruction from the Almighty it will come!** – Isaiah 13:6

The LORD utters his voice
before his army,
for his camp is exceedingly great;
he who executes his word is powerful.

**For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome;
who can endure it?** – Joel 2:11

³⁰And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, **blood and fire and columns of smoke.** ³¹**The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.**

But it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. – Joel 2:30-32

Great Day of the Lord

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.

¹⁵**A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,**

a day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.


¹⁷**I will bring distress on mankind,
so that they shall walk like the blind,
because they have sinned against the LORD;**

blood shall be poured out like dust,
flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
shall be able to deliver them
on the day of the wrath of the LORD.

**In the fire of his jealousy,
all the earth shall be consumed;
for a full and sudden end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.**

- Zephaniah 1:14-18



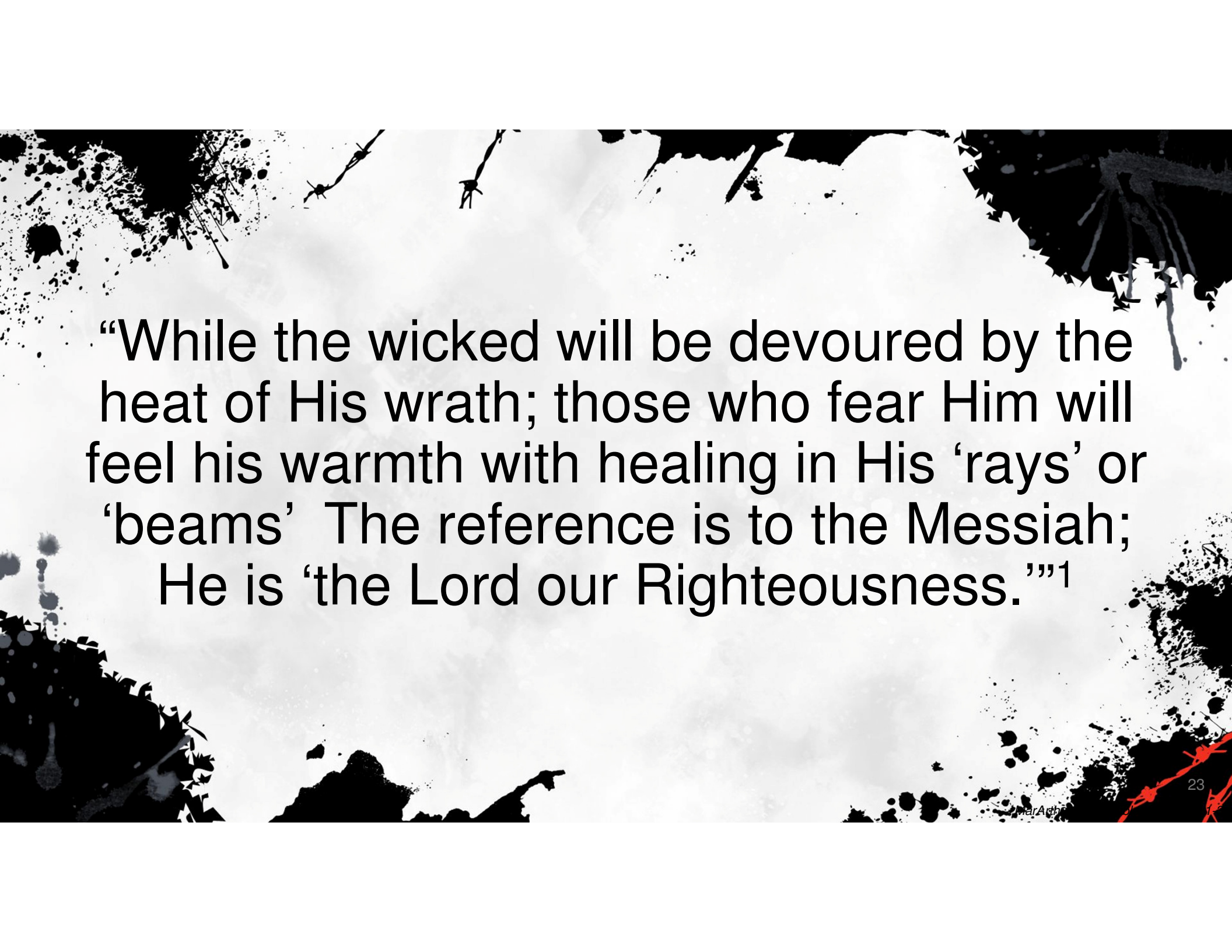
**Should we fear or look forward to
the Day of the Lord?**

Great Day of the Lord

“¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³**waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” – Titus 2:11-14



What is the Sun of Righteousness?



