

JUDGMENT DAY

Malachi 4

Let's look at and learn from God's final thoughts in the Old Testament and the reality of Judgment Day.

I. WHAT'S AHEAD? (1-3) **- The coming day**

A. A TIME OF HORROR FOR THE WICKED (1)

1. A Burning Furnace
2. A Fiery Terror: They are set ablaze!
3. A Devastating Destruction: Total destruction

B. A TIME OF HAPPINESS FOR THE GOD-FEARING (2-3)

1. Healing Restoration (2a)
2. A Joyful Celebration (2b)
3. An Abnormal Vindication (3)

II. WHAT NOW? (4) **- Remember God's law**

A. THE COMMAND: Remember

- Be actively, presently involved in reflection and appropriate action based upon that reflection

B. THE CODE

1. God's Law: His instructions, directions and will for all of life
2. God's Statutes (decrees): Information regarding our worship and religious life
3. God's Ordinances (judgments): Principles that govern one's moral and social life

C. THE CONDITIONS

- They had generally ignored God's law > God is calling them to change

D. OUR CALL

- Stay in the Word (See Psalm 119:9-16)

III. WHAT'S NEXT? (5-6)

- A messenger before the coming day of the Lord

A. A PROPHET (5)

1. The coming of Elijah before the final judgment
2. See Matt. 17:9-13 and Rev. 11:3-6

B. HIS PURPOSE (6a)

1. The restoration of faith
2. The restoration of families

C. GOD'S PRIORITY (6b)

1. Avoid putting the land under a curse
2. Mercy rather than justice

CONCLUSION:

Malachi ends on a note of threatened condemnation.

1. Would you be condemned if you met God tonight?
2. Will you meet God with horror or happiness?
3. Have you trusted Christ to take your curse?
 - Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree."