

# Coming Destruction And Redemption

*Promise: Judgment has arrived early to avert the final judgment*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Malachi 4:1-6; Psalm 98; 2 Thess 3:1-13; Luke 21:5-36  
(Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost – Pr. 28, 11/17/19)

*But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. – v. 2a*

**Lead In** – Ever felt lackluster and found yourself mechanically going through the motions in regards to the Faith? Malachi preached to a people who, for the most part, were not gross sinners. Instead, he addressed the lukewarm and halfhearted. And in the end that may prove more deadly than the so-called “big sins”.

## I. Some of the Halfhearted Ways

- A. Priests with second rate offerings...
- B. Holding back on tithes and offerings...
- C. Failing to take seriously covenant of marriage...

## II. The Coming Day of the Lord Is A Mixed Blessing

- A. What the Creed teaches of coming Day of...
- B. All the arrogant and evil doers...
- C. But for you who fear my name!

## III. The Sun of Righteousness With Healing Wings!

- A. In contrast with the consuming oven fire...
- B. With healing in its wings...
- C. Indication of when this will all occur...

**Parting Shot** – So what are we to make of the fact that the advent of Christ was not the Day of Judgment anticipated by Malachi? Even the forerunner John the Baptist became confused. He had spoken in the wilderness, “Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” What hadn’t been put together was the role of Isaiah’s suffering servant taking the judgment upon Himself! ... Those who fear the Lord are not halfhearted in ongoing repentance and faith...

**Revelation 3:15-16** “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

**Malachi 1:8** When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil?

**Malachi 3:8, 10** Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. ... Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

**Malachi 2:14-15** the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

## Malachi 4:1-6 ESV

*The Great Day of the Lord*

<sup>1</sup>For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>4</sup>Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup>Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

**Creed:** “He will come again to judge the living and the dead.” or what I remember from my youth “the quick and the dead.”

**Matthew 25:41** Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’

**Pride** is thought to be the root of all sins. **Expl to 1st Comm:** We are to fear, love, and trust God above anything else. (to follow each expl)

**Genesis 20:11** Abraham said, “I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.

**Fear the Lord:** To trust in the Lord’s Word, both his warnings and, importantly, His promises. This results not in perfect obedience, but in walking accordance to the commandments and promises, and repenting immediately when stumbling.

**Isaiah 53:5** But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

**1 Peter 2:24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

**Matthew 11:13-14** For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.

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