

**THE GREAT
DAY OF THE
LORD**

MALACHI 4:1-3

Malachi 4:1-3

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.

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.

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.

I. The Declaration of God's Judgment (4:1)

A. Judgment Day is clearly taught in scripture

2 Peter 3:10

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

B. It is a day that we should look for

2 Peter 3:12

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

I. The Declaration of God's Judgment (4:1)

C. It is a day that should be declared today

2 Peter 3:11

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

Revelation 1:3

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

II. The Description of the Judged (4:1, 3)

A. They will be characterized by pride (v 1)

1. Those that see no need for God

2 Corinthians 4:4

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

II. The Description of the Judged (4:1, 3)

A. They will be characterized by pride (v 1) - continued

2. Those that depend on their religious activity

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.

II. The Description of the Judged (4:1, 3)

A. They will be characterized by pride (v 1) - continued

3. Those that depend on self-righteousness

Romans 2:17-19

17 Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,

18 And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;

19 And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,

II. The Description of the Judged (4:1, 3)

B. They will be characterized by their wickedness (v 1)

1. Their natural wickedness

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

II. The Description of the Judged (4:1, 3)

B. They will be characterized by their wickedness (v 1)

2. The wickedness that continually grows

Romans 1:18-25

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

II. The Description of the Judged (4:1, 3)

B. They will be characterized by their wickedness (v 1)

2. The wickedness that continually grows

Romans 1:18-25 - continued

21 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.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

II. The Description of the Judged (4:1, 3)

B. They will be characterized by their wickedness (v 1)

2. The wickedness that continually grows

Romans 1:18-25 - continued

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

II. The Description of the Judged (4:1, 3)

C. They will be characterized by separation (v 3)

Matthew 13:41-43

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

- 1. A separation from the Lord forever**
- 2. A separation from Heaven forever**
- 3. A separation from love forever**

III. The Depiction of the Judgment (4:1)

A. It is associated with fire

1. It is eternal fire

Mark 9:43

And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

2. It is a tormenting fire

Luke 16:24

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

III. The Depiction of the Judgment (4:1)

B. It is associated with disappointment (v 1)

Isaiah 5:4

Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, *so* their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

- 1. Stubble is unusable**
- 2. Stubble is unprofitable**
- 3. Stubble is inferior**

III. The Depiction of the Judgment (4:1)

C. It is associated with finality and eternity

Luke 16:26

And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

ARE YOU
PREPARED?