

Malachi & Haggai

Sermons Preached

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Introduction to Malachi Part 1

Malachi deals with apostasy. Many quotes and questions are in this era. Apostasy is not in the KJV, but is referred to twice in the Greek text and it means a *departing from or defection from the truth*. The bold words are translated from the Greek word *apostasia*.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a **falling away** first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Acts 21:21 And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to **forsake** Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise *their* children, neither...

These apostates had a low view of

the love of God; of
the value of the service toward God; of
the value of their wife; of
the understanding of God's dealing with sin; of
the ownership of the Creator

and lived a life of sight with little regard for eternity. This is typical of apostasy.

Hebrews 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

As unthankfulness is the first step toward the judgment of God upon a society, even so unbelief is the first step toward apostasy. It is okay to ask *why*; however many times those who are asking *why* are not sincere in an answer and are really living in unbelief. Here are the questions these people asked.

- **A Low View of the Love of God – Question the Love of God**

Malachi 1:2 I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, **Wherein hast thou loved us?** *Was not Esau Jacob's brother?* saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob,

Malachi 1:6-8 A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master: if then I *be* a father, where *is* mine honour? and if I *be* a master, where *is* my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, **Wherein have we despised thy name?** Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, **Wherein have we polluted thee?** In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

- **Giving God Second Best – or Leftovers**

Malachi 1:12-14 But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, **The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible.** Ye said also, **Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it,** saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD. But cursed *be* the

deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I *am* a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name *is* dreadful among the heathen.

- **Relationship with God is Hindered due to their Terrible Treatment of their Wife**

Malachi 2:13-14 And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that **he regardeth not the offering any more**, or receiveth *it* with good will at your hand. Yet ye say, **Wherefore?** Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet *is* she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

- **Poor Understanding of God's Dealing with Sin**

Malachi 2:17 Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, **Wherein have we wearied *him*?** When ye say,

Every one that doeth evil *is* good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where *is* the God of judgment?

- **Stolen from God - Robbery**

Malachi 3:7-8 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept *them*. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, **Wherein shall we return?** Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, **Wherein have we robbed thee?** In tithes and offerings.

- **Their Words Testify that they have Departed from God**

Malachi 3:13-14 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, **What have we spoken *so much* against thee?**

Ye have said,

It *is* vain to serve God: and what profit *is it* that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

The problem with many of present-day churches is the same that was faced in Malachi. A backslidden condition is evident by the attitudes, actions and words of those who have lost their first love.

Revelation 2:4-5 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Apostasy starts with losing your love for the Lord:

I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? (Mal. 1:2)

Introduction to Malachi Part 2

Last week we went over eight questions and also several statements made in this era of apostasy. Questions can be legitimate and can be healthy in the quest for truth. They can also be a sign of unbelief or a person that is at odds with the Creator. Here are some things to consider.

Questions may come from a fool, a cynic, a skeptic, a scorner, or a sincere seeker.

- **Fools** - ask questions – not out of sincerity, but out of unbelief in God

Psalms 14:1 To the chief Musician, *A Psalm* of David. The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God...*

1 Corinthians 15:35-36 But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

Romans 1:21-22 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their **foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,**

Proverbs 14:9 Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous *there is* favour.

Proverbs 15:14 The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

Proverbs 18:7 A fool's mouth *is* his destruction, and his lips *are* the snare of his soul.

- **Cynic** – person believes that a person is motivated purely by self-interest rather than acting for honorable or unselfish reasons
- **Skeptic** – a person inclined to question or doubt all accepted opinions (Socrates)
- **Scorner** – A scoffer; one who scoffs at religion, its ordinances and teachers; one who makes a mock of sin and the judgments and threatenings of God against sinners.

Proverbs 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scornors delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

Proverbs 9:7-8 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked *man* getteth himself a blot. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

➤ **Sincere Seeker**

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

What about that which we do not understand. The sincere seeker must know:

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are* revealed *belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that *we* may do all the words of this law.

➤ **Some questions given to Moses**

Exodus 14:11 And they said unto Moses, Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?

Exodus 15:24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

Exodus 17:3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore *is* this *that* thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

Numbers 14:3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

Numbers 16:3 And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, *Ye take* too much upon you, seeing all the congregation *are* holy, every one of them, and the LORD *is* among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

Numbers 20:4 And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?

Numbers 11:1-2 And *when* the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard *it*; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed *them that were* in the uttermost parts of the camp. And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched.

➤ **Some questions given to Jesus**

Matthew 9:11 ...the Pharisees saw *it*, they said... Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

Matthew 11:2-3 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

Matthew 12:10 ...asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him.

Matthew 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

Matthew 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

Matthew 17:10 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?

Matthew 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Matthew 21:23 ...By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

Matthew 22:28 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

Matthew 24:3 ...the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

➤ **Some questions given in Malachi**

Malachi 1:2 I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? *Was* not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob,

Malachi 1:13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness *is it!* and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought *that which was* torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

Malachi 2:17 Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied *him?* When ye say, Every one that doeth evil *is* good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where *is* the God of judgment?

