

The Awesome Judgment of God (Malachi 3-4)

Understanding the End Times – Part 6

Life Church St. Louis – November 30, 2014

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Daniel 12:4 (NIV) But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

Daniel 12:9-10 (NIV) He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end. Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand."

1. Don't _____ God

Malachi 2:17 (NIV) You have wearied the LORD with your words. "How have we wearied him?" you ask. By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them" or "Where is the God of justice?"

1A. Don't speak _____ to God

Malachi 3:13-14 (NIV) "You have said harsh things against me," says the LORD. "Yet you ask, 'What have we said against you?' "You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty?"

1B. Don't _____ others

Malachi 3:15 (NIV) But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape."

2. God's _____ is coming

Malachi 3:1 (NIV) "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

2A. God's judgment will _____ the righteous

Malachi 3:2-3 (NIV) But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and

refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,

2B. God's judgment will _____ the wicked

Malachi 3:5 (NIV) "So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

3. _____ the Lord

Malachi 3:16 (NIV) Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.

3A. God will _____ between the righteous & the wicked

Malachi 3:18 (NIV) And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

3B. The wicked will be _____

Malachi 4:1 (NIV) "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them.

3C. The righteous will be _____

Malachi 4:2-3 (NIV) But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the LORD Almighty.

3D. Protect your _____

Malachi 4:5b-6 (NIV) "... before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

The Awesome Judgment of God (Malachi 3-4) Study Guide

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Intro. How has the increase of knowledge in the end times been good and bad (Daniel 12:4)?

In what ways does God's judgment both purify and punish (Daniel 12:9-10)?

What examples of God's judgment do you see in our country today?

1A. Why was God wearied over what the Israelites were saying (Malachi 2:17)?

1B. What was wrong with the harsh things the Israelites were saying against God (Malachi 3:13-14)?

1C. In what ways were the Israelites of Malachi's day accusing others, rather than examining themselves (Malachi 3:15, 2:14-16, 3:8-10)?

1D. How should we examine ourselves with regards to the Ferguson situation in St. Louis?

2A. Why does God not immediately judge sin and evil (Malachi 3:1)?

2B. In what ways can the judgment of God refine and purify the righteous (Malachi 3:2-3)?

2C. What types of wickedness does God's judgment punish (Malachi 3:5)?

2D. What should our attitude be when we see God's judgment (Luke 13:4-5)?

3A. What does it mean to fear the Lord (Malachi 3:16)? How is fearing the Lord different than what the other Israelites were doing?

3B. How does God's judgment make a distinction between the righteous and the wicked (Malachi 3:17-18)?

3C. Why is God's judgment likened to a burning furnace (Malachi 4:1)?

3D. How does God's judgment bring blessing to the righteous (Malachi 4:2-3)?

3E. Why are strong families necessary to avoid God's curse of judgment (Malachi 4:5-6)?

3F. How can you and Life Church be part of the solution for the issues the Ferguson situation has raised?