

## Malachi 3:13-4:6 – The Day is Coming

In Malachi 2:17, the people of Judah asked “where is the God of justice”. In the verses for tonight, they once again questioned God’s justice and righteousness. God answered their first call for justice by telling them that the God of justice would come to them and that they would not be able to endure his just judgments. God responded to their second complaint about justice by telling them that a day was coming when all evildoers would be burnt to stubble.

**Read Malachi 3:13-4:3.**

In verse 13, God said that the people of Judah had spoken hard words against him. They of course responded, “who, us?” “How did we do that?” In verses 14 and 15, what were the people saying about God. What were they saying about those who follow God and those who don’t?

In verse 16, what did the people who feared Yahweh do? How did Yahweh respond to the people who feared him? (3:16)

What did God say would be true of the people who feared him? What is meant by “my treasured possession”? When will/did God “make up” his “treasured possession”? (3:17)

How would the people react when they witnessed God’s special treatment of those who fear him? (3:18)

How do verses 3:16-18 refute the charge that it doesn’t profit a person to fear and serve God?

In 4:1, God talked about a day that was coming. Which day is God talking about? How is the day described? What will happen to the arrogant and all evildoers? How does this verse refute what the people were saying about God in 3:14-15?

In that day, what would be true of those who feared God? What does the phrase “the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings” mean? (4:2-3)

It can be frustrating to see evildoers go unpunished for their sin. In this world, sometimes the innocent are thrown into prison and sometimes murderers go free. What is our comfort when this happens?

**Read Malachi 4:4-4:6.**

Why did God exhort the people of Judah to remember the Law of Moses? (4:4)

What is the “great and awesome day of Yahweh”? (4:5)

According to verses 4:5-6, what will happen before that day? Who is Elijah? Is it the prophet Elijah who was taken up into heaven? Is it someone “in the spirit and power” of Elijah?

What will Elijah do? (4:5-6)

Malachi 4:6 is quoted in Luke 1:17? What is the context of Luke 1:17?

Malachi points out a number of sins which the priests and the people of Israel were committing. But in the midst of God’s pronouncement of judgment, God also promised to visit his people in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus was full of grace and true. Malachi 1:2 stated, “I have loved you.” God proved his love by sending his only begotten Son.

What did you learn from the book of Malachi?