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Malachi 3:13-14 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken *so much* against thee? Ye have said, It *is* vain to serve God: and what profit *is it* that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

God has the *last word*. He concludes with Mal. 3:16 – 4:6 is God speaking. He will have the final say.

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Conclusion

You will be asked many questions. We do not always know the heart of the person asking the question. We must have great wisdom to know what and how to answer.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

2 Timothy 2:24-25 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

Malachi 1:1-3

They doubted God's love

Malachi 1:2-3 I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? *Was* not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

Deuteronomy 9:6 Understand therefore, that the LORD thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou *art* a stiffnecked people.

The question we ought to ask is not – why did God love Israel, but rather why did God love me!

The use of love / hate in the Bible

The verb *hate* is not a positive expression of the wrath of God. God's love for Jacob was so great that, in comparison, His actions toward Esau looked like hatred. This is typical in the Hebrew language.

Genesis 29:20 And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him *but* a few days, for the love he had to her.

Genesis 29:30-31 And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years. And when the LORD saw that Leah *was* hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel *was* barren.

Deuteronomy 21:15-17 If a man have two wives, one beloved, and another hated, and they have born him children, *both* the beloved and the hated; and *if* the firstborn son be hers that was hated: Then it shall be, when he maketh his sons to inherit *that* which he hath, *that* he may not make the son of the beloved firstborn before the son of the hated, *which is indeed* the firstborn: But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated *for* the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath: for he *is* the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn *is* his.

Luke 14:26 If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Romans 9:11-13 (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

The choosing of Jacob over Esau was before they were born – is this a personal destination to heaven or hell or is this the choosing of national Israel through whom Christ would come? The context of Romans chapter 9-11 tell us that it is about the national restoration of Israel, not a personal salvation.

To whom much is given, much shall be required. God has blessed Israel (Rom. 9:4-5) and the USA.

Luke 12:48 ...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

National Israel was chosen by God in a dispensational status. We, the saved are chosen of God in Christ. Our predestination to be chosen is understood by the human mind by the following verses:

Rom 8:29 ...whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...

1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

God did not predestinate anyone to be damned. He foreknew those who would be saved and therefore He did predestinate the saved to make it to heaven – eternal security.

God does not violate *whosoever will* verses. John 3:16 and Rom. 10:13 are legitimate offers.

Latent teaching in type-form

Esau was the first-born and Jacob was the second-born. God had chosen Isaac while Ishmael was, humanly speaking, the first-born. The second-born receives acceptance from God.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

We need a second-birth. Our first-birth is like Esau – of the earth; earthy. Esau was consumed with earthly pleasures and spurned spiritual benefits.

They had lost their first love

Malachi 1:2 I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us?

It was a problem of their heart. Their service to God had become slack due to their cold heart.

This is perhaps rooted in selfishness or unthankfulness. It came out in half-hearted service.

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Revelation 2:4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

God does love us – not with financial blessings, material blessings, fame and fortune, but rather with spiritual blessings on the inside.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

We are saved, forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ, God is our Father. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, led by the Spirit of God and sanctified. We have the very Word of God in 1,189 chapters. God has led us to the house of God.

We have so much to be thankful for – health, wealth, family, friends, fellowship,

Malachi 1:4-14

Mal. 1:4 Esau -- Fleshly – Did not value spiritual things / things of God

Genesis 25:30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red *pottage*; for I *am* faint: therefore was his name called Edom.

Genesis 25:32 And Esau said, Behold, I *am* at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?

Genesis 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised *his* birthright.

Reason for this – Heart far from God – Ungrateful (Transition from Esau to priests – Mal. 1:6-14)

Malachi 1:10 ...I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

Malachi 1:13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness *is it!* and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought *that which was* torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

Half-hearted Service from a Heart far from God

Malachi 1:8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, *is it* not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, *is it* not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1:14 But cursed *be* the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I *am* a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name *is* dreadful among the heathen.

Malachi 1:6 A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master: if then I *be* a father, where *is* mine honour? and if I *be* a master, where *is* my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

Blessings of cursings? / Blessings or not blessed?

Mal. 1:4 Whereas **Edom saith**, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; **thus saith the LORD of hosts**, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever.

Interested in Outward Titles rather than Serving from the Heart

Genesis 36:40-43 And these *are* the names of the dukes *that came* of Esau...duke Timnah, duke Alvah, duke Jetheth, Duke Aholibamah, duke Elah, duke Pinon, Duke Kenaz, duke Teman, duke Mibzar...

Matthew 23:5-7 But all their works they do for to be seen of men...And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats...And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

God is Worthy of our Best

Malachi 1:14 But cursed *be* the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: **for I *am* a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name *is* dreadful among the heathen.**

God's name among the heathen in the present and in the future:

Malachi 1:11 For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same **my name *shall be* great among the Gentiles;** and in every place **incense *shall be* offered unto my name,** and a pure offering: **for my name *shall be* great among the heathen,** saith the LORD of hosts.

The Name of God is of great value

Malachi 2:2 If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay *it* to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay *it* to heart.

