

## MALACHI Lesson 04

Malachi Chapter 4

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Memory verses for this week: *Psa 45:6 Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.*

**Introduction:** In Chapter 3, we saw prophecy regarding the coming of John the Baptist. Malachi then went into how God's people rob God by not paying all of our tithes and offerings. We have a great promise from the Lord that if we will give, that God will open the windows of heaven and pour us out a blessing so great that we can't contain it.

This may be physical riches, but I think many times it is even greater blessings such as family and spiritual blessings. The child of God in God's perfect will is a person of great peace and contentment that no amount of money can buy. We truly serve an awesome God, and we can not out give our blessed Savior.

### I. The Day of the Lord

*Mal 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*

The day referred to here is the Day of Lord. It is described as burning as an oven and this implies a fierce judgment. The Day of the Lord begins with the Tribulation.

In the latter half, the focus is upon Israel. As they face the chastening fire of God's judgment, a large portion of Israel are saved then, turning to Christ. However, there quite evidently is a significant proportion of Israel who will not repent in that day. This is what the prophet refers to as "all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."

We learn from verse 1 that the Lord is going to discern between the righteous and the wicked one day. It will be when the day of the Lord comes. Much is spoken of about the day of the Lord in the bible, and is one of the topics that is not well understood. The day of the Lord is not a brief 24 hour period of 24 hours, but a day that will embrace the entire 1000 year Millennium. It will end with the passing away of the earth and the heavens. Many times we think of God's terms on time being the same as ours. But you and I are limited by time, but

God is not. That is why he knows the end from the beginning, because he stands above all the periods of time and sees down. Time is not a limiting factor to God.

*2 Pet 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

Some teach that the church will go through the 7 years of tribulation, but note in these verses how that God has not appointed us to wrath. There will be great wrath of God poured out on the earth during this time.

*1 Th 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*

*1 Th 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

*1 Th 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

*1 Th 5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*

*1 Th 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

*1 Th 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

*1 Th 5:7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.*

*1 Th 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*

*1 Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*

During this tribulation period, there will be a so-called peace treaty introduced by the man of sin. The anti-christ will rise to power on his ability to bring peace upon the world, particularly in his ability to make peace with the Jews in Israel. While the rulers of the land are saying peace and safety during this time, Christ comes at the close of the tribulation as a thief in the night to judge the nations and to fight the battle of Armageddon.

*Mat 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

*Mat 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

*Mat 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

*Mat 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

*Mat 25:35 For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:*

*Mat 25:36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

*Mat 25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?*

*Mat 25:38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?*

*Mat 25:39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?*

*Mat 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

*Mat 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

*Mat 25:42 For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:*

*Mat 25:43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.*

*Mat 25:44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?*

*Mat 25:45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.*

*Mat 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

*Rev 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

*Rev 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to*

*the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

*Rev 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

*Rev 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*

After the battle of Armageddon, Jesus takes the throne of his father David and reigns 1,000 years.

*Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:*

*Luke 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

*Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

*Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

At the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ, Satan will be loosed out of the bottomless pit and go out to fight Christ and His saints. We will not be here at that time as Christ will have taken us up into heaven.

*Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

*Rev 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*

*Rev 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*

When Satan comes to the camps of the saints of God, fire comes down out of heaven and renovates the earth. The first time the world was destroyed by water in the days of Noah, this time it will be by fire. A lot of speculation has this being the world destroyed by atomic weapons, and it might be. But God can speak the word and destroy the universe by His power. Man is not required to accomplish God's Will.

*2 Pet 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements*

*shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

In conclusion on the day of the Lord mentioned in verse 1, we can see that it really entails a total of 1,007 years including the tribulation period.

## **II. The Day of the Lord and Israel**

*Mal 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*

*Mal 4:3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.*

J. Vernon McGee made this comment concerning the 'Sun of righteousness'.

The Sun of Righteousness in the Old Testament is the same person who is the Bright and Morning Star in the New Testament. However, Christ is never called the Sun of Righteousness in the New Testament, and He's never called the Bright and Morning Star in the Old Testament. We will look at this verse more closely in a moment and see the reason for this.

