

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Malachi Chapter 4 — The Great Day of the Lord

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Malachi Chapter 4 brings the Old Testament prophetic message to a dramatic conclusion.

The chapter is short—only six verses—but its message is enormous.

Malachi looks forward to:

- The coming Day of the Lord.
- God's judgment upon the wicked.
- The vindication of those who fear His name.
- The rising of the Sun of Righteousness.
- The continuing authority of God's Word.
- The coming of a prophet in the spirit and power of Elijah.
- A ministry of repentance and reconciliation.
- The preparation of God's people for the coming Messiah.

Malachi 3 ended by saying that God would make a clear distinction between:

The righteous and the wicked.

The one who serves God and the one who does not.

Malachi 4 explains what that distinction will ultimately look like.

For the proud and wicked, the Day of the Lord will be a day of judgment.

For those who fear God's name, it will be a day of healing, freedom, joy, and victory.

The chapter therefore presents two completely different outcomes.

One group faces the fire.

The other experiences the rising of the Sun of Righteousness.

One group is reduced to stubble.

The other goes out with joy like calves released from confinement.

The difference is not accidental.

It is connected to the fundamental question raised throughout Malachi:

Will people fear the Lord and honor His name, or will they continue in rebellion?

The final words of Malachi also create an important bridge to the New Testament.

God promises:

“I will send you Elijah the prophet.”

The New Testament explains that John the Baptist came in the **spirit and power of Elijah**, preparing people for Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament therefore closes looking forward.

Judgment is coming.

A messenger is coming.

The Messiah is coming.

And God's people must be ready.

I. THE DAY OF THE LORD IS COMING

Malachi 4:1 — The Day Burning Like an Oven

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the proud and all who do wickedly will be stubble. The coming day shall set them ablaze,” says the Lord of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”

Malachi begins with certainty:

“The day is coming.”

God's judgment may appear delayed.

But it is not cancelled.

The people had complained that wicked people prospered.

God now tells them that their prosperity will not last forever.

The Proud

Throughout Scripture, pride represents independence from God.

The proud person says:

“I do not need God.”

Those Who Do Wickedly

These are people whose lives are characterized by rebellion against God's ways.

Malachi compares them to:

Stubble.

Stubble is the dry material remaining after a harvest.

It burns quickly when exposed to fire.

Cross References

Joel 2:31

The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and fearful Day of the Lord arrives.

Obadiah 1:18

The descendants of Jacob will be like a fire, and the descendants of Joseph like a flame, while the descendants of Esau will be like dry stubble. They will burn them and consume them, and no survivor will remain from the house of Esau, because the Lord has spoken.

2 Peter 3:10

The Day of the Lord will come unexpectedly like a thief. The heavens will pass away with a great noise, the elements will be destroyed by intense heat, and the earth and everything done upon it will be exposed before God.

Spiritual Principle

God's patience should never be interpreted as God's approval of sin.

Judgment delayed is not judgment abandoned.

Key Truth

The wicked may appear secure today, but no rebellion against God can survive His final judgment.

II. THE DAY OF THE LORD HAS TWO SIDES

The Day of the Lord is not presented the same way for everyone.

For the wicked:

Fire.

For those who fear God:

Healing.

For the rebellious:

Judgment.

For the faithful:

Vindication.

This demonstrates an important biblical truth.

The Same God Is Both Judge and Savior

God's holiness brings terror to unrepentant rebellion.

But that same holiness brings hope to those who trust Him.

Spiritual Principle

Our relationship with God determines whether His coming is something we fear or something we welcome.

III. THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL RISE

Malachi 4:2 — Healing in His Wings

“But for you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings. You shall go out and leap like calves released from the stall.”

The word **“but”** introduces a powerful contrast.

Verse 1 describes judgment.

Verse 2 describes hope.

The promise is specifically directed toward:

“You who fear My name.”

These are the faithful people described in Malachi 3:16.

They reverence God.

They honor His name.

They remain faithful even when others say serving God is useless.

The Sun of Righteousness

The imagery is beautiful.

After darkness comes sunrise.

After suffering comes healing.

After waiting comes deliverance.

The phrase “**Sun of Righteousness**” has traditionally been understood by many Christians as pointing toward the Messiah and His saving work.