“While the wicked will be devoured by the heat of His wrath; those who fear Him will feel his warmth with healing in His ‘rays’ or ‘beams’ The reference is to the Messiah; He is ‘the Lord our Righteousness.’”¹

Sun of Righteousness in

Location	God's Word
Ps 84:11	For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.
Is 60:1-3	¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Jer 23:5-6	⁵ Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Sin of Righteousness in

Location	God's Word
Rom 3:21-22	²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it – ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.
Rom 10:3-4	³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
1 Cor 1:30	³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.
2 Cor 5:21	²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Contrast of Wicked & Righteous

(from Mal 3:13-4:3)

- Wicked

- It is vain to serve God (3:14)
- Arrogant blessed and evildoers prosper (3:15)
- Will be stubble and will be set ablaze (4:1)
- Will be ashes under your feet (4:3)

- Righteous

- Put into book of Remembrance (3:16)
- They shall be mine (3:17)
- Sun of righteousness will be healing (4:2)
- Leaping like calves from the stall (4:2)
- Tread down the wicked (4:3)

Serving God is not in vain.

The background is a light gray with a faint, stylized world map. It is decorated with large, expressive black ink splatters and blotches, particularly concentrated in the corners. In the bottom right corner, there are some red ink-like marks.


Law of Moses & Elijah

Malachi 4:4-6

Malachi 4:4-6

⁴Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”



“Both the law and the prophets
play a part in preparing for the
arrival of the Day of the Lord.”¹

The background of the slide is white with large, expressive black ink splatters and blotches in the corners. Faint, thin lines of barbed wire are visible, particularly in the top and bottom right areas.

Remembrance

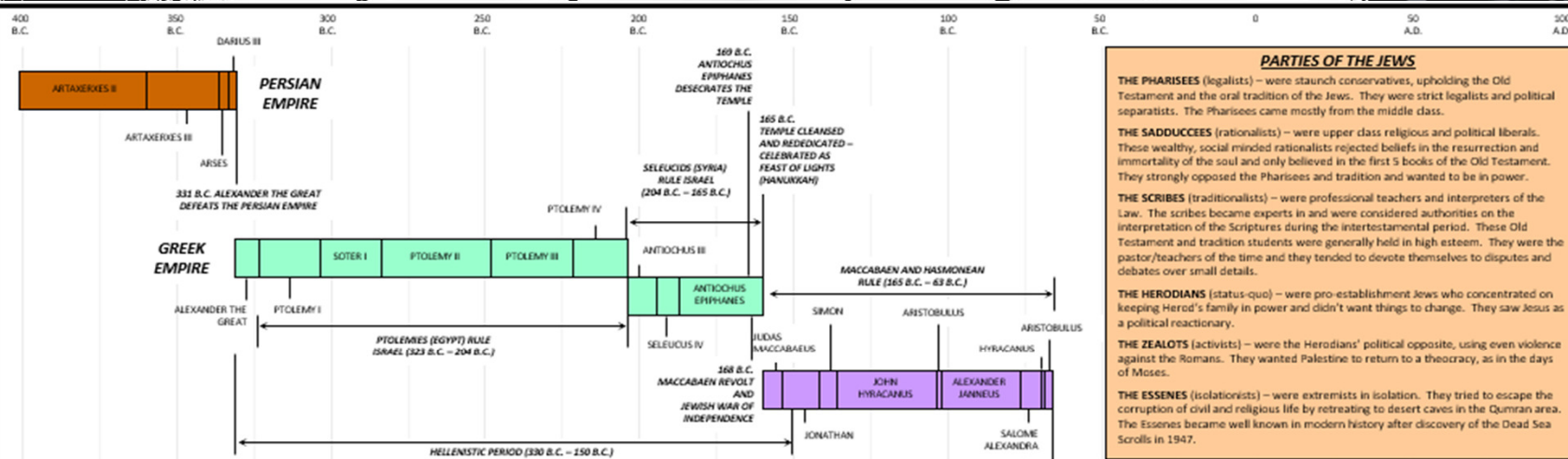
zākar / (H2142)

