

Malachi Lesson 5: Malachi 2:17 – 3:5

Lecture

- In this 4th disputation, Malachi introduces 3 new themes:
 - The need for a messianic intervention in Judah
 - The need for a Day of Judgment. The Day of Judgment itself is not a new theme, but Malachi is reminding the people that this day is coming, and God intends to fulfill prophecies about it. The coming of the Lord will not be pleasant.
 - The need for social justice
 - In this 4th disputation, Malachi also reiterates the need for reform of the priesthood and the restoration of acceptable worship practices.
- We should pay close attention to the language of Malachi 3:1:
 - “I will send **my messenger, who will prepare the way before me**. Then suddenly **the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,**” says the LORD Almighty.
 - This is messianic language.
 - Moreover, we see that the language expresses the divinity of the sent one.
 - God is sending his messenger, John the Baptist, to prepare the way for God to come.
 - The Lord you are seeking (the Messiah) will come to his temple. Whose temple is this? It is God’s temple.
 - What will the one whom God is sending to his temple bring? He will bring the covenant you desire. In this case, it is the new covenant in Christ Jesus. The concept of a new covenant was also not a new one. We see it in several prophetic books. Jeremiah 31:31-34 is one of the most explicit:

- However, there is a mixed message in these prophecies. For those people who have kept covenant with God, the day of the Lord's coming will be one of blessing. For those who have not done so, the Lord will judge and punish them.
- It is the prophet Amos who speaks best to what will happen to those out of favor with God in Amos 5:18-20:
 - Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light. ¹⁹ It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. ²⁰ Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light—pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?
- It is Amos' vision of the day of the Lord's coming which Malachi speaks to.
- Malachi has already gone to great length to take the priests, the Levites, and the people to task for failing to keep covenant with God in multiple ways.
- The Lord will come like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap (lye). Both burn.
 - A refiner's fire removes base metals and impurities, leaving behind only the pure metal, such as silver or gold.
 - Lye removes stains and dirt, leaving behind a clean garment.
- The Lord will purify the priesthood and the people. The people will bring offerings acceptable to God and the priests will ensure they do so, thus removing the sins previously stated by Malachi in Chapter 1:8.
- I would be remiss at this point if I did not point to Jesus' 2 cleansings of the Temple (John 2:13-17 and Matthew 21:12-13) as examples of Jesus working to purify the priesthood.

- Jesus also repeatedly challenged the Pharisees whose oral tradition had led people astray from true worship of God.
 - Luke 11:42: Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.
 - Matthew 3:7-10: But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
- As Christians, we do not always associate Jesus’ coming and his ministry as the coming of the Day of the Lord. Yet, this is what Malachi is referencing.
 - Christians tend to think of the Day of the Lord as the 2nd coming of Christ, which is referenced in multiple places in the New Testament. Pertinent examples are:
 - Acts 2:20-21: The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:2: for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
 - Revelations 6:16-17: They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?
 - In effect, there are 2 events which are the coming Day of the Lord:
 - The arrival of Jesus Christ, the Messiah
 - The return of Jesus Christ, at the end of the age

- Beginning with Malachi 3:5, God answers the question the people asked in Malachi 2:17: “Where is the God of justice?”
 - God is coming to put sinful people on trial.
 - God intends to function as prosecutor, judge, and jury against all those who have sinned by being sorcerers, adulterers, perjurers, defrauders, oppressors, and not fearing God.
 - Those who have committed the first 6 sins show they do not fear God. Not fearing God is a sin in its own right, since not fearing God is equivalent to disobeying God.
 - All the named evils can be considered social evils, hence the need for social justice.
 - Sorcery involves the use of spells, divination, or speaking to spirits. In some situations, this could cause a social evil if it drew the participants away from listening to God’s prophets or worshipping God.
 - The fact that sorcery existed in Malachi’s day shows how far the people had strayed.
 - In your lesson this week, you read all of God’s laws where he classified all these actions as sins.
 - Several of these sins were punishable by death: sorcery, adultery, and perjury.
 - Why did Malachi choose to name these 7 particular sins? Thomas McComiskey gives 3 reasons:
 - 7, in this case, does not reference a perfect number, but rather a way of saying “several.”
 - These sins were the most prominent in Malachi’s day.
 - These sins demonstrated well that the covenant had been broken.