The imagery certainly fits the New Testament presentation of Christ as the One who brings spiritual light.

Cross References

Luke 1:78

Because of the tender mercy of our God, the rising light from heaven will come to visit us.

Isaiah 60:1

Rise up and shine, because your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Psalms 84:11

The Lord God is our sun and our shield. The Lord gives grace and honor, and He does not withhold what is truly good from those who walk uprightly.

Spiritual Principle

God's final word for those who fear Him is not darkness but light.

The night does not last forever.

The Sun rises.

IV. HEALING IN HIS WINGS

The expression:

“Healing in His wings”

uses imagery connected with the rays of the rising sun spreading across the horizon.

The picture is of righteousness bringing restoration.

God's kingdom ultimately brings healing to what sin has broken.

Sin produces:

- Separation.
- Brokenness.
- Death.

- Conflict.
- Fear.
- Pain.

God's redemptive work brings:

- Reconciliation.
- Restoration.
- Life.
- Peace.
- Joy.
- Wholeness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What sin has wounded, God's redemptive power is able to restore.

V. JOY LIKE CALVES RELEASED FROM THE STALL

Malachi says:

“You shall go out and leap like calves released from the stall.”

This is a picture of freedom and joy.

An animal confined inside a stall suddenly released into an open field runs and leaps.

The picture communicates:

Freedom.

Energy.

Joy.

Release.

Those who remained faithful to God would eventually discover that their faithfulness had not been wasted.

Spiritual Principle

The end of faithfulness is not regret—it is joy.

There may be seasons when obedience feels difficult.

But God's ultimate purpose for His people is not bondage.

It is freedom in His presence.

VI. THE WICKED WILL NOT WIN FOREVER

Malachi 4:3 — Ashes Under Their Feet

“And you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the Lord of hosts.

The wicked had apparently looked powerful.

Malachi 3:15 said:

“Evildoers prosper.”

But Malachi 4:3 shows the final outcome.

The wicked will not remain victorious.

God says:

“On the day when I act.”

That phrase is important.

Human beings often become discouraged because God does not act according to their timetable.

But Scripture repeatedly teaches that there is an appointed time when God will act decisively.

Cross References

Psalm 91:13

You will walk over the lion and the poisonous snake. You will trample the young lion and the serpent beneath your feet.

Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Micah 7:10

My enemy will see what God has done and will be covered with shame. She once said to me, “Where is the Lord your God?” But I will see her defeat, and she will be trampled down like mud in the streets.

Key Truth

Evil may win temporary battles, but it will not win the final war.

God has appointed a day when righteousness will prevail.

VII. “ON THE DAY WHEN I ACT”

One phrase in Malachi 4:3 deserves special attention:

“On the day when I act.”

Throughout Scripture, God's people often wait.

Abraham waited.

Joseph waited.

Moses waited.

David waited.

Israel waited.

The disciples waited.

The church waits.

Waiting can create questions.

Why has God not acted?

Why does evil continue?

Why does injustice remain?

Malachi reminds us:

God has not forgotten.

There is a day:

“When I act.”

Spiritual Principle

God's delay is not God's defeat.

He acts according to His perfect wisdom and timing.

VIII. REMEMBER THE LAW OF MOSES

Malachi 4:4 — God's Word During the Waiting

“Remember the law of My servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.”

As Malachi approaches the end of his prophecy, God directs Israel back to Scripture.

They were waiting for future events.

But while waiting, they already knew what they were supposed to do.

Remember God's Word.

This is extremely important.

Prophecy should never distract God's people from obedience.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 4:10

Remember the day when you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb. The Lord told Moses, “Gather the people before Me so they may hear My words, learn to fear Me throughout their lives, and teach these things to their children.”

Joshua 1:8

Keep this Book of the Law continually upon your lips. Think carefully about it day and night so that you may obey everything written in it. Then you will walk wisely and faithfully in the path God has given you.

John 1:17

The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Principle

While waiting for God to fulfill tomorrow's promises, obey the Word He has already given today.

IX. REMEMBERING MEANS MORE THAN RECALLING

When God says:

“Remember the law.”

He means more than:

“Think about it occasionally.”

Biblical remembrance involves responding to what God has said.

Israel was to:

Know God's commands.

Teach God's commands.

Obey God's commands.

Pass God's truth to the next generation.