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Malachi 4:2 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.

Psalms 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Philippians 2:9-10 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

God knows the Heart

Malachi 1:13-14 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness *is it!* and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought *that which was* torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD. But **cursed *be* the deceiver,** which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: **for I *am* a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name *is* dreadful among the heathen.**

You cannot fool God; trick God or deceive the One who sees all and know all. This can be comforting or convicting.

Malachi 2

The Covenant with Levi

vs. 1-9

The Priests of God

It was a great privilege to be a priest – to serve at the altar; to minister in the Temple; and to teach the Law of God to the people.

- The warning vs. 1-3

Malachi 2:2 If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay *it* to heart, to give glory unto my name...

Malachi 2:2 ...I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay *it* to heart.

- The Levites had entered into a covenant with God vs. 4-7

Every saved person is in a covenant with Jehovah

Matt. 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

It is a great privilege to be in the ministry. Every saved person is a missionary to this lost world.

Ephesians 4:1 I ... beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

But these verses specifically speak to the priests who were “in the ministry.” Let those in the ministry never give a mixed message, a tainted message or a false message.

1 Timothy 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares...ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:3 ... so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

- Their sin caused many to depart from the faith vs. 8-9

Mal. 2:2 ...I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay *it* to heart.

They were doing ritual, empty religious formality that disgusted the Lord.

Jeremiah 5:31 The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

Leaders have influence – if you are saved, you are a leader. All have influence and if you name the Name of Christ; you are a person of influence.

John 21:3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

Malachi 2:8 But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

Hebrews 12:15 ...lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

The Covenant with fathers – Abraham, Isaac & Jacob vs. 10 + The People of God

The people of God were brethren – a part of a family now and in the next life. Do not deal treacherously.

Genesis 13:8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we *be* brethren.

Hebrews 13:1 Let brotherly love continue.

Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Proverbs 6:16 & 19 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him... he that soweth discord among brethren.

They wept at the altar but God did not hear them – they had dealt treacherously with brethren & their spouse. (vs. 13)

Their sin of mixed marriage (vs. 11) – today the sin is adultery with the world. (Matt. 6:20; James 4:4; 1 John 2:16; 1 Tim 6:10; Matt. 6:24; Matt. 22:37-39)

Their sin of dealing treacherously (deceitful; unfaithful) with their wife (vs. 14-16)

One father; One God (vs. 10) / One flesh in marriage (vs. 14-16)

In marriage = part of a family in this life as one flesh. Do not deal treacherously.

How far had they left their first love? Look at the degree of their unbelief: **Malachi 2:17** When ye say: Every one that doeth evil *is* good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where *is* the God of judgment?

When one backslides, he/she never knows how far from God they will get.

Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom; his wife loved the world and turned into a pillar of salt (Luke 17:32); and Lot did perverse things that he never thought he would do.

Genesis 19:8 Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as *is* good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing...

Drifting from God can cause the flesh to do things one never thought they would.

Malachi was written in an age of apostasy. May we guide against a cold heart.

Malachi 3:1-6

- **Malachi 3:1** Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Who is “my messenger...that shall prepare the way before the Lord?”

Matthew 11:10 For this is *he*, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

Mark 1:2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

Luke 1:76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

Luke 7:27-28 This is *he*, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

- **Isaiah 40:3** The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Mark 1:2-3 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. (MALACHI 3) The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight (ISAIAH 40). (See also Luke 3:2-6)

John 1:23 He said, I *am* the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

Is John the Baptist Elijah?

Matthew 11:13-14 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive *it*, this is Elias, which was for to come.

Matthew 17:12-13 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist. (See also Mark 9:11-13)

John the Baptist was a minor fulfilment of the one who was to “prepare the way of the Lord.”

Elijah will be the literal, complete, major fulfilment of Isa. 40:3 and Mal. 3:1

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

The literal fulfilment of Malachi chapters 3:2-4:6 has much reference to the 2nd coming of Christ.

- **Malachi 3:2** But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he *is* like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

The 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ is a horrific event from a human standpoint. What a scene it will be:

Revelation 14:20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs.

Revelation 16:21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, *every stone* about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Revelation 19:17-18 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men, both* free and bond, both small and great.

Zechariah 14:12 And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

- **Malachi 3:3** And he shall sit *as* a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

The Tribulation Period will purify the saints of Israel that will enter into the Kingdom.

The sons of Levi will serve in the Temple during the Millennial Reign of King Jesus. The sacrificial system will be similar to the Lord's Supper, which is a memorial of the one true sacrifice for sins.

Ezekiel 46:4 And the burnt offering that the prince shall offer unto the LORD in the sabbath day *shall be* six lambs without blemish, and a ram without blemish.

Only God can refine / purify the heart – as with fire. Are you saved? Is your heart truly right with God?