- The obvious question is when will the Lord whom the people are seeking, and God will send put the people on trial?
 - We can think of this eschatology as being fulfilled over time.
 - Unfortunately, most of the sins Malachi named were still rampant at the time God's messenger, John the Baptist, called God's chosen people to come to repentance. He told the people what awaited them.
 - In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1-2
 - His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Matthew 3:12
 - When Jesus began to teach, he preached the same message:
 - From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 4:17
 - In Matthew 5:13, Jesus warned God's covenant people, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."
 - God's covenant people suffered a devastating loss in 70 AD when the Romans ransacked Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple.
 - Some estimates indicate that 1.1 million Jews died from the conflict.
 - Those who survived were often enslaved by the Romans or displaced.

- Jesus foretold this event:
 - When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. ²² For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. ²³ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. ²⁴ They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. Luke 21:20-24

- Jesus preached against many of the same sins which Malachi listed (see Matthew 5). When Jesus came the first time, he came as our redeemer. Jesus warned the people that he would come again. When he returned, he would be come as a judge, not as the one who would save his people from their sins.
 - Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son John 5:22

 - There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Luke 21:25-28

 - The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Matthew 13:41-43

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And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may go well with you Deuteronomy 6:18

1. According to Malachi 2:17, in what 2 ways have the people wearied God?
You have wearied the LORD with your words. “How have we wearied him?” you ask.
By saying, “All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them” or “Where is the God of justice?” Malachi 2:17
2. These are audacious statements which express the people’s frustration. How do Isaiah 5:20 and John 3:20 add context to the first statement?
 - Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Isaiah 5:20
 - Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. John 3:20
3. How would you characterize the first statement in your own words?
I can get away with evil and still be viewed as good and pleasing in God’s eyes.
4. How does Isaiah 30:18 function as a counterpoint to the second statement?
Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.
For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! Isaiah 30:18
5. How would you characterize the second statement in your own words?
I look around me and see people doing evil everywhere and getting away with it. Where is the God of justice in these situations? If God finds sin so abhorrent to him, why is he letting it prevail without dealing with it?
6. God answers the people’s complaints in Malachi 3:1. What is God’s answer?
“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. Malachi 3:1

7. Reading ahead to Malachi 4:5, we learn the identity of the messenger of Malachi 3:1a. Who is he?
See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. Malachi 4:5
8. How do Luke 1:5-17 and Matthew 11:11-14 explain who fulfilled Malachi's prophecy about the messenger?
- When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Luke 1:12-17
 - Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of **John the Baptist** until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Matthew 11:11-14
9. Malachi 3:1b-c says, "Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come." How do Isaiah 42:1-9, Micah 5:2, and Luke 4:14-21 explain whom Malachi is speaking about?
- "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. ² He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. ³ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; ⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope." ⁵ This is what God the LORD says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: ⁶ "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, ⁷ to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. ⁸ "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. ⁹

See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.” Isaiah 42:1-9

- “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Micah 5:2
- Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. ¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4:14-21
- Jesus, the Son of God

10. According to Malachi 3:2-4, what will happen when the Lord appears?

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. Malachi 3:2-4

11. What kind of Messiah were the Jews expecting? Consider Genesis 49:10 and other scriptures which come to mind.

- The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his. Genesis 49:10
- God to King David: “Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.” 2 Samuel 7:16

- For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. Isaiah 9:6-7
- The Jews were expecting an earthly, warrior king like King David.

12. How does this messianic expectation fit with Malachi 3:2-4?

- Certainly, the Jews would have been glad for a warrior king in Malachi's time, if it meant an end to Persian dominance and altercations with their foreign neighbors. This would have been a "refinement" of sorts.
- However, I doubt they saw their warrior king like King David being a purifier of the Levites, or even coming like a refining fire.

