



The Rise of Spiritual Fathering



Malachi 4:4-6

“Remember the Law of Moses My servant, the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel.

Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before [the face of] the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord.

He will turn the hearts of the fathers back to *their* children [descendants] and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and strike the land with complete destruction.”



Malachi closes the Old Testament with a warning *and* a path of blessing and not destruction.

In Malachi's day (similar to ours), God's people were experiencing:

- Disillusionment
- Corruption in the priesthood
- Social and family breakdown
- Need for restored hearts lest complete destruction come

MALACHI'S WORD:

- First, it was a call to remember God's instructions.
- Second, a prophetic voice would be sent to reconnect the hearts of the generations for the well-being of the land.
- Third, Bible scholars believe the GREAT and TERRIBLE DAY are two events of the Lord's coming – the first coming and the last coming.
- Fourth, the realignment would begin with the fathers.

- Father (Heb. *av* / Aramaic *abba*): first or strong house
- Fathers are shepherds who tend to their family out of a deep sense of love to make the house strong.
 - Love (Heb. *ahav*): the father revealed
 - Anger / rage (Heb. *ayav*): where is the father?



THE GREAT DAY

- The N.T. opens with a voice – John the Baptist - heralding God’s call to return to Him.
- John’s ministry ignited a new era in the history of God and His people, breaking a 400-year prophetic silence.

Luke 1:17 says of John: *“It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the **spirit and power of Elijah**, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THEIR CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude [wisdom, understanding] of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared [fully equipped] for the Lord.”*

John moved in the spirit and power of Elijah to (Luke 1:67-80):

- Prepare hearts for God's salvation to manifest.
- Prepare hearts for the fulfillment of God's promise of mercy.
- Prepare (equip) God's people for deliverance from enemies that they might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness.
- To be a light to those sitting in darkness and in the shadow death, to guide them into the way of peace and knowledge salvation.



WHAT DOES THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIJAH MEAN?

- Elijah: Yah is God, my God is Yahweh
- Elijah was a prophetic voice to his generation
- He was God's instrument to refute the false worship and false gods destroying the land and the heart of relationship between God and His people.
- He fathered the next generation. This is key to revival and reformation.
- Godly fathering prepares lives for the **Terrible Day** when deep darkness is on the Earth, but God's glory will be on YOU! – Isa. 60:1-2



Reunited hearts mean fathers releasing divine blessings that empower the next generation.

- The blessing is a spiritual force that imparts identity, inheritance, destiny, favor, and authority to the next generation.
- A father's blessing answers a son's questions:
 - Who am I?
 - Where do I belong?
 - What is my purpose?
 - What is my place in God's covenant family?