Isaiah 6:6-7 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar...And he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

- **Malachi 3:4** Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

The priests had been offering:

Malachi 1:7-8 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD *is* contemptible. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, *is it* not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, *is it* not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

The offerings of the Millennial Reign will once again be pleasant to the Lord – a sweet smelling savour of the burnt offering:

Exodus 29:40-42 ...one lamb a tenth deal of flour...And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a **sweet savour, an offering** made by fire unto the LORD. *This shall be a continual burnt offering...*

Ezekiel 46:4 And the burnt offering that the prince shall offer unto the LORD in the sabbath day...

- **Malachi 3:5** And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the **sorcerers**, and against the **adulterers**, and against **false swearers**, and against those that **oppress the hireling** in *his* wages, **the widow**, and **the fatherless**, and that turn aside **the stranger from his right, and fear not me**, saith the LORD of hosts.

Sins of the end times are in bold in the above verse and in the verse below.

Revelation 9:20-21 ...yet repented not... that they should not **worship devils, and idols of gold**...Neither repented they of their **murders**, nor of their **sorceries**, nor of their **fornication**, nor of their **thefts**.

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Matthew 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

The 2nd coming will be a divide – those that enter the Millennium and those that are goats.

Matthew 25:31-33 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

- **Malachi 3:6** For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Israel will be preserved through the wrath of God...because God changes not! He keeps His covenants.

Jeremiah 30:7 Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: it *is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

Malachi 3:7-12

Malachi 3:7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept *them*. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, **Wherein shall we return?**

The sin is disobedience (rebellion against God). It is a common sin which is rooted in unbelief and a cold heart that is far from God. God wants us to return to Him.

Lamentations 3:40 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

Hosea 6:1-2 Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

Zechariah 1:3 Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, **Wherein have we robbed thee?** In tithes and offerings.

When a person's heart is far from God, the pocketbook gets closed. Carnal saved people often turn niggardly.

If one would rob God, surely they cannot be trusted in this life either.

Some think tithing is O.T.. It is similar to the Sabbath. Both were before the law and both are in the law.

John 7:22 Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man.

Exodus 31:16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, *for* a perpetual covenant.

Genesis 14:20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Genesis 28:22 And this stone, which I have set *for* a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Luke 18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

The Pharisees had the wrong spirit when they tithed and the apostates in Malachi robbed God by not tithing. Both are sin as the real issue is the *heart!*

Tithing in the Old Testament (FROM PULPIT HELPS):

The tenth of all the remainder after the first-fruits were paid, which tenth was paid to the Levites for their support:

Leviticus 27:30-33 And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land, *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the LORD'S: *it is* holy unto the LORD...And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, *even* of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.

A tenth paid by the Levites to the priests,

Numbers 18:26-28 Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, *even* a tenth *part* of the tithe.

A second tenth paid by the people for the entertainment of the Levites and their own families at the tabernacle;

Deuteronomy 12:17-19 Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand: But thou must eat them before the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that *is* within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto. Take heed to thyself that thou forsake not the Levite as long as thou livest upon the earth.

Another tithe every third year for the poor, etc.

Deuteronomy 14:28-29 At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay *it* up within thy gates: And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which *are* within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.

Thus men rob God now; they keep back what belongs to him. They cannot take anything from him, and thus make him poorer, as in the case of man robbing man, but they can rob him by appropriating to their own use that which he demands, by acting like Ananias and Sapphira.

When they robbed God, they were robbing themselves of the blessings of God.

We give because we love God and want to obey His Word. Blessings come as a result.

Why People Do Not Tithe

1) They just do not know

They have not been taught what the Word of God teaches. Some are convinced that tithing is only for the O.T. (Tithing is commended by Jesus in Matt. 23:23)

2) Unbelief

- A) They are just not saved (it is supernatural to trust God and obey the Bible)
- B) Saved, but they do not have faith to trust God

Unbelief is typical for the human being. Often only a few live by faith. Hebrews 11 is a minority on earth.

Matthew 28:17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

Mark 16:11-14 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not...And they went and told *it* unto the residue: neither believed they them. Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Luke 24:11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

John 20:8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

John 20:20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

John 20:25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

John 20:9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Jesus had told them many times that He would raise from the dead. (Matt. 16:21-22; Mark 8:31-33, 9:9-10, 9:31-32; Luke 18:33)

3) Rebellion

They know what they should do but, "No one is going to tell me what to do with my money."

4) Love of Money

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Mammon is the god of money.

God promised to bless you if you tithed! "Prove me saith the Lord!"

Malachi 3:13-18

These verses are similar to **Malachi 2:17** Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied *him*? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil *is* good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where *is* the God of judgment?

These apostates are critical, complainers and their own heart is far from God.

Numbers 11:1 And *when* the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard *it*; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed *them that were* in the uttermost parts of the camp.

Psalms 73:1-3 A Psalm of Asaph. Truly God *is* good to Israel, *even* to such as are of a clean heart. But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

John 12:5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

Malachi 3:13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken *so much* against thee?

Their words were "stout," bold, loud, defiant. Reverence and reticence were both wanting.