13. What is used to purify gold and silver?

Fire and a smelting furnace

14. How do Ezekiel 22:18-22 and Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 add context?

- "Son of man, the people of Israel have become dross to me; all of them are the copper, tin, iron and lead left inside a furnace. They are but the dross of silver. ¹⁹ Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: **'Because you have all become dross, I will gather you into Jerusalem. ²⁰ As silver, copper, iron, lead and tin are gathered into a furnace to be melted with a fiery blast, so will I gather you in my anger and my wrath and put you inside the city and melt you. ²¹ I will gather you and I will blow on you with my fiery wrath, and you will be melted inside her. ²² As silver is melted in a furnace, so you will be melted inside her, and you will know that I the LORD have poured out my wrath on you.'**" Ezekiel 22:18-22
- Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' ²⁸ "An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' ²⁹ "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'" Matthew 13:24-30

- Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one,³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.⁴¹ **The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.**⁴² **They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear. Matthew 13:36-43

15. Malachi 3:4 states that God wants acceptable offerings. How do Psalm 40:6-8, Micah 6:6-8, Amos 5:22-24, Mark 12:28-34, and 2 Corinthians 9:7 offer context?

- **Sacrifice and offering you did not desire**— but my ears you have opened— burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.⁷ Then I said, “Here I am, I have come— it is written about me in the scroll.⁸ **I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.**” Psalms 40:6-8
- With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. **And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.** Micah 6:6-8
- Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them.²³ Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.²⁴ But **let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!** Amos 5:22-24

- One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, **“Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”** ²⁹ **“The most important one,”** answered Jesus, **“is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”** ³² “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions. Mark 12:28-34
- **Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.** 2 Corinthians 9:7

16. According to Malachi 3:5, what else have the Jewish people been guilty of?

“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against **sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,**” says the LORD Almighty. Malachi 3:5

17. How do Deuteronomy 18:10-12, Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 19:12, Leviticus 19:13, Deuteronomy 10:18, Deuteronomy 27:19, Exodus 22: 21-24, Deuteronomy 5:29, and Proverbs 9:10 add context?

- Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, **who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, ¹¹ or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. ¹² Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD;** because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. ¹³ You must be blameless before the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 18:10-13
- You shall not commit adultery. Exodus 20:14
- Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. Leviticus 19:12
- Do not defraud or rob your neighbor. Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight Leviticus 19:13

- He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. Deuteronomy 10:18
- Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow Deuteronomy 27:19
- Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt. ²² “Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. ²³ If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry. ²⁴ My anger will be aroused, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives will become widows and your children fatherless. Exodus 22:21-24
- Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever! Deuteronomy 5:29
- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10

18. Malachi 2:17 asked “Where is the God of justice?” Why does God respond with the list of sins in Malachi 3:5?

Malachi 2:17 states that God was wearied from hearing the people’s statement that the God of justice was nowhere to be found. When God responds with the list of sins of Malachi 3:5, he is letting the people know that he, God, sees the sins which weary them, and he intends to act.

19. If God puts the people on trial, what will be the result?

God will testify against the guilty and be the judge. Those found guilty will be punished by God for their sins.

20. How does Jude 1:14-15 add context?

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” Jude 1:14-15

21. What does Revelation 20:12-15 say about judgment?

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:12-15

Malachi Lesson 5

Malachi 2:17–3:5

The 4th Disputation

- Malachi Introduces 3 New Themes
 - The Need for a Messianic Intervention
 - The Need for a Day of Judgment
 - The Need for Social Justice
- Malachi Also Reiterates the Need for Priestly Reform and the Restoration of Acceptable Worship Practices

Malachi 3:1

- Pay Close Attention to the Messianic Language
- The Language Expresses the Divinity of the Sent One
- God Is Sending His Messenger, John the Baptist, to Prepare the Way for God to Come
- The Lord You Are Seeking Will Come to God's Temple
- What Will He Bring? The Covenant You Desire; the New Covenant in Christ Jesus
- Jeremiah 31:31-34

What Will the Day of the Lord's Coming Be Like?

- Malachi 3:1 – It Will Be Sudden
 - Think About Jesus' Arrival: Miraculous Birth, Flight to Egypt, Teaching in the Temple at Age 12; Then Nothing Until Age 30 (Luke 3:23)
 - His Ministry Began With His Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22); Immediately After Being Tempted by Satan for 40 Days, He Began to Preach
 - So, Jesus' Arrival for His 3-Year Ministry Was Sudden

What Will the Day of the Lord's Coming Be Like?

