

# Coming Day of the Lord

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*[Malachi 3:16 – 4:3] 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. 17 “On the day when I act,” says the Lord Almighty, “they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. 18 And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not. 4:1 “Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the Lord Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. 2 But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. 3 Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the Lord Almighty.*

In these words of the last Jewish prophet of the Old Testament, Malachi speaks about the two kinds of people; those who fear the Lord God and honor His name versus those who do not fear God and honor Him. In God’s eyes, there are only these two kinds of people. Do you respect and fear the Almighty God who is the Creator and rules over the whole universe? Or, do you ignore His power and sovereignty and live on with you in the center of your life? In these verses, Malachi speaks of how God intends to treat these two types of people in the Day of the Lord, that is, the last days that are approaching us.

First, Lord hears the dialogues of those who fear God and honor His name and has prepared a ‘book of remembrance concerning these people, whom He has chosen to be His children. God considers these children as His ‘treasured possession.’ Bible speaks about this book in several places. Only those whose names are written in this book, which is also called ‘the Lamb’s book of life,’ will have the privilege of being in the New Jerusalem, to spend eternity in the presence of God and His Son Jesus.

*[Revelation 21:26-27] The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.*

Lord Jesus spoke to His disciples that it is more important that their names are written, referring to the Book of Life in heaven, than their power over the enemies on earth. Are we sure that our names are written in the Book of Life in heaven? If we have been saved through the blood of the Lamb of God, we can be sure that our names are recorded in the Book of Life and that our eternal blessing is guaranteed.

*[Luke 10: 19-20] Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”*

Secondly, because He treasures the believing faithful children as His jewels, He will distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not during the last days. That is why Lord Jesus will come in the cloud and bring up the righteous people to take them to heaven. This is the great rapture event, which will be a marvelous harvest of God when Christ comes to wield His great sickle to reap the ripe harvest from the fruitful field of His church all over the world. Because the chosen elect will have been thus removed from the earth before the beginning of the Last Tribulation period, the raptured elect will be in heaven attending the Lamb’s wedding as His bride, thus they will be absent from the earth during the seven years when the unbelieving and wicked people will be subject to unspeakable disasters, torments, and tribulations because of their unbelief and wickedness.

Many people, including Christians, believe that all living humanity, believing or not, will be subject to the last days of tribulation. Malachi, however, makes it clear that it is not God’s intention. As clearly seen in verse 3:18, God will institute a clear distinction between the faithful and the unbelieving, between the righteous and the

wicked, so that the righteous elect will be removed from the earth during the awful period of last days tribulation, just as the King regards and spares His children from the vengeful wraths He imposes on the wicked people. That is why the children of God are often called 'the saved people,' saved from God's wrath of vengeance. The period of grace and mercy is still with all of us. I'd like to encourage all readers of this message to consider where you stand carefully and wisely choose to be on God's side so that you will also be spared from God's wrath in the last days.

Thirdly, God's wrath will be so terrible that *"All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire," says the Lord Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them [4:1]."* We are living in an evil world now, where wicked and evil people have taken hold of the political powers of many nations and they are not afraid of bringing diverse kinds of sins and wicked acts into the nations. They are not afraid of violating God-instituted values and morality in human lives. Instead, they have made as 'norms' of the society homosexuality, gender changes, sexual immorality, financial disorders, divorces, violence, destruction of human decency, violation of individual rights and freedom guaranteed in the Constitution including willful violation of freedom of speech and religion, violation of legal democratic processes and mechanisms that have been established during the past centuries. God will not relent or withhold His divine acts of retribution against these evil people out of His terrible wrath and vengeance. The saved elect will be watching the full display of the divine wrath from heaven during this period of the great tribulation.

*[Revelation 19:17-21] And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small." 19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. 20 But the beast was captured and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs, he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 21 The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.*

This will be the final victory day for the coming King of kings, but a very terrible day for those who rise against Lord Jesus. Whereas He died a cruel death on the cross of Calvary some 2,000 years ago at the hands of the sinners, He is coming soon as the great King of the whole world. This prophecy has been proclaimed by Lord Jesus Himself and in the Bible since long ago. May this message find you pondering over the meaning of your life in a sobering way. May God's gentle voice of persuasion find a positive response in your heart. And may you find the grace and mercy of God through the life-giving work of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*"Almighty God, our Father! Oh, how dreadful will be for the living souls on earth when You visit them with the long-withheld fury of wrath and indignation on the terrible Day of the Lord! We are thankful that many souls have found peace and salvation in Your kingdom through the sacrifice of Your Lamb. May the Holy Spirit continue working in the hearts of those who are still hesitating in unbelief and doubt. May Your gentle tugging bring them to Your fold while there is time. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

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