

**THE BOOK OF MALACHI –
“MESSENGERS OF THE LORD”**

Trinity Lutheran Church
Norman, OK.

Date: 7-14-19 Lesson: 18

Theme:

As messengers of the Lord:

-Then and now,

proclaim to each generation

The Law and The Gospel

- Properly distinguished - but boldly spoken



A. THE TEXT: (Malachi 4:3-4)

(1) "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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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) "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that **I commanded** him at Horeb for all Israel. (5) "Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet** before **the great and awesome day of the Lord** comes.

(6) 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.

B. STUDY GUIDE

1. The Day of the Lord is coming

(Ps 1:4; Is 1:31; 47:14; 66:15,16; Ezek 17:8,9; Dan 7:13; Joel 2:31;
Mt 3:10-12; 11:14; 25:41; Lk 3:17; Ac 2:20; 2 Th 1:7,8; 2 Pet 3:10)

2. The Sun of righteousness

(Ps. 63:7; 91:4; 118:27; 139:9; Is 9:2; 45:8 46:13; 53:5; 58:8; 60:1,19; Jer 30:17;
Mt 4:23; Lk 1:78,79; 13:34; Jn 1:4; 8:12; 9:5; 12:46; Eph 5:14; Rev 22:5)

3. Trample down the wicked

(Job 40:12; Ps 18:40-42; Is 63:2,3; Ezek 28:18)

4. Remember the Torah – God’s Word – the Law of Moses

(Ex 14:31; Dt 28:61; 34:5; Jdg 2:8; Ps 18; 147:19; Is 20:3; 41:8,9; 42:1
Mt 5:17; 7:12; Rom 2:13; 4:15; Gal 3:24)

5. Mt. Horeb is Mt. Sinai

(Ex 3:1; chapters 19,20; Dt. 4:9,10)

6. The new Elijah = John the Baptist

(1 Ki 2:1-12; 17:1; Mt 11:13,14; 16:14; 17:3,12,13; Mk 9:11-14)

7. The Great and Dreadful Day

(Is 13:9,10; 34:4; Joel 2:28-32; Mt 24:29; Acts 2:16-21;
Rev 6:12; 8:8,9; 9:1-19; 14:14-20; 16:4-9)

8. Turn the hearts of people

(Gen 18:19; Dt 7:9-11; 11:26; 13:15; Josh 6:17; 23:15; Is 11:4; Zech 5:3)
Lk 1:17; Rev 19:15)

C. LIFE APPLICATION:

How do we remember the law of God’s servant Moses, the statutes and rules that He commanded, as we wait for the Lord to trample down the wicked on Judgment Day?

D. LUTHER’S LECTURES ON MALACHI- Vol. 18, Page 417

“3. *You shall tread down the wicked.* There are always enemies of the church, tyrants or heretics or false brothers. Heretics keep the righteous busy, and they [the heretics] finally are reduced to nothing, to ashes, to dust, etc. “The faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.” The fire of Christ will reduce them to ashes. Therefore, you will tread them down easily. Yet, they first tread us down. But finally the wheel turns, and nothing grows from ashes.

4. *Remember the law of My servant Moses.* Malachi has now prophesied about the kingdom of Christ, but it has not yet come. He says: “In the meantime, be included under the Law until that Sun shines. The Law will last until the time of Him who will not come without first sending ahead His messenger, who will say that He is there. Therefore neither neglect Moses nor put him aside. He bears witness to you about Christ; he holds you back from evil. When the time comes for Me to free you, I will send you My messenger in the spirit and courage of Elijah, etc.”

This passage, then, is the closing of Holy Scripture, the end of the Old Testament. Here the prophet stops and waits for the messenger Elijah, who is John the Baptist, who is going to perform the function of Elijah, “to turn the hearts of fathers to their children.” Thus they will recognize the wisdom and faith of their fathers, they will all together be in harmony about Christ. They have already been separated into sects, as John discovered when he preached the baptism of repentance and saw the many Pharisees and Sadducees, etc., in short, that this one people had one heart, one faith, etc. The time of the Gospel is the day. All the rest is night and darkness, You see, Christ Himself is the Sun.”