

MALACHI—LESSON SIX

THE DAY OF THE LORD

The day of the Lord is a day the people of God look forward to. Literally, “crooked ways shall be made straight and the rough places shall be made smooth.” This of course is the time of Jesus’ RETURN!

Verses 1-3 are literally a picture of the FINAL SEPARATION of the evil and the good. This is indeed the judgement that scripture points to.

BURNING AS AN OVEN—(furnace)—Fire is often spoken of in connection with the day of judgment and the advent of the Judge.

A. It is also a symbol of the holiness of God, which consumes all impurity.

B. Fire also represents the punishment inflicted on the ungodly.

Psalm 1:1-6

“Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.

But not the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind. They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly. For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.”

Psalms 1:1-2, 4-6 NLT

1Corinthians 3:9-17

“The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God’s workers. And you are God’s field. You are God’s building. Because of God’s grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are

building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.”

1 Corinthians 3:8-17 NLT

2Peter 3:8-13NLT

“But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God’s righteousness.”

2 Peter 3:8-13 NLT

The Proud—actually what many thought about the blessedness of the proud shall be exposed as grave error

Malachi 3:14-15

““You have said, ‘What’s the use of serving God? What have we gained by obeying his commands or by trying to show the Lord of Heaven’s Armies that we are sorry for our sins? From now on we will call the arrogant blessed. For those who do evil get rich, and those who dare God to punish them suffer no harm.’””

Malachi 3:14-15 NLT

ROOT NOR BRANCH—The ungodly are regarded as a tree which is given up to be burned so that nothing is left of it.

Matthew in chapter three uses the same metaphor:

Matthew 3:9-10

“Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.”

Matthew 3:9-10 NLT

SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS—This is a title for Christ. He is the source of all justification and enlightenment and happiness and who is called the Lord our Righteousness. His divine righteousness shall beam upon them that fear the Name of God, flooding them with joy and light, healing all wounds, removing all miseries, and leaving them immeasurably blessed.

The allusion to wings is that of a bird whose comforting wings bring healing to the chicks seeking security beneath them. This is seen clearly in Psalm 91:1-4:

“Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection.”

Psalms 91:1-4 NLT

TRAMPLE THE WICKED—Those who were once oppressed and over borne by the powers of wickedness shall now rise superior to all hindrances, and they themselves shall tread down the wicked as the ashes under their feet. The ashes will be present because of the fire of God. So it is God who has secured the victory and not the righteous themselves. All glory belongs to God alone!!!

Micah 4:11-13NLT

“Now many nations have gathered against you. “Let her be desecrated,” they say. “Let us see the destruction of Jerusalem. ” But they do not know the Lord’s thoughts or understand his plan. These nations don’t know that he is gathering them together to be beaten and trampled like sheaves of grain on a threshing floor. “Rise up and crush the nations, O Jerusalem!” says the Lord. “For I will give you iron horns and bronze hooves, so you can trample many nations to pieces. You will present their stolen riches to the Lord, their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.””

Micah 4:11-13 NLT

REMEMBER THE LAW OF MOSES—This means much more than to recall the Word of God. Additionally it means to act on the Word/Teaching that had been received from God. Moses as the deliverer of this Word was the agent and interpreter of God.

ELIJAH THE PROPHET

The story of Elijah the prophet is found in 1Kings 17-2Kings 2. The NT identifies John the Baptist as this Elijah.

Matthew 11:14NLT

“For before John came, all the prophets and the law of Moses looked forward to this present time. And if you are willing to accept what I say, he is Elijah, the one the prophets said would come.”

Matthew 11:13-14 NLT

Three Ways to Possibly Fulfill the Prophecy

A. John the Baptist of whom Malachi has already prophesied of in chapter 3

B. Elijah appeared in person with Jesus at the Transfiguration. This was a stunning vindication of the messianic role of Jesus

Matthew 17:1-4 NLT

“Six days later Jesus took Peter and the two brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus’ appearance

was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and began talking with Jesus. Peter exclaimed, “Lord, it’s wonderful for us to be here! If you want, I’ll make three shelters as memorials —one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.””
Matthew 17:1-4 NLT

C. An Elijah like figure will appear at the end times and call down fire from heaven just as Elijah did

1Kings 18:36-39 NLT

“At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command. O Lord, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself.”
Immediately the fire of the Lord flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench! And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, “The Lord —he is God! Yes, the Lord is God!””

1 Kings 18:36-39 NLT

BEFORE UNLEASHING HIS WRATH, GOD ALWAYS SENDS A WORD OF WARNING TO HIS PEOPLE.

HE SHALL TURN—As in every act of God announcing judgement, there is found God’s offer of mercy. God will turn(God will do this)their hearts. This must occur or God will unleash a curse upon all the people.

A CURSE—Curse is one of the harshest terms found in scripture. Its usage suggests “complete annihilation. In reference to the city of Jericho, when the walls came tumbling down, it means to be clearly “doomed.”

SUMMARY

This closing book of the Old Testament is clearly presented to prepare us for the coming of the MESSIAH. There is a 400-year intertestamental period between the closing of the Old Testament and opening of the New Testament.