to remember, recall, call to mind, be
brought to mind



**What is the role of the OT Law
for us today?**

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD TIMELINE



PARTIES OF THE JEWS

THE PHARISEES (legalists) – were staunch conservatives, upholding the Old Testament and the oral tradition of the Jews. They were strict legalists and political separatists. The Pharisees came mostly from the middle class.

THE SADDUCEES (rationalists) – were upper class religious and political liberals. These wealthy, social minded rationalists rejected beliefs in the resurrection and immortality of the soul and only believed in the first 5 books of the Old Testament. They strongly opposed the Pharisees and tradition and wanted to be in power.

THE SCRIBES (traditionalists) – were professional teachers and interpreters of the Law. The scribes became experts in and were considered authorities on the interpretation of the Scriptures during the intertestamental period. These Old Testament and tradition students were generally held in high esteem. They were the pastor/teachers of the time and they tended to devote themselves to disputes and debates over small details.

THE HERODIANS (status-quo) – were pro-establishment Jews who concentrated on keeping Herod's family in power and didn't want things to change. They saw Jesus as a political reactionary.

THE ZEALOTS (activists) – were the Herodians' political opposite, using even violence against the Romans. They wanted Palestine to return to a theocracy, as in the days of Moses.

THE ESEENES (isolationists) – were extremists in isolation. They tried to escape the corruption of civil and religious life by retreating to desert caves in the Qumran area. The Essenes became well known in modern history after discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947.

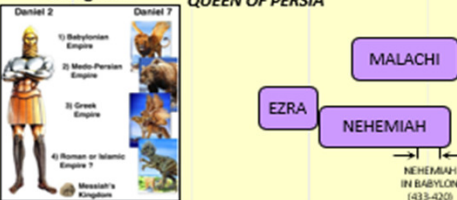
POST-EXILE

The Jewish return from the Babylonian exile began after Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon in 538 BC and issued a decree allowing the exiles to go back to Judea. The first major group returned to rebuild the Temple under Zerubbabel in 536 BC. A second group, led by the scribe Ezra, followed in 457 BC to restore religious practices, and a third group, led by Nehemiah, returned later to rebuild the city walls in 445 BC.

500 BC 450 BC 400 BC



478 B.C. ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN OF PERSIA



400 YEARS OF SILENCE

The 400 years of silence began with the warning that closed the Old Testament:

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction." – Malachi 4:5-6

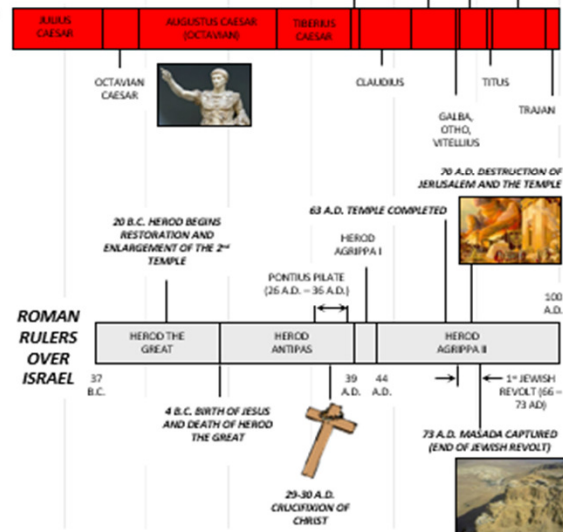
The period ended with the coming of John the Baptist, the Messiah's forerunner crying out:

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." – Matthew 3:2

Even when God appears to be silent, He is still working:

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." – Galatians 4:4-5

ROMAN EMPIRE





MALACHI

A Call For Pure Devotion