Application

Believers should not merely own Bibles.

We should:

Read Scripture.

Study Scripture.

Understand Scripture.

Believe Scripture.

Obey Scripture.

Teach Scripture.

Live Scripture.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Word of God was never given merely to fill the mind; it was given to direct the life.

X. GOD PROMISES TO SEND ELIJAH

Malachi 4:5 — Before the Great and Dreadful Day

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.”

The final prophecy of Malachi introduces Elijah.

This prophecy created expectation among the Jewish people that Elijah would appear before the Messiah.

The New Testament helps explain its fulfillment.

John the Baptist came with a ministry resembling Elijah.

He called people to repentance.

He confronted sin courageously.

He prepared people for the coming Lord.

Cross References

Matthew 17:11

Jesus answered, “Elijah truly comes and will restore all things.”

Mark 9:12

Jesus told them, “Elijah does come first and prepares things for restoration. But Scripture also says that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected.”

Luke 1:17

John will go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers toward their children and turn disobedient people toward the wisdom of the righteous. In this way he will prepare a people ready for the Lord.

Luke gives the clearest explanation.

John was not literally Elijah returned from the dead.

He came:

“In the spirit and power of Elijah.”

Spiritual Principle

God prepares people before major moments of divine revelation.

John prepared people for Christ by preaching repentance.

XI. JOHN THE BAPTIST AND ELIJAH

There are several similarities between Elijah and John the Baptist.

Both Confronted Sin

Elijah confronted King Ahab.

John confronted Herod.

Both Called People Back to God

Elijah cried:

“How long will you hesitate between two opinions?”

John cried:

“Repent.”

Both Lived Simply

Neither man's ministry depended upon luxury.

Both Spoke Courageously

They were willing to proclaim truth even when powerful people opposed them.

Both Prepared People for God's Work

Elijah called Israel back to covenant faithfulness.

John prepared Israel for the Messiah.

Ministry Principle

A true messenger does not adjust God's message to avoid offending powerful people.

XII. TURNING HEARTS

Malachi 4:6 — Fathers and Children

“He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a curse.”

The final verse of the Old Testament speaks about hearts being turned.

This is the language of repentance and reconciliation.

When people turn toward God, relationships are affected.

The vertical relationship with God changes horizontal relationships with others.

Cross References

1 Kings 18:37

“Answer me, Lord, answer me, so that these people will know that You, Lord, are God and that You are turning their hearts back to You.”

Deuteronomy 30:19

I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today. I have placed before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life so that you and your descendants may live.

Luke 1:16

John will turn many of the people of Israel back to the Lord their God.

Spiritual Principle

True revival turns hearts toward God and also transforms relationships between people.

Repentance should affect:

- Families.
- Marriages.
- Parenting.
- Friendships.
- Churches.
- Communities.

XIII. THE HEART OF THE FATHER AND THE HEART OF THE CHILD

Malachi specifically mentions:

Fathers.

And:

Children.

God cares about generations.

The faith of one generation should be passed to another.

But sin can create distance between generations.

Repentance can help restore what sin has damaged.

Psalm 78:5–7

God established His testimony in Jacob and commanded the fathers to teach His truth to their children so future generations would know it and place their confidence in God.

Spiritual Principle

One of the marks of spiritual renewal is renewed concern for the next generation.

Parents should ask:

Am I merely providing materially for my children, or am I helping them know God?

Churches should ask:

Are we faithfully passing biblical truth to those coming behind us?

XIV. THE OLD TESTAMENT ENDS WITH A WARNING

Malachi ends with the word:

“Curse.”

That is sobering.

Sin brought a curse into God's creation.

Rebellion brings judgment.

The Old Testament closes with humanity still needing:

A Savior.

A Redeemer.

A King.

A perfect Priest.

A final sacrifice.

The final verse therefore creates anticipation.

Something more is needed.

Someone is coming.

And then the New Testament begins.

Matthew 1:1

This is the record of the family line of Jesus Christ, the Son of David and the Son of Abraham.

The Old Testament ends looking for the Messiah.

The New Testament announces:

He has come.

XV. THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

Malachi closes with the promise of a coming messenger.

Then the New Testament opens with John the Baptist appearing in the wilderness.

Malachi Says:

“I will send you Elijah.”

