



# NEWS BULLETIN

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## **“The coming Day of the Lord” - Malachi Chapter 4 v 1-6**

*4<sup>1</sup> “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup> But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup> And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.*

*4<sup>4</sup> “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.*

*5<sup>5</sup> “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”*

Here we find the Old Testament coming to a close, not with a backward reminiscence of things that could have been, but with a great expectation for what will be revealed in the future.

Malachi is returning to the theme of the coming Day of the Lord when God will punish all evildoers. When sinners will be burned up the way fire eats up the stubble, they will become like ashes under the feet of the saints.

But true believers will see the dawning of a new day as the “Sun of Righteousness” rises (Luke Chapter 1 verses 78 & 79). Then Jesus will reign as King of Kings and His people will frolic like calves let out of their stalls. Christians play on the English phrase, sun of righteousness, which equates to son of righteousness, which equals Jesus Christ, the light of the world. (Luke Chapter 1 verse 78 and John Chapter 8 verse 12).

Christians are those who know that the true light is now shining and that the darkness cannot put it out (1 John Chapter 2 verse 8). God has elected to bring complete justice to pass only on the day of the Lord, when He will judge all wickedness and destroy it completely and utterly.

For the faithful, that will be a day of blessing. In it God will ultimately show He rules the world and everything in it.

The prophetic hope of a future day of the Lord involved both the expectation of a divine overthrow of evildoers and a vindication and rewarding of the righteous. Sometimes one, then the other, of these is emphasized. Here both are a given. The fire of judgement will fall on the arrogant and the evildoer for their destruction. Those who reverence God's name, however, will find that day to be a time of healing, victory and rejoicing. The main point is that both aspects of that day will be accomplished by the Lord Almighty Himself.

Malachi has been faithful as God's messenger, and he closes his book by reminding the people of two other faithful prophets, Moses and Elijah. The Law of Moses was still God's rule of life for the Jews, and if they obeyed, God would bless them. Of course, believers today aren't under the Law (Romans Chapter 6 v15 & Galatians Chapter 5 verses 1-4) but they still practice the righteousness of the law through the power of the indwelling Spirit of God (Romans chapter 8 verses 1-4).

The promise in Malachi chapter 4 verse 5 was often discussed and debated by the Jewish rabbis who asked, "who is this Elijah who the Lord will send?" The Jewish leaders interrogated John the Baptist about it (John Chapter 1 v 19-21) and Peter, James, and John asked Jesus about it (Matthew chapter 17 verse 10).

The prophet Elijah is mentioned at least 30 times in the New Testament, and 10 of those references relate him to John the Baptist. But John the Baptist said plainly that he was not Elijah (John Chapter 1 verses 21 – 25). He did come in the "spirit and power" of Elijah and turn the hearts of fathers and children (Luke Chapter 1 verses 16 & 17). Like Elijah, John was a courageous man, a man of prayer empowered by the Spirit, a man who lived alone in the wilderness, and a servant who turned many people back to the Lord; but he was not Elijah returned to earth.

Malachi chapter 4 verse 5 promises that Elijah himself will come and that his coming is related to the "Day of the Lord" that will burn the wicked like stubble. It is noticeable that the final word of the Old Testament tells of God striking the land with a curse.

As the New Testament draws to its conclusions we read "And there shall be no more curse" (Revelation Chapter 22 verse 3)

The prophetic books end with a reminder to the faithful to continue doing the Law, preserved as revelation in writing from its manifestation and deliverance at Horeb (Sinai) by God's messenger Moses. Law had become authoritative Scripture, the criteria for judging the faithfulness of God's people.

All of creation is eagerly awaiting the return of the Saviour, expecting Him to deliver creation from the bondage of sin (Romans Chapter 8 verses 18-23). We too should be expecting Him and, while we're waiting, witness of Him to others. For when the Sun of righteousness arises, it will mean either burning or blessing (Malachi Chapter 4 verses 1 & 2): blessing to those who have trusted Him, burning to those who have rejected Him.

Nobody can afford to argue with God the way the Israelites did when they heard Malachi, because God will always have the last word.

For us, here and now, will that last word be Salvation or Judgement?

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Transcript of the presentation given by Deacon Rodney Burge and discussed at the church-based, morning home group on Tuesday 24th February 2026. All scripture is from the ESV Translation.