For the nation of Israel, there is a new day that they can look forward to coming one day. While the nation was scattered all over the earth, God has promised to gather them out of all the nations. Many of the Jews have no idea what tribe they descended from, but God knows.

*Ezek 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,*

*Ezek 37:2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.*

*Ezek 37:3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.*

*Ezek 37:4 Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.*

*Deu 28:13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:*

The Lord has promised to make Israel the head of the nations during the 1,000 year reign of Christ. Israel is cut off today because of unbelief. But one day soon they will be brought back together and born again as in a day.

*Rom 11:20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:*

*Rom 11:21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.*

In stark contrast, for those Godly, believing Jews in that day “shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.”

The “Sun of righteousness” is undoubtedly another name for Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Even as the sun outshines any other light, Jesus is the epitome of righteousness. When He returns the second time at the end of the Tribulation, delivering believing Israel, He will do so “with healing in his wings,” an eloquent metaphor of how He will heal His beleaguered people Israel. They then will be like “calves of the stall.” The metaphor is of a fattened animal.

The application is that God-fearing, believing, righteous Jews then will be the focus of God’s blessing and prospering in the millennial kingdom of God. In that day and at that time, the remnant of believing, godly, converted Jews will “tread down the wicked.”

*Mal 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.*

This likely is a reference how redeemed Israel in that day will have the victory over not only their rebellious brethren, but over all wicked of every nation. Therefore, God commands them to “remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him.” Israel of Malachi’s day (as well as redeemed Israel in the Day of the Lord) are enjoined to get back to His Word.

Malachi reminds the people to remember the law of Moses. You and I today may not be under a lot of the old testament laws like they had pertaining to offerings and ceremonies, but we still need to follow the moral law of the 10 commandments. Only difference today is that we worship the Lord on the first day of the week rather than on the Sabbath. The Sabbath was a celebration of a completed creation, whereas Sunday is a celebration of a completed redemption and salvation. When Christ paid for our sins there on Calvary, we have MUCH to rejoice about.

Moses was a very faithful man, and God calls him “my servant”. What a blessing to be remembered as a servant to the Almighty God.

*Josh 1:1 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,*

*Josh 1:2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.*

Moses received the law there in Horeb and brought it to the people. Moses actually received three different sets of laws for Israel. The Law of Moses or what we called the Ten Commandments came first.

*Exo 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying,*

*Exo 20:2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

*Exo 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

*Exo 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:*

*Exo 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

*Exo 20:6 And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

*Exo 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

*Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

*Exo 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:*

*Exo 20:10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:*

*Exo 20:11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

*Exo 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

*Exo 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.*

*Exo 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

*Exo 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.*



*Exo 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

*Exo 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.*

The penalty for breaking one of these commandments was death. I thank the Lord that we are no longer in the dispensation of the law. I don't know if we sometimes are as thankful to Christ as we should be for what He has done for us. What freedom we have when we know Christ as Lord and Savior.

*John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

*John 8:35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.*

*John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

Paul called the law of Moses a ministration of death, which was a fair assessment.

*2 Cor 3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:*

*2 Cor 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?*

*2 Cor 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.*

*2 Cor 3:10 For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.*

*2 Cor 3:11 For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.*

We have many examples of when the penalties were carried out when the law was broken.

*Lev 24:14 Bring forth him that hath cursed without the camp; and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him.*

*Lev 24:17 And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death.*



*Num 15:35 And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp.*

*Num 15:36 And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

God had a purpose in the law besides just bringing harsh judgment. It was given that every mouth might be stopped and all the world become guilty before God. As Paul put it, it was a schoolmaster to show us our sinful condition before a Holy and Righteous God.