Luke Says:

John came:

“In the spirit and power of Elijah.”

Malachi Says:

The messenger will prepare people.

John Says:

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

Malachi Says:

The Lord will come.

John Says:

“Look! The Lamb of God.”

The connection is unmistakable.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Old Testament ends with expectation, and the New Testament begins with fulfillment.

XVI. THE FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF SILENCE

After Malachi, there was no new Old Testament prophetic book for several centuries.

This period is commonly called the **intertestamental period**.

From the human perspective, heaven seemed silent.

But God had not stopped working.

Empires changed.

Political boundaries changed.

Languages spread.

Road systems developed.

Historical conditions moved toward the world into which Jesus would be born.

Then, at the appointed time, John the Baptist appeared.

Galatians 4:4

But when the right time had fully arrived, God sent His Son, born of a woman and born under the law.

Spiritual Principle

God's silence does not mean God's inactivity.

Even when no new revelation seemed to come, God's providence continued moving history toward Christ.

XVII. CHRIST AS THE LIGHT

The image:

“Sun of Righteousness”

naturally connects with the New Testament theme of Christ as light.

John 8:12

Jesus said:

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light that gives life.”

John 1:4–5

Life was in Him, and that life was the light of mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Spiritual Principle

Christ brings light into spiritual darkness.

Where sin creates confusion, Christ reveals truth.

Where guilt creates despair, Christ provides forgiveness.

Where death creates fear, Christ gives eternal life.

XVIII. THE DAY OF THE LORD

The phrase **“Day of the Lord”** appears throughout Scripture.

It describes decisive divine intervention when God judges evil and establishes His righteous purposes.

Different prophetic passages may emphasize different aspects of this theme.

Malachi focuses on two.

Judgment

The wicked are compared to stubble consumed by fire.

Vindication

Those who fear God experience healing, joy, and victory.

Key Truth

History is moving toward God's appointed conclusion.

Human history is not wandering without purpose.

God has established an end toward which everything moves.

XIX. SIX GREAT LESSONS FROM MALACHI 4

1. Judgment Is Certain

God says:

“The day is coming.”

Not:

“The day might come.”

Principle:

God's warnings should be taken seriously because God's judgment is certain.

2. God Will Vindicate Those Who Fear Him

The faithful may sometimes feel forgotten.

Malachi says the opposite.

The Sun of Righteousness will rise.

Principle:

Faithfulness that appears costly today will not be regretted in eternity.

3. God's Word Must Guide Us While We Wait

Israel was told:

“Remember the law of Moses.”

Principle:

Prophecy should produce obedience, not speculation without holiness.

4. Repentance Prepares People for God

John's ministry would prepare the way.

His primary message was repentance.

Principle:

Preparation for encountering God begins with a heart willing to turn from sin.

5. Revival Affects Relationships

The hearts of fathers and children would be turned toward one another.

Principle:

A genuine return to God should produce greater faithfulness toward people.

6. The Old Testament Points Forward to Christ

Malachi closes with expectation.

The New Testament opens with fulfillment.

Principle:

The Bible tells one unfolding story centered upon God's redemptive work fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

XX. MALACHI'S FINAL CONTRASTS

The book ends with several powerful contrasts.

Proud or God-Fearing

The proud are judged.

Those who fear God's name are healed.

Stubble or Treasured Possession

The wicked become stubble.

The faithful belong to God.

Fire or Sunrise

The wicked face consuming judgment.

The righteous see the Sun of Righteousness rise.

Rebellion or Repentance

One path continues away from God.

The other turns back.

Curse or Blessing

The final choice has consequences.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Malachi leaves no room for spiritual neutrality.

Every person must ultimately stand in relationship either to God's grace or God's judgment.

XXI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What is the Day of the Lord in Malachi 4?

It is a coming time of decisive divine judgment and vindication.

For the wicked, it is pictured as burning fire.

For those who fear God, it brings healing and joy.

The passage therefore emphasizes that God will finally expose the difference between those who serve Him and those who reject Him.

Question 2

Why are the wicked compared to stubble?

Stubble is dry and easily burned.

The picture emphasizes how powerless human rebellion becomes when confronted by God's judgment.

People may appear powerful in the present world, but no human strength can stand against God's final judgment.