- Malachi 3:2 – How Can One Endure or Stand?
 - Joyce Baldwin: This Is Military Language; Amos 1:15
 - Thomas McComiskey: Throughout the Old Testament, the Day of the Lord's Coming Is Portrayed as a Time of Judgment for Israel
 - These Prophecies Had Mixed Messages: For Those Who Keep Covenant with God, it Will Be a Day of Blessing; For Those Who Have Not, the Lord Will Judge and Punish Them
 - Amos 5:18-20
 - It Is Amos' Vision of the Day of the Lord's Coming Which Malachi Speaks to

What Will the Day of the Lord's Coming Be Like?

- Malachi 3:2 – How Can One Endure or Stand?
 - Malachi Has Already Gone to Great Length to Take the Priests, the Levites, and the People to Task for Failing to Keep Covenant with God
 - The Lord Will Come Like a Refiner's Fire or a Launderer's Soap (Lye); Both Burn
 - A Refiner's Fire Removes Base Metals and Impurities, Leaving Behind Only the Pure Metal
 - Lye Removes Stains and Dirt, Leaving Behind a Clean Garment
 - The Lord Will Purify the Priesthood and the People So That Their Offerings Are Acceptable to God

What Will the Day of the Lord's Coming Be Like?

- Malachi 3:2 – How Can One Endure or Stand?
 - Jesus' 2 Cleansings of the Temple (John 2:13-17; Matthew 21:12-13) Are Examples of Jesus Working to Purify the Priesthood
 - Jesus Repeatedly Challenged the Pharisees, Whose Oral Tradition Had Led People Astray from True Worship of God
 - Luke 11:42
 - Matthew 3:7-10

The Coming of the Day of the Lord

- As Christians, We Do Not Always Associate Jesus' Coming and His Ministry as the Coming of the Day of the Lord
- Christians Tend to Think of the Day of the Lord as the 2nd Coming of Christ
 - Acts 2:20-21
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:2
 - Revelation 6:16-17
- There Are 2 Events Which Are the Coming of the Day of the Lord
 - The Arrival of Jesus Christ, the Messiah
 - The Return of Jesus Christ, at the End of the Age

Where Is the God of Justice? (Malachi 2:17)

- God Answers the People in Malachi 3:5
 - God Is Coming to Put Sinful People on Trial
 - God Intends to Function as Prosecutor, Judge, and Jury Against Those Guilty of Sorcery, Adultery, Perjury, Fraud, Oppression, and not Fearing God
 - Those Guilty of the First 6 Sins Show They Do Not Fear God
 - Not Fearing God Is a Sin in its Own Right
 - Not Fearing God = Disobeying God

Where Is the God of Justice? Malachi 2:17

- All the Named Evils Are Social Evils, Hence the Need for Social Justice
 - Sorcery Involves the Use of Spells, Divination, or Speaking to Spirits; This Could Be a Social Evil if it Led People Astray from True Worship of God or Listening to His Prophets
 - The Fact That Sorcery Existed Shows How Far the People Had Strayed
- All of These Sins Were Stated in God's Laws
- Sorcery, Adultery, and Perjury Were Punishable by Death

Where Is the God of Justice? Malachi 2:17

- Why These 7 Particular Sins? Thomas McComiskey:
 - 7 = “Several”, Not a Perfect Number
 - These Sins Were Prominent in Malachi’s Day
 - The Sins Demonstrated the Covenant Had Been Broken

When Will the Trial Take Place?

- This Eschatology Will Be Fulfilled Over Time
- Unfortunately, Most of the Sins Malachi Named Were Still Rampant When John the Baptist Called for Repentance and Told What Awaited Sinners
 - Matthew 3:1-2; 12
- Jesus Preached the Same Message
 - Matthew 4:17
 - Matthew 5:13

When Will the Trial Take Place?

- God's Covenant People Suffered a Devastating Loss in 70 AD When the Romans Ransacked Jerusalem and Destroyed the Temple
 - Estimates of 1.1 Million Jews Died from the Conflict
 - Those Who Survived Were Often Enslaved or Displaced
 - Jesus Foretold This Event in Luke 21:20-24
- Jesus Preached Against Many of the Same Sins Which Malachi Listed (See Matthew 5)
- Jesus Came First as Redeemer. He Will Return as the Judge
 - John 5:22
 - Luke 21:25-28
 - Matthew 13:41-43