

"The Day Is Coming"

Pastor Jeff Alexander + November 13, 2016

Malachi is the final book of Old Testament, written 430 years before the birth of Christ.

It speaks of the coming of the Lord:

1. The coming of the Savior to heal and restore people to God through the forgiveness of sins.
2. The coming of the Savior on the Last Day to reign and rule through the establishment of His everlasting kingdom.

Malachi 4:1 "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire," says the Lord Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them."

The day in view here is the Last Day, when the Final Judgment will take place.

Jesus will destroy all sin and death. Those who have rejected Christ will be sentenced to the "fire" of eternal separation from God.

Malachi 4:2 "But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. **3** Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act," says the Lord Almighty.

In contrast to the burning fire of judgment, those who trust in Christ will be warmed by the healing message of God's righteousness. The "rays" of the sun may also be understood as its "wings".

Psalm 91:1-4 *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

Malachi 4:4 "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

The Law of God, which commands good works and demands our obedience, is fulfilled in Christ.

Only He perfectly obeyed His Father and transfers His obedience to us through faith.

Malachi 4:5 "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. **6** He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

The prophets of God, who called people to repent and believe, find their fulfillment in Christ. He is the ultimate Prophet, the ultimate Spokesman for God!

The final verse of the Old Testament calls for families to turn toward one another and to turn together toward the Lord, who alone gives healing and salvation.