Question 3

Who is the Sun of Righteousness?

In its immediate prophetic imagery, the phrase describes righteousness and healing rising upon those who fear God.

Christian interpretation has traditionally connected this imagery with Jesus Christ because the New Testament repeatedly presents Christ as the light who brings salvation.

Luke 1:78 describes the coming Messiah in imagery of a rising light from heaven.

Question 4

What does “healing in His wings” mean?

It pictures God's saving and restoring work.

Just as rays of sunlight spread across the earth, God's righteousness brings restoration where sin has produced brokenness.

The emphasis is upon divine healing, renewal, and deliverance.

Question 5

Why does God tell Israel to remember Moses?

Because Israel already possessed God's revealed Word.

While waiting for future prophetic fulfillment, they were responsible to obey what God had already revealed.

This teaches us that waiting for God's future work should never become an excuse for neglecting present obedience.

Question 6

Was John the Baptist literally Elijah?

No.

John himself was not Elijah returned to earth.

Luke 1:17 explains that John came:

“In the spirit and power of Elijah.”

His ministry resembled Elijah's because he confronted sin, called people to repentance, and prepared the way for God's work.

Question 7

Why did Jesus connect John the Baptist with Elijah?

Because John fulfilled the preparatory role described by Malachi.

He came before Christ.

He called Israel to repentance.

He prepared people to receive the Messiah.

His ministry fulfilled the Elijah-like function Malachi had foretold.

Question 8

What does turning the hearts of fathers to children mean?

It speaks of reconciliation accompanying spiritual restoration.

When people genuinely turn toward God, their relationships should also change.

Repentance affects families.

Faithfulness to God should encourage faithfulness between generations.

Question 9

Why does Malachi end with a warning about a curse?

The warning emphasizes the seriousness of refusing God's call to repentance.

The Old Testament closes with humanity still facing the consequences of sin and still needing God's promised Redeemer.

This prepares the reader for the coming of Christ in the New Testament.

Question 10

What should believers do while waiting for Christ's return?

Malachi provides a helpful pattern.

Fear God's name.

Remember His Word.

Live faithfully.

Turn away from sin.

Strengthen relationships.

Trust God's justice.

Remain prepared.

Key Principle:

Biblical prophecy should produce faithful living.

XXII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Malachi 4 asks several serious questions.

Do I Fear God's Name?

Not merely:

Do I believe God exists?

But:

Do I live with reverence toward Him?

Am I Ready for the Day of the Lord?

God's judgment is certain.

Am I living in repentance and faith?

Am I Walking in the Light?

The Sun of Righteousness has risen.

Am I following Christ or continuing in spiritual darkness?

Am I Remembering God's Word?

Is Scripture shaping my thinking and behavior?

Is My Heart Being Turned?

Am I becoming more faithful toward God and others?

Am I Helping the Next Generation Know God?

Faith must be passed forward.

Am I Waiting Faithfully?

God may seem silent.

But He is not absent.

XXIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“God's Silence Is Never the End of the Story”

Malachi spoke.

Then prophetic revelation became quiet for generations.

From Israel's perspective, it might have appeared that nothing was happening.

But God's promise remained.

A messenger was coming.

The Lord was coming.

Then one day a voice cried out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

John appeared.

Then Jesus appeared.

God had not forgotten.

God had not changed His plan.

God had not abandoned His promises.

He had been preparing everything according to His perfect timing.

Principle:

When God appears silent, keep obeying the last thing He clearly told you in His Word.

His promises have not expired.

XXIV. MALACHI AND THE MESSAGE OF THE ENTIRE OLD TESTAMENT

Malachi provides a fitting conclusion to the Old Testament.

The Old Testament began with creation.

Then came:

Sin.

Judgment.

Promise.

Covenant.

Sacrifice.

Priesthood.

Kings.

Prophets.

Exile.

Restoration.

Expectation.

But something remained unresolved.

Sin still existed.

Death still existed.

Israel still needed redemption.

The nations still needed salvation.

A perfect King had not yet appeared.

A final sacrifice had not yet been offered.

Then Malachi ends by telling Israel:

Prepare.

Someone is coming.

The New Testament begins by identifying Him:

Jesus Christ.

XXV. FROM MALACHI TO MATTHEW

The final pages of the Old Testament and the opening pages of the New Testament fit together beautifully.

