

## Malachi - What to do when it seems God has abandoned you Is He really coming?

### Malachi 3:13-4:6

*"What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again?"*

**2 Peter 3:4** - Peter says of such questions *in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires.*

#### Review of Malachi - the complaints

God does not love us - but you are loved  
Worship is meaningless- You do not worship  
God is not interested in our lives- He knows and cares

#### - The answers God gave

You are chosen to be loved and shown His love  
You desecrate worship with half-hearted efforts  
You despise and defraud God by robbing Him

### I. Final Complaint **3:13-15**

**God accuses** - "you speak arrogantly against Me"

Israel responds - "What have we said against you"

**Answer** - you say

*'What's the use of serving God?*

No difference in our lives

*What have we gained by obeying his commands?*

No material gains

*From now on we will call the arrogant blessed*

*For those who do evil get rich,*

The ends justify the means

*Those who dare God to punish them suffer no harm."*

God does not punish evil

*Ecclesiastes 8:11 When a crime is not punished quickly, people feel it is safe to do wrong. 2 Peter 3:9*

### II. God's illustrated Answer **3:16 - 18**

#### A. Book of Remembrance

Believers encourage one another  
Believers pray and God hears and answers  
God keeps track of those who honor Him

#### Two books mentioned in Bible

**Book of life** - 14 times - names of believers written down

*Daniel 12:1, Luke 10:20, Philippians 4:3, Revelation 3:5 and 20:10*

**Book of Remembrance** - the deeds of man and God *Psalms 56:18*

### B. The treasure of God

*My people* - belonging to God

*My own special treasure* - word for Royal Treasure

*My child* - part of the Family of God

*Spared in judgement* - separated from unrighteous

### III. Final Judgement **4:1-3**

The Day of the Lord - refers to final judgment before the throne

*"The Day of the Lord" is a biblical term and theme used in both the*

*Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, as in "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come"*

*(Joel 2:31, cited in Acts 2:20).*

**A fearful day of judgment for the unbeliever** *Isaiah 13:6*

**A feast of joy for the believer** *Romans 8:18*

*Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."*

The Sun of Righteousness will arise - Christ will come again

Healing in His wings - spread over His children

*Wing could mean Extremity skirt, corner (of garment) Thus, Malachi 4:2 standing alone and in the fuller context of Malachi 3-4, is most logically and best translated: "But for you who fear my name the sun of righteousness will arise with healing in the fringes of his robe. Luke 8:3-44*

Leaping in freedom as a calf let out from a stall

Unbridled joy and unhindered freedom

### IV Final Bridge **4:4-6**

The Law of Moses - fulfilled in Christ *Matthew 5:17-18*

The Prophet Elijah - fulfilled in John the Baptist *Matthew 17:12 But I*

Moses and Elijah met with Christ *Luke 9:28-30*

### Does it pay to serve God?

*Read Psalm 73:11-17*

**In dollars** - not necessarily / **In Peace** - absolutely

**In physical health** - not always / like a spring of living water!

**In acclaim of the world** - not at all

**In favor with God** - without a doubt

### Is Christ coming again? - it is certain

When? - no one knows

*Turn your heart again (repent) to the faith of our spiritual fathers!!*