

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 470— *The Day Cometh Through Lest I Come And Smite (Malachi 4:1-6)*

1. What did Malachi prophesy concerning those that do wickedly?

“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” (Malachi 4:1).

- First, the context reveals that this day that was coming would be AFTER John the Baptizer came (**Malachi 4:5**). *More on verse 5 and that it is John reference there when we get to that. That day, according to verse 5, is great and dreadful [to fear; morally to revere; causatively to frighten: - affright... (Strong's # 3372)].
- Keep in mind, prophecies of old were fulfilled before the Law passed entirely (**Matthew 5:17-18**). So, we cannot try to tie this to AD 70 (**Matthew 23:37-24:34**) or the end of the world (**Matthew 24:35-25:46**).
- Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He said He brought judgment into this world (**Luke 14:14-24**, **John 9:39**, and **John 12:31**; cf. **Luke 2:34-35**). Consider **John 3:19-21** in this study.
- Being left with no root or branch as it relates to Jesus has various implications (**Matthew 15:1-14**, **Luke 3:8-9**, and **John 15:6**).
- Being left with no root or branch (**Psalms 52:1-5**).

2. In that day of judgment against the wicked, what should the righteous have expected?

*“(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.
(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” (Malachi 4:2-3).*

- Those that fear (**Luke 1:50**, **Acts 10:34-35**, and **Acts 13:26**).
- The Sun arising (**John 8:12**).
- Healing THEN physically (**Luke 7:18-22**; cf. **John 5:36**) and spiritually (**I Peter 2:21-24**).
- Growing up (**John 15:1-5** and **Ephesians 4:15**).
- Ye tread down the wicked can have various meanings (**Matthew 10:8**, **Mark 16:17**, **Romans 16:20**, and **Ephesians 6:10-17**).

3. What did Malachi instruct them to remember?

The Law of Moses: *“Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments” (Malachi 4:4).*

- **Deuteronomy 4:5-6, Numbers 15:37-41, Joshua 1:13, Psalms 103:18, Psalms 147:19-20, Psalms 119:55, Psalms 119:109, Hosea 4:1-6, Luke 24:44, John 5:39, and Acts 17:10-11**
 - This is even true to this day even for us who were never under that law (**Romans 15:4, I Corinthians 10:1-13, and II Timothy 3:14-17**).
4. Who was coming before the great and dreadful day of the Lord?
Elijah, which referred to John the Baptist (see notes): *“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD”* (**Malachi 4:5**).
- This definitely refers to John (**Matthew 11:1-15, Mark 9:1-13, and Luke 1:13; 1:17**).
 - The great and dreadful day (see notes on vs. 1).
5. What was “Elijah” going to do?
Turn hearts: *“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”* (**Malachi 4:6**).
- He [John] shall turn hearts (**Luke 1:16-17**; cf. **Isaiah 40:3-5** and **Matthew 3:1-6**).
 - However, not all believed and obeyed (**Matthew 21:23-32** and **Luke 7:29-30**).
 - John “fulfilled his course” (**Acts 13:24-25**).
 - In connection to remembering the Law of Moses **and** listening to John... The phrasing of turning the hearts of the fathers to the children and vice versa. In connection to Elias [Elijah], for these children of the forefathers to have the hearts of their forefathers (**I Kings 18:36-40**). David prayed for that long ago (**I Chronicles 29:17-19**).
 - Think about why they and we look back to the faithful of long ago (**Hebrews 11:1-40**).
 - Their hearts had been turned away (**Isaiah 29:13** and **Hosea 4:11**).
 - Repentance requires the right heart (**II Chronicles 34:22-28, Isaiah 57:15, Jeremiah 29:10-14, and Joel 2:12-13**).