Malachi Promises a Messenger

Matthew introduces John the Baptist.

Malachi Promises the Lord's Coming

Matthew announces Jesus Christ.

Malachi Calls for Repentance

John preaches:

“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Malachi Speaks of Judgment

John warns of coming judgment.

Malachi Speaks of Restoration

Jesus comes bringing salvation.

Key Truth

The New Testament does not begin a different story. It announces the fulfillment of the story God had already been telling.

XXVI. THE OLD TESTAMENT'S FINAL EXPECTATION

The final chapter of the Old Testament tells us to look forward.

Look for:

The messenger.

Look for:

The Lord.

Look for:

The day.

Look for:

The restoration.

Look for:

The King.

Then the New Testament opens and says:

The King has come.

John 20:31

These things have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life through His name.

This is the fulfillment toward which the Old Testament points.

XXVII. FINAL APPLICATION

Malachi began with God saying:

“I have loved you.”

Malachi ends with God warning of the coming Day of the Lord.

Love and holiness stand together.

God loves His people.

Therefore He calls them to repentance.

God is holy.

Therefore He will judge sin.

God is faithful.

Therefore His promises will be fulfilled.

God is merciful.

Therefore He sends a messenger before judgment.

God is gracious.

Therefore He offers restoration.

And God is sovereign.

Therefore history is moving toward His appointed conclusion.

The message of Malachi is not:

“Try harder to become religious.”

The message is:

Return to God.

Honor His name.

Give Him your best.

Walk faithfully.

Keep your covenant commitments.

Trust His justice.

Remember His Word.

Prepare your heart.

And look for the coming Lord.

For the wicked, His coming means judgment.

For those who fear His name, it means sunrise.

Healing.

Freedom.

Joy.

Vindication.

The Old Testament closes with anticipation.

And the New Testament opens with the answer:

Jesus Christ has come.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the message of Malachi.

Thank You that You are holy, righteous, faithful, merciful, and true.

Help us never forget that a day is coming when every person will stand before You.

Give us hearts that genuinely fear Your name.

Keep us from pride, rebellion, hypocrisy, and spiritual indifference.

Thank You for the promise of the Sun of Righteousness.

Thank You for sending Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, to bring salvation to those living in spiritual darkness.

Bring healing to the broken places in our lives.

Bring light into our darkness.

Bring freedom where sin has created bondage.

Teach us to remember Your Word.

Do not allow us to become distracted by speculation about the future while neglecting obedience in the present.

Help us read Your Word, believe Your Word, obey Your Word, and teach Your Word to the next generation.

Turn our hearts toward You.

Turn fathers toward their children.

Turn children toward their fathers.

Restore damaged relationships.

Strengthen families.

Renew churches.

Awaken those who have become spiritually cold.

Give us courage like Elijah.

Give us faithfulness like John the Baptist.

Help us speak truth clearly and prepare others to encounter Jesus Christ.

When You appear silent, keep us faithful.

When evil appears strong, remind us that its victory is temporary.

When obedience becomes difficult, remind us that the Sun will rise.

May we live every day prepared for the return of Jesus Christ.

And may our lives proclaim:

The Lord is coming.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“But for you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings. You shall go out and leap like calves released from the stall.” — Malachi 4:2

Central Truth

The coming Day of the Lord will bring judgment upon unrepentant wickedness, but healing, freedom, vindication, and joy to those who fear God's name and await His promised Messiah.

Malachi 4 in One Sentence

The Old Testament closes by calling God's people to remember His Word, turn their hearts back to Him, prepare for the promised messenger, and confidently await the coming Lord who will judge evil and bring healing to those who fear His name.

THE BOOK OF MALACHI IN ONE SENTENCE

The God who says, “I have loved you,” calls His covenant people away from careless worship, corrupt leadership, broken promises, spiritual cynicism, and unfaithfulness so they may return to Him, honor His name, and prepare for the coming Messiah and the great Day of the Lord.

FINAL MESSAGE OF MALACHI

God loves His people.

God deserves their best.

God requires faithfulness.

God does not change.

God calls sinners to return.

God remembers those who fear Him.

God will judge evil.

God will vindicate the righteous.

The messenger will come.

The Messiah will come.

Therefore—prepare the way of the Lord.