

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11-15

5. Thank God for his _____ to us even when we are _____ to him.

"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. Malachi 3:6 (ESV)

if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. 2 Timothy 2:13 (ESV)

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. **Read Mark 1:1-15; Matthew 11:25; Malachi 2:17-3:1.** How do Mark and Matthew parallel Malachi? How does knowing Malachi wrote over 400 years before the events in Matthew and Mark change the way you think about God and his control of our life?
2. **Read Jeremiah 31:31; Luke 22:19-20; Hebrews 8:1-13.** The Messiah is called the Messenger (angel) of the covenant. The Messiah came to make a new covenant. How is the old covenant Jesus set in place on Mt. Sinai with Moses similar, yet different, from the new covenant Jesus set in place on the cross? Why does the new covenant make the old covenant obsolete?
3. **Read Ezekiel 33:11; 1 Timothy 2:4; Psalm 86:15; Romans 2:4; Romans 9:22..** Why does God delay His judgment against sin? According to Romans 9:22, can we be sure Jesus will hand out final justice?



Malachi 2:17-3:6 – Where Is The God Of Justice?

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1. Where is God's _____ ?

You have wearied the Lord with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?" Malachi 2:17 (ESV)

- Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delights in them.
- Where is the God of justice?

1. They didn't see suffering as a _____ of sin.

2. They didn't realize _____ judgment for sin is different than _____ judgment of sin.

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. Hebrews 12:6 (ESV)

Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches. All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.... For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. Psalm 73:12, 27 (ESV)

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward

you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 2 Peter 3:8–9 (ESV)

2. The answer to all injustice is _____.

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:1 (ESV)

- Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me.

For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Matthew 3:3–4 (ESV)

- The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.
- The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, his is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

3. Jesus came the first time to _____ His people.

But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Malachi 3:2–4 (ESV)

“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves. “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ You blind fools! For which is

greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? Matthew 23:13–17 (ESV)

Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:9–11 (ESV)

4. Jesus will come the second time to _____ people.

“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:5 (ESV)

- Sorcerers
- Adulterers
- Swear Falsely
- Oppress the hired worker in their wages
- Oppressing the widow and fatherless
- Those who thrust aside the sojourner

First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:3-9