Malachi 3:14 Ye have said, It *is* vain to serve God: and what profit *is it* that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

If one is "serving God" for outward benefit, then it is a selfish service and not true service to the Lord. When we submit ourselves to serving the Lord, we accept the outward consequences. Some think that there will be no problems. We are reminded:

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that **we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.**

1 Thessalonians 3:4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before **that we should suffer tribulation**; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and **all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**

1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

There are 2 groups of people – those who view life from a worldly viewpoint and those who view life from a godly perspective. Mal. 3:13-15 are one group and Mal. 3:16-18 are the other group. Which group do you belong to?

Worldly Viewpoint

Usually this crowd is one that does nothing. The Bible refers to them as *settled on their lees* – no movement; no stirring; no action is in their life, other than to criticize and scrutinize.

Zephaniah 1:12 And it shall come to pass at that time, *that* I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.

There is an expectation of what they get out of serving the Lord. They expect God to bless them for their half-hearted effort, but real service is motivated by love regardless of the result.

When they express that it is ‘vain to serve God’ they are revealing their self-centeredness and unbelief. Consider:

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Matthew 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Godly Viewpoint

It is always a remnant of people who truly trust God. We must remind ourselves that God truly knows the heart. It is likely that the saying, “It is vain to serve God: and what profit *is it* that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts” was probably *spoken* in their hearts not necessarily from the lips.

God knows the heart, hears our words and has it recorded – in a book.

Psalms 56:8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: *are they* not in thy book?

Daniel 7:10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and **the books were opened.**

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the **dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books**, according to their works.

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and a **book of remembrance** was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

The primary character that is revealed from this group:

Malachi 3:16 Then **they that feared the LORD** spake often one to another:

Noah walked with God prior to the flood. The fear of the Lord caused him to go against the grain.

Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that every* imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

When times are difficult, crowds are small and the work is seemingly unappreciated, we must remind ourselves who we serve. The world may view us a strange, but those that truly love and serve God are:

Malachi 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my **jewels**; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Rarity makes something of value.

Psalms 12:1 Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

What one is willing to pay for something makes it of value.

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

How one views something makes it of value.

Malachi 3:18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

God views our heart and will reward us according to our works and motives.

1 Corinthians 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

God will spare us – a promise of Mal. 3:17c

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

This salvation is the body getting saved at the Rapture (Eph. 4:30, Rom. 8:23) as the soul has been saved.

A final reminder that God sees the heart and knows the heart in Mal. 3:18

Malachi 4:1-3

The Great Divide

Malachi 4:1 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 4:2 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.

Psalms 1:6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the **righteous**: but the way of the **ungodly** shall perish.

Mark 16:16 He that **believeth** and is baptized shall be saved; but he that **believeth not** shall be damned.

John 3:36 He that **believeth** on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that **believeth not** the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 ...Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that **know not God**, and that **obey not the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in **his saints**, and to be admired in all **them that believe...**

Warnings Ignored

The warning of the Great Flood – ignored – only 8 saved

The warning to Sodom & Gomorrah – ignored – few saved

The warning to Israel – ignored – judgment in 722 B.C.

The warning to Judah – ignored – judgment in 606 B.C.

The warning to apostates – ignored – Israel rejects Messiah & is scattered 70 A.D.

The warning of the Rapture – largely ignored – will soon occur

Let us remind ourselves of that the Word of God is *True & Faithful*

Revelation 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Revelation 22:6 And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

1 Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

ἀνάθεμα anathema an-ath'-em-ah

someone delivered over to divine wrath, accursed, devoted to the direst of woes; ...excommunicated, accused, anathema

μαρὰν ἀθά maran atha mar'-an ath'-ah

of Chaldee origin...an exclamation of the approaching divine judgment:--Maran-atha petition for the Lord to return *O Lord, come!*

Literal Fulfillment – Seems Impossible...

In this text, the bodies of the unsaved will be destroyed and then they will be walked on...

Malachi 4:3 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.

Zechariah 14:12 And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.

Compare this plague in Zech. 14:12 to Mal. 4:1...the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven....

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Isaiah 66:15-16 For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

Revelation 19:18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men, both* free and bond, both small and great.

Abraham could have walked on the ashes of the unsaved after Sodom was destroyed. The destruction of the body is described.

There is a day of judgment coming – it will occur at the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ. He will come to judge the earth. It will be a horrible day and a day that divides.

Warning Heeded by Some

The Sun of righteousness will appear (Mal. 4:2) and those that fear the Lord will rejoice...and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. They will frolic like calves let out of their stalls – as calves bound but are now let loose to regained freedom, full of life and with great delight.

There is always a remnant of believers. The godly are always a minority. Choose to fear the Lord.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.

Malachi 4:4-6

Elijah will return. He will return before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

John the Baptist was a minor fulfillment of the return of Elijah. The kingdom was “at hand.”

Matthew 17:11-12 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.

Therefore, his message will be similar to the message of Elijah.

Matthew 3:2-3 And saying, **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, **Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.**

The promised return of Elijah will occur as Moses and Elijah return as the two witnesses of Revelation chapter 11. Elijah represents the *prophets* - Moses represents the *law*.

The law & the prophets are representative of the Old Testament and the tribulation period is a time for Israel. The 70th week of Daniel is a continuation of the first 69 weeks.

