

The day of the Lord

We are reaching the climax and last section of our devotion, where Malachi is sort of making a summary of his prophecy; calling unchanging people from their unfaithfulness to the unchanging faithful God, to remember the covenant and believe in the promises of the unchanging God, and be encouraged by them to obey Him.

In our first section in v1-3, we see two implications of the day of the Lord; **“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,**¹ here is one of the sure promises of the unchanging God, that the time is coming where the wicked will face their end and that day will be like an unquenchable, unstoppable, wildfire not like the one we saw in ch.3 that will come to clean sin, but this will come to destroy. He says “not a root or a branch will be left to them,” this gives a picture of destruction without hope, since in the OT when God visits his people with judgement He will promise that root will be left which gives you hope that something will grow again and some people will be spared, but here no sinful person will be spared. It a dreadful day that you don’t wish it to anyone or anything that is living, no matter how much you hate that person, it worse than Colonization, world war 1, 2, it worse than apartheid and certainly worse than being poor, hungry or any deadly disease that you know.

The second sure promise of the unchanging God is that for those who fear God it will bring about healing to their wounds and broken heart, it will bring justice, in v2-3, **“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. ³Then 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,**” He uses a picture of the sun rays that shines upon the earth and brings warmth and cause growth to the plants as a picture of healing, and because the freedom that this day will bring to those who fear God their joy will be tangible as calves going out of the kraal, ooh this is way better than 1994 when South Africa became a home for all who live in it, it better than your matric pass results, graduation day at university, wedding, your first child or any kind of your happiest moment. It is what our heart is longing and searching for; when we are looking for a deep satisfaction of a desire but only to find out that nothing in this world will satisfy, know that it found in Christ and especially on that day of the Lord.

In v4-6, we see a section about remembering and beholding; Malachi reminds his audience that in the present, they ought to look back and remember the law of God as it will teach them to return to their covenant maker. The law is God speaking to them on how to live as covenant people; the idea that the law comes after salvation real helps us understand that the relationship with God is not that of random rules but flows from God who loves his people and who has saved them, therefore it not about what you do but about what He has done, living according to the law is not a way of trying to be right with God but to live as a saved person. It also helps us to not be emotional people who emphasize God’s love and live without obedience, the gospel helps us to know that Jesus is both our Savior and also King. The way to live as covenant people who are waiting on the promises of God is to live in obedience of his Word because our God is loving and speaking God.

¹ Anon, 2011. [The New International Version](#), Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

In v5-6, they were not only to remember but they were ought to say amen, as God promises them to behold! to look and not lose focus because God is about to do something, a promise of new dawn not like one of our presidents that he promised us before he took the office of being president, but that of a new era that of God giving his people a new heart that will enable them to obey him and live for his glory. He charged them to look for Elijah of which in the NT, John the Baptist is the fulfilment of this promise, and the great and awesome day of the Lord was that of the incarnation of Jesus Christ, where salvation will divide people in the households as some will no longer live for themselves but for the one who would die for them at the cross.

To our generation that asks, “have you ever see Jesus?” “When will He return, it been ages people talking about Jesus’ returning?” and so forth. Malachi reminds that our God is an unchanging God, who keeps his promises; Who will one day separates the wicked from the righteous; those who serve him and those who not; He will bring justice; He will heal those who fear him from all their pain, suffering and injustice for his sake; He will wipe away the tears of ages of pain. As we wait for God’ promises even in our day, Malachi encourages us to be people who remember what God has done through his Word and live in obedience.