

MALACHI

LESSON THREE—CHAPTER THREE—VERSES 1-7

CONTEXT: THE COMING MESSENGER

1. Messenger—This is a messianic title (referring to the One who will initiate the New Covenant)

Herald—an officer sent by a king or other high official to proclaim a message or announce good news (Dan3:4, 1Tim 2:7, 2Tim 1:11)

A. The Father speaks of sending a messenger

B. Use of the title Lord is in reference to Jesus

C. There is also reference to John the Baptist in this prophecy—forerunner of Christ and messenger thereof

THE WORDING IS SUCH THAT ONE WOULD BELIEVE HIS COMING IS IMMINENT BUT IT IS ACTUALLY ANOTHER 400 YEARS BEFORE JESUS COMES!!!

1. The Second Coming of the Messiah

A. Messiah's second coming will be one of judgement and purification.

Joel 2:11

“The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?”

LUKE 21:34-36

““But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.””

Luke 21:34-36 NKJV

Rev 19:11-21

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.” And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.”

Revelation 19:11-21 NKJV

B. Refiner’s Fire and Launderer’s Soap—these are vivid images of the PURIFYING process. Fire burns off the impurities within a substance while soap cleans out the dirt, grit, and grime.

C. The Savior will actually SIFT ALL PEOPLE to prepare for His reign.

Proverbs 20:26—“A wise king sifts out the wicked, And brings the threshing wheel over them.”

Luke 22:31-32—“And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.””

Isaiah 30:28—“His breath is like an overflowing stream, Which reaches up to the neck, To sift the nations with the sieve of futility; And there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, Causing them to err.”

D. Purify the Sons of Levi—chapters one and two provide strong censure for the behavior of the priests. Malachi, the prophet of God, was himself probably a priest. These words would hold special significance for him!

Conclusion: Following His purification of the Levites, then the offerings made to the Lord would be pleasing to God. The use of the word PLEASANT in verse 4 speaks of things that are sweet and pleasing. God derives joy from the end result of His work.

1. JUDGEMENT OF THE WICKED

A. The word judgement can be used interchangeably with the word justice. Having wondered out loud where the God of Justice was, now the people of God will know.

B. Sorcerers—persons who made potions (liquids made by magicians concocted to produce some desired effect—forbidden by God)

C. “Do not fear me”—to not hold God in reverence and awe—to treat God as one of the common things—to disobey

Micah 6:8

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”

1. THE CONSISTENCY OF GOD

A. Hebrews 13:8—"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

B. 1Peter 1:24-25—"because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you."

FOR THIS REASON, WE ARE NOT CONSUMED—HIS PROMISES/COVENANT/MERCY!!!

1. THEIR NEED FOR RETURN/REPENTANCE

A. Israel's history is one of repeatedly drifting apart from God. God, in His mercy and love, continues to forgive her while lavishing His love upon her.

B. Return—The use of this term by the prophet demands repentance, renewal, and restoration. Of course, this is dependent upon the mercy of God, which is sure if they would only return to Him.

Isaiah 55:11

"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

Jeremiah 4:1-2

""If you will return, O Israel," says the LORD, "Return to Me; And if you will put away your abominations out of My sight, Then you shall not be moved. And you shall swear, 'The LORD lives,' In truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; The nations shall bless themselves in Him, And in Him they shall glory.""

Jeremiah 4:1-2 NKJV

“IN WHAT WAY SHALL WE RETURN?”

NEXT WEEK WE WILL SEEK TO ANSWER THIS TROUBLING QUESTION!