The law & prophets = O.T. are mentioned often in same text

Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the **law and the prophets.**

Matthew 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the **law and the prophets.**

Luke 16:16 The **law and the prophets** were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

John 1:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the **law, and the prophets**, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

Acts 13:15 And after the reading of the **law and the prophets** the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, *Ye men and brethren*, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the **law and the prophets;**

Moses & Elijah, or Moses and the prophets are often mentioned in the same text

Mal. 4:4-6 Remember ye the law of **Moses** my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, *with* the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you **Elijah** the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD...

Matthew 17:3 And, behold, there appeared unto them **Moses and Elias** talking with him.
Luke 16:29 Abraham saith unto him, They have **Moses and the prophets**; let them hear them.
Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not **Moses and the prophets**...
Luke 24:27 And beginning at **Moses and all the prophets**, he expounded unto them...
Luke 24:44 ...all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the **law of Moses, and in the prophets**...
John 1:45 ...We have found him, of whom Moses in **the law, and the prophets**, did write, Jesus...
Acts 26:22 ...witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which **the prophets and Moses** did say should come.
Acts 28:23 ...testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of **the law of Moses, and out of the prophets**, from morning till evening.

The Jewish leaders asked John the Baptist and Peter asked Jesus about the return of Elijah

Matthew 17:10 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?

John 1:21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

John 1:25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

Some say the two witnesses are Elijah and Enoch – because they did not die.

- Heb. 9:27 is a general statement – not everyone will die.
- Those at the rapture do not die (I Cor. 15:51 – we shall not all sleep).
- The antichrist and the false prophet do not die. (Rev. 19:20)
- Lazarus died twice.

They do the same miracles as Moses & Elijah

Rev 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy (Elijah did this): and have power over waters to turn them to blood (Moses did this), and to smite the earth with all plagues (Moses did this), as often as they will.

Their Ministry / Purpose

Moses will guide Israel in purifying the Temple with the ashes of the Red Heifer and Elijah will preach, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord...." The Israelites do not understand how the ashes of the Red Heifer purify the Temple, so they will need Moses to do this the correct way.

The timing of the Tribulation Period has everything (my opinion) to do with the third Temple. God is long-suffering and it maybe 50 more years. Or it may be just around the corner.

Remember Methuselah lived to be 969 years old. When he was dead, the flood would be sent. God is long-suffering. We tend to be impatient and expect God to move on our timetable.

James 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it...

Haggai Chapter 1

Zechariah 1:1 In the **eighth month, in the second year of Darius**, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,

Haggai 1:1 In the **second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month**, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by **Haggai the prophet** unto **Zerubbabel** the son of Shealtiel, **governor** of Judah, and to **Joshua** the son of Josedech, the **high priest**, saying,

It is 520 B.C.. The foundation of the Temple was laid in 536 B.C. and work on the Temple had ceased. Apathy had set in and the Lord used the prophet Haggai to stir up the leaders and the people.

Foundation of Temple Laid 536 B.C.

Ezra 3:12-13 But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, *who were* ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

Temple Work had Ceased

Ezra 4:24 Then ceased the work of the house of God which *is* at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Remember it was Cyrus that had read a prophecy of himself 140 years prior to his birth

Isaiah 44:28 That saith of Cyrus, *He is* my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

Cyrus is the one who commanded the work to start

Ezra 1:1-3 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia...that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah. Who *is there* among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (*he is* the God)...

Now a command from Haggai to Zechariah, governor & Joshua, the high priest 520 B.C.

Haggai 1:2 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.

A command from Haggai to the people

Haggai 1:4 *Is it* time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house *lie* waste?

Apathy led to misplaced priorities

They did not give God 1st place. They did not give the house of God 1st place. Excuses were given:

Haggai 1:2 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.

When is a good time? 2 Cor. 6:2 / James 4:14 / Eccl. 12:1

Lack of blessings were intended to get their attention to *Consider their ways*

Haggai 1:6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages *to put it* into a bag with holes.

Haggai 1:9 Ye looked for much, and, lo, *it came* to little; and when ye brought *it* home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that *is* waste...

Today, internal blessings – JOY – is given for obedience

In this O.T. dispensation, earthly blessings and cursings were promised to Israel in relation to their obedience. Joy has nothing to do with happiness, money or things. It has everything to do with a supernatural joy from God for obedience. You can have joy in the worst of circumstances.

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Acts 13:50-52 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

If a born-again Christian does not have joy; it is because of disobedience. A carnal Christian is very similar to an unsaved person. Often, you cannot tell the difference from a carnal Christian and a lost person – both do not have joy.

If you do not have joy – Haggai has an application for you:

Haggai 1:5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Haggai 1:7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

The only proper response to a rebuke from the Lord is to obey

Haggai 1:12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, **obeyed the voice of the LORD their God**, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD.

