

# Malachi 4:1-6

## “The Righteous Rescued and Revived”

### Pastor Bruce Zachary

Intro.

**Subject:** God’s judgment of the wicked and restoration of the righteous

**Object:** Remember, repent, and be reconciled

**Context:** God knows those that are truly His and those who have not submitted their will to Him. There will come a time of God’s Judgment of those who reject God

#### I. The Righteous Rescued [1-3]

**A. God’s judgment of the wicked will come [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.

##### 1. The day of judgment is surely coming: The Great Tribulation

**Behold:** surely or certainly, The day is coming [2x]

a. The great and dreadful day of the LORD [5]

i. The great and terrible day of the Lord [Joel 2:31]

ii. A day of wrath [Zeph1:15]

iii. The time of indignation to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity [Is.26:20-21]

iv. John the Baptist refers to it as “The wrath to come” [Matt.3:7]

v. Jesus describe the day in His Olivet Discourse [Matt. 24:3-25:46]

c. The furnace imagery is a symbol of judgment or complete destruction,

i. Neither root nor branch remains

##### 2. God’s Judgment has been postponed but not forgotten

**2Pet. 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some count slackness but is longsuffering not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**How can knowing that God will judge the wicked encourage believers?**

**B. God’s restoration of the faithful will come [2-3]** 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. <sup>3</sup> 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.**

Note: **But [2]** contrast the righteous **you who fear My name** with the wicked

Note: Ultimate fulfillment in Millennial Kingdom

**1. Restoration through Christ Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings:** Although the title doesn't appear in NT, a likely Messianic reference

a. **Rev.22:16** The Bright and Morning Star

b. To those who love God, a promise of healing, restoration and deliverance

**2. Renewal: go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves:** peace, prosperity, and provision.

**3. Revenge: You shall trample the wicked:** The righteous triumph over the wicked. No longer will the wicked triumph as God avenges the righteous

**2Th. 1:7-8** God will give rest to the faithful when Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God

## II. The Righteous Revived [4-6]

**A. Remember: God's commands through Moses [The Law] [4]** Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb (Sinai) for all Israel, *with the statutes and judgments.*

**Note:** Moses and Elijah at Mt of Transfiguration with Jesus [**Matt.17**]

### 1. Call to remember God's Word and obey

a. The whole book of Malachi has been urging God's people and their spiritual leaders to repent and do what is right with a right heart

**What motivates you to know the Word and obey?**

**B. Repentance: God's message through Elijah [The Prophets] [5]** Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

a. Elijah will come as a herald to proclaim the coming judgment, and the availability of the kingdom to those who repent and submit to Christ

i. **Rev. 11** Two witnesses during the Great Tribulation (likely one is Elijah)

ii. Jesus said that John the Baptist came in the Spirit of Elijah [**Matt. 11:14**] ending 400 year of prophetic silence from God, and ushering a new day where the kingdom of God was at hand.

**Why can repentance be so refreshing and renewing in a believer's life?**

**C. Reconciliation [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.

### 1. God's messenger(s) seek to bring reconciliation between God's people

a. Cf. Matt. 10:35 the gospel divides unbelieving and believing family members, but believers are to be in unity [**Eph. 4:3**]

### 2. God's messenger(s) seek to bring reconciliation between God and people

a. Sober warning at end of the book **lest I come and strike the earth with a curse:**

- i. In synagogues it is common to read v.5 after vs. 6 so that the book does not end with a curse. But we should consider the consequence of failing to repent and be reconciled to God.
- ii. **Curse on the earth** [i.e. their land Israel]

**Conc: Remember, repent, and be reconciled**

Today we have a choice between the curse of God's Judgment and the blessing of Christ