*Gal 3:19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.*

*Gal 3:20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.*

*Gal 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.*

*Gal 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.*

*Gal 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.*

*Gal 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

*Gal 3:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*

Verse 21 there in Galatians 3 points out that if a man could be saved by the law then man would be justified by the law. But no man is justified by the law in God's sight. The person who tries to be justified by the law has no part with Christ.

*Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

*Gal 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.*

*Gal 5:3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.*

*Gal 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are*

*justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*

*Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.*

The second of three sets of laws was the civil law. This was the law that setup what was to happen if someone destroyed someone else's property, similar to the way our civil law is designed today. When you are called to serve on a jury like I was a few weeks ago, they tell you whether it will be a civil or criminal case.

### **III. Elijah to Come Before Christ Takes the Throne of David**

*Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:*

*Mal 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

Some use the account in Matthew 17 to try and teach that Elijah has already come. If the nation of Israel had been ready to accept Christ as the true Messiah, John the Baptist would have been Elijah. But rather, he came in the power of Elijah. Verse 5 is still to be fulfilled in the future.

*Mat 17:10 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?*

*Mat 17:11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.*

*Mat 17:12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.*

*Mat 17:13 Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.*

*Mark 9:11 And they asked him, saying, Why say the scribes that Elias must first come?*

*Mark 9:12 And he answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought.*

*Mark 9:13 But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him.*

*Luke 1:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*

*John 1:21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.*

*John 1:22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?*

*John 1:23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.*

Notes in the Scofield Bible backup our belief that Malachi 4:5 is still to be fulfilled.

(1) Christ confirms the specific and still unfulfilled prophecy of Mal 4:5 - 6: "Elijah shall truly first come and restore all things." Here, as in Malachi, the prediction fulfilled in John the Baptist, and that yet to be fulfilled in Elijah, are kept distinct. (2) But John the Baptist had come already, and with a ministry so completely in the spirit and power of Elijah's future ministry (Luke 1:17) that in a typical sense, it could be said: "Elijah is come already."

In Matthew 11:14, Jesus said that if they had 'received it', that this would have been Elijah. What is the 'it' in received it? It speaks of the Kingdom, but Jesus was not accepted and has never reigned on David's Throne. One day soon He will.

*Mat 11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

*Mat 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*

*Mat 11:13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.*

*Mat 11:14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.*

Elijah will be sent to the Jews during the Great Tribulation period. Most likely, one of those 2 witnesses mentioned in Rev. 11 will be Elijah.

*Rev 11:3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.*

*Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.*

*Rev 11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.*

*Rev 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.*

What prophet stopped the rain in the Old Testament? Elijah was one who did. The scriptures are pretty clear that the other witness will be Moses. Here in our text we see both men, Moses and Elijah mentioned. On the mount of transfiguration, which two prophets did they see with Christ? Yes... it was Moses and Elijah.

*Mat 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,*

*Mat 17:2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

*Mat 17:3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.*

*Mat 17:4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.*

*Mat 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

Their coming is just before the dreadful day of the Lord. Elijah turns the hearts of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to the fathers in verse 6. When will the 7 years of tribulation begin? I believe that all prophecy has been fulfilled and Christ could come today and take us out. When the Holy Spirit is removed, then the Anti-Christ will appear.

As the book concludes, prophecy is once again made of Elijah being sent prior to the "great and dreadful day of the Lord." Jesus clearly applied this prophecy (at least spiritually) to John the Baptist. However, the final fulfillment apparently is yet to come. That very likely will be in the person of one of the two witnesses specified in Revelation 11. The book finishes with the prophecy of the end-time Elijah turning fathers to their children and vice versa in that day.

An amazing insight into God's wrath against the breakdown of family integrity is noted. As there is a declension between fathers and children, God warns of smiting the earth with a curse. It may well refer to the plagues which will take place during the tribulation. Matthew (24:10-12) seems to indicate how there will be just such familial deterioration in that day. The book ends on that sober note if

they will not hear as verse 6 says:

*Mal 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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**Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.**