When obedience is displayed, there is a promise of God that is priceless

Haggai 1:13 Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, **I am with you, saith the LORD.**

Joshua 1:5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

2 Chronicles 15:2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD *is* with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Hebrews 13:5-6 ...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

2 Timothy 4:16-17 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

Action Follows Obedience

Haggai 1:14 And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

Obedience to God is a sign of salvation and rebellion is typical of the unsaved:

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and *so is* also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Romans 2:8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

2 Thessalonians 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Haggai 2:1-9

The work of God was started. There is great application to today. The work of God may seem to be small but it is not insignificant. It is a great work. (Started Hag. 1:14-15; and now it is 1 month later Hag. 2:1)

➤ Discouragement vs. 1-3

Three questions asked in **Haggai 2:3**

Who *is* left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now?
is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?

The older crowd was discouraged because they were comparing the present work of God to the former work of God.

Ezra 3:12-13 But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, *who were* ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

Ecclesiastes 9:4 ...**a living dog is better than a dead lion.**

A small work that is alive is of more value than a work of God that is now dead. Don't live in the past.

➤ Encouragement vs. 4-9

His presence vs. 4

Haggai 2:4 Yet now **be strong**, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and **be strong**, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and **be strong**, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: **for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts:**

• Moses to Joshua

Deuteronomy 31:6-7 **Be strong** and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, **Be strong** and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

Deuteronomy 31:23 And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, **Be strong** and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swear unto them: and **I will be with thee.**

- **Lord to Joshua**

Joshua 1:6-9 **Be strong** and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only **be thou strong** and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law... **Be strong** and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the **LORD thy God is with thee** whithersoever thou goest.

- **King David to Solomon**

1 Chronicles 22:13 Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel: **be strong**, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.

1 Chronicles 28:10 ...LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: **be strong**, and do *it*.

1 Chronicles 28:20 And David said to Solomon his son, **Be strong** and of good courage, and do *it*: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the **LORD God, even my God, will be with thee**; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

Why should we *be strong*? The Lord says, “I am with thee.” (Underlined above)

Our encouragement must have a foundation. It is difficult to encourage an old person when that person is lost and headed for hell forever. Our foundation is Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11) for salvation; the church (Eph. 2:20) for service and the Word of God (1 The. 4:15) for the Blessed Hope of the Rapture.

If there is someone on earth that should be encouraged, it is the child of God. A born-again Christian has every reason to be encouraged – the same reasons as stated in Haggai chapter two. The following points are applicable to us today.

His Covenant vs. 5

Haggai 2:5 *According to* the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.

God covenanted with them; delivered them out of Egypt and his spirit remained among them. We too have the covenant of eternal life, delivered from this present evil world and the Holy Spirit dwells with us forever. Be encouraged!

Matt. 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

John 10:27-28 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

His Promise of Coming vs. 6-7

Haggai 2:6-7 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; **Yet once, it is a little while**, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry *land*; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

Hebrews 12:26-27 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this *word*, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that **those things which cannot be shaken may remain.**

Our salvation cannot be shaken – we will remain forever! The 2nd coming of Jesus Christ will shake out that which will not last.

His Provision vs. 8

Haggai 2:8 The silver *is* mine, and the gold *is* mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

Psalms 78:19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?

God can and will supply your every need. Thank God for that – that is an encouragement.

His Work vs. 9

Haggai 2:9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

We are ever reminded (take courage) that it is the work of God. We are just instruments in His hands.

Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

We are to be encouraged to work; to stay faithful; to put the house of God as a priority. It is His work:

1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Compare Haggai 2:3 to 2:9. God does not put emphasis on the size of His work, but on the fact that is truly is the work of God. (Also see Zech. 4:6)

Haggai 2:10-19

Whatever touched the altar or the vessels became holy.

Exodus 29:37 Seven days thou shalt make an atonement for the altar, and sanctify it; and it shall be an altar most holy: whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy.

Exodus 30:28-29 And the altar of burnt offering with all his vessels, and the laver and his foot. And thou shalt sanctify them, that they may be most holy: whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy.

However, the Lord tells them that holiness is not transferred:

Haggai 2:12 If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No.

Authority may be transferred. In the O.T. the anointing was given for kings, prophets and priests. In the N.T. the authority of the ordinances (literally in the Greek – ‘passed down things’) and for men called to preach had hands laid on them to give them the authority to start churches.

Holiness is not transferred. If one’s parents and grandparents were born-again Christians, then all their children that are born sinners must be born-again also or they will go to hell forever. Holiness is not transferred. The Bible is the Word of God. The words are ‘of God.’ But touching the Bible or sleeping with it will not transfer holiness. The pages are only instruments to show you the words.

Defilement can be transferred by touch.

Haggai 2:13 Then said Haggai, If *one that is* unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean.

Today, one can transfer uncleanness via the flu, shingles, measles, or an STD. Sinners can transfer sin but holiness cannot be transferred from one sinner to another sinner.

Holiness comes from a personal relationship with God; the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

God calls Israel back to Himself – to a relationship of holiness.

Haggai 2:16-17 Since those *days* were, when *one* came to an heap of twenty *measures*, there were *but* ten: when *one* came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty *vessels* out of the press, there were *but* twenty. I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye *turned* not to me, saith the LORD.

