

Malachi and the Middle

A study of the final book of the Old Testament and brief overview of the Intertestamental Period

Chapter 4

“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. ² But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. ³ Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things,” says the LORD Almighty. ⁴ “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ “See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

1. With what used again illustration does ch. 4 begin? Why this repetition and what becomes of every evil doer?
2. What does it mean to revere God’s name and what does his day bring for those who do?
 - When you picture exuberance and celebration, what do you picture? What does Malachi say you’ll be like?
 - On what does will the Lord cause the wicked to be ashes under the feet of those who revere God’s name? How are we to conduct ourselves until then?
3. Do you remember what **v. 4** is called? We talked about it in the first lesson. Verse 4 is more than the expected thing to say at the end of an era of divine revelation. What’s the force of this verse?
 - Are there parts of your life where you’re forgotten or neglected God’s commands?
4. What was the purpose of John the Baptist? What did he say and do to prepare the people for Jesus?
5. Why end this way? What does **v. 6** mean?
 - Restored relationships reflect God’s desire for unity and peace among his people. How does this call to reconciliation apply to your own life?