They had been under His chastening hand for 70 years; but a restored relationship can occur “starting today.”

Haggai 2:19 Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: **from this day will I bless you.**

Is the seed yet in the barn? No – it is planted in the field. There was a dearth of their crops, but now that they are under the blessings of God, the future harvest will be blessed!

All will be blessed: the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree...

Application – you want the blessings of the Lord. Obedience is the key. There is not a waiting period for the Lord to start blessing.

Your blessing / your holiness cannot be transferred from another person. If your inner life is likened to:

Haggai 2:16-17 Since those *days* were, when *one* came to an heap of twenty *measures*, there were *but* ten: when *one* came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty *vessels* out of the press, there were *but* twenty. I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye *turned* not to me, saith the LORD.

Haggai 1:6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages *to put it* into a bag with holes.

Haggai 1:9 Ye looked for much, and, lo, *it came* to little; and when ye brought *it* home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that *is* waste...

Haggai 1:11 And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon...the ground...and upon all the labour of the hands.

Deuteronomy 28:67 In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear...

Your life does not need to be unhappy. Joy is available for the Christian. Not only is it available; it ought to be an integral part of your life. Compare Haggai 2:17 to 2:19c.

Giving of yourself to the Lord for salvation and for service is the key to joy.

Matthew 16:24-25 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

A life for self is an unhappy life. A life yielded to God leads to a contented, purposeful life. We each choose.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Haggai 2:20-23

- ❖ **Haggai 2:21** Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth;

Psalms 46:6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

Joel 3:16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD *will be* the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Isaiah 40:15 Behold, the nations *are* as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.

Revelation 16:17-21 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, *and* so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, *every stone* about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

- ❖ **Haggai 2:22** And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Micah 5:15 And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard.

Zechariah 12:4-5 In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem *shall be* my strength in the LORD of hosts their God.

Zephaniah 3:8 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination *is* to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, *even* all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

Isaiah 24:1 Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.

Daniel 7:13-14 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

❖ **Haggai 2:23** In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts.

The Lord says in vs. 21-22: “I will shake the heavens and the earth; And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen....” But now in vs. 23, he is assured that he (Zerubbabel) will abide as a signet forever!

Luke 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for **that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.**

We need to be encouraged due to the glorious fact that there will be rewards in heaven for you. Success in the sight of the Lord will be very different from success in this life.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Make thee as a signet. “I will make thee most precious in my sight. Among Orientals the signet ring was an article of great importance and value. The allusion is particularly appropriate here, because Zerubbabel is set at the head of the nation in the place of his grandfather, Jeconiah, who was rejected from the monarchy.” PULPIT HELPS

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Here are some of the rewards we will receive

➤ **Jewels**

1 Corinthians 3:12-14 Now if any man build upon this foundation **gold, silver, precious stones**, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try **every man's work of what sort it is**. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, **he shall receive a reward.**

Malachi 3:16-17 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and a **book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD**, and that thought upon his name. And **they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels**; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

➤ **Crowns**

Revelation 4:10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and **cast their crowns before the throne**, saying,

1 Corinthians 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible **crown**; **but we an incorruptible**.

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, **my joy and crown**, so stand fast in the Lord, *my* dearly beloved.

1 Thessalonians 2:19 For what *is* our hope, or joy, or **crown of rejoicing**? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

James 1:12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the **crown of life**, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a **crown of glory** that fadeth not away.

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a **crown of life**.

➤ **Righteous Acts**

Matthew 10:40-41 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

Matthew 10:42 And whosoever shall **give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water** only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his **reward**.

1 Corinthians 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and **every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour**.

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are **labourers together with God**: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building.

➤ **Thread-count of the White Robes**

Revelation 3:18 I counsel thee to **buy of me gold** tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and **white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed**, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Revelation 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the **righteousness of saints**.

Righteousness is a plural word – hence, we could conclude that it is not imputed righteousness via salvation, but righteous acts / deeds that we do. Thus the threads of the robes may be from what we do for the Lord.

dikaiw, mata noun nominative neuter plural from **dikai, wma**

[Fri] **dikai, wma**, *righteous deed, act of justice*, by Christ (RO 5.18), by God (RV 15.4), by saints (RV 19.8)

➤ **Fruit from Giving to Missions**

Philippians 4:16-17 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire **fruit that may abound to your account**.

➤ **God's View on Giving – the Heart, not the Amount**

Mark 12:42-44 And there came a **certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing**. And he called *unto him* his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor **widow hath cast more in**, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all *they* did cast in of their abundance; but **she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living**.

Matthew 10:29 Are not **two sparrows sold for a farthing?** and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

Luke 12:6 Are not **five sparrows sold for two farthings**, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

❖ **Zerubbabel's life counted for now and for eternity**

Faith lives for the next life. By faith, we invest our time, treasure and talent in that which will last beyond the grave.

Hebrews 11:26-27 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had **respect unto the recompence of the reward**. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as **seeing him who is invisible**.

What are you living for? Make sure that that which you are living for is worth dying for.

Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.