

Sunday March 23rd 2014
Malachi – God’s Messenger
Part Eighteen

1). Mal 3:18 *Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him. 4:1 ¶ "For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.*

a). As the Book of Malachi draws to a close the focus of the Prophet is upon the judgment that awaits the nation of Israel yet future within the context of the judgment of the Gentile nations under Antichrist, during that which we call the Great Tribulation.

b). This is the time also known as the time of Jacob’s trouble spoken of in Jeremiah – a unparalleled time of persecution and brutality such as Israel throughout all the centuries of persecutions and pogroms, from their days in Egypt to the holocaust, has never experienced before - Da 7:25 *He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.*

c). Despite the horror of it, we must see in it the love that God has for Jacob, as it is only through this intensity of trial that the nation as a whole is brought to the place where they will cry out to the God of their fathers, just as they did in Egypt, and repent of their history of unbelief and disobedience.

d). And at the same time, as we have seen prophetically in Malachi, - Mal 1:2 *"I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved; 3 But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness."*

God will not let the Gentile nations escape their responsibility in the persecution of His son.

e). Isa 51:17 ¶ *Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem, You who have drunk at the hand of the LORD The cup of His fury; You have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling, And drained it out. 18 There is no one to guide her Among all the sons she has brought forth; Nor is there any who takes her by the hand Among*

all the sons she has brought up. 19 These two things have come to you; Who will be sorry for you? -Desolation and destruction, famine and sword-By whom will I comfort you? 20 Your sons have fainted, They lie at the head of all the streets, Like an antelope in a net; They are full of the fury of the LORD, The rebuke of your God. 21 Therefore please hear this, you afflicted, And drunk but not with wine. 22 Thus says your Lord, The LORD and your God, Who pleads the cause of His people: "See, I have taken out of your hand The cup of trembling, The dregs of the cup of My fury; You shall no longer drink it. 23 But I will put it into the hand of those who afflict you, Who have said to you, 'Lie down, that we may walk over you.' And you have laid your body like the ground, And as the street, for those who walk over."

f). That which God had promised to Abraham has remained in effect and will continue to be so throughout the Tribulation - *Ge 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

g). Those who 'curse' Israel, the Gentile nations, just as we read in Isaiah 51, will also drink from the cup of trembling and the cup of the Lord's fury and will themselves experience a time of destruction unprecedented in human history - *Mt 24:21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.*

h). So intense will this time of 'great tribulation' be that God in His sovereignty will literally compress the days by making the earth spin significantly more quickly so that day and night will no longer take 24 hours, but a much shorter time.

2). Now, as we had said last week, although God's dealings with Israel and the Gentile nations during the tribulation have no direct impact on eternally saved Christians, what happens during this time cannot be separated from the events involving eternally saved Christians at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

a). And this has to be the case because we are dealing here, through the Tribulation, with the outworking of God's purpose for creating Man as seen in *Ge 1:26 ¶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

And the outworking of this same purpose through the promise given to Abraham concerning both the heavenly and earthly realms of the Kingdom – Ge 22:17 *"blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

b). And in order to piece this together we can go back into foundation to the Book of Ruth - Ru 3:8 *Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. 9 And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative." 10 Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. 11 "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. 12 "Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13 "Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you-good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning."*

c). Ruth we will remember typifies the faithful Christian and her appearance on Boaz's threshing floor at midnight pictures the faithful Christian's appearance at Christ's Judgment Seat – and the reason Ruth is there is the same reason that the faithful Christian will be at the Judgment Seat – it is for the redemption of the inheritance.

d). We will note from the Book of Ruth that Ruth returns to the city in order to wait as Boaz goes to redeem the inheritance for her - Ru 4:1 ¶ *Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down. 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.....7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel. 8 Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal. 9 ¶ And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. 10 "Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to*

perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day."

That which we see here prefigures the scene that will yet take place in the throne room of God following the judgment of all Christians at the Judgment Seat; at a time when the Bride has now been revealed for God's Son, the Bride for whom the inheritance is to be redeemed; a scene recorded for us prophetically in the Revelation in Chapters 4 - 6 – Re 4:1 ¶ *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.....5:1 ¶ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. 4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." 6 ¶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.....Re 6:1 ¶ Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals;.....*

e). And as we know the opening of the first seal begins the time known as the Tribulation with the opening of the remaining seals showing the judgments upon those on the earth, both Jew and Gentile that will bring the Tribulation to a close, that will bring about the complete overthrow of satanic Gentile world power on the earth and the overthrow of satanic rule from the heavens.

f). The opening of the seals of the 7 sealed scroll can also be seen as the opening of one of God's books, in this case with the judgments revealed there also setting out the terms for the redemption of the inheritance that is for the Bride.

g). And clearly from this we will see that there is an unspecified amount of time from the resurrection/rapture of the 'Church' before the Tribulation begins at the time of the signing of the treaty by Antichrist and many in Israel

Da 9:27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

Re 6:2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. 3 ¶ When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." 4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

3). Now as we see from our verse from Daniel the Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel at the mid-point of the 7 year Tribulation – this is the event referred to in - 2Th 2:3 ¶ *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

a). And if we return to Daniel, this time to Chapter 12, we shall see something very interesting concerning this - Da 12:11 *"And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. 12 "Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. 13 "But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."*

b). The Jewish calendar is calculated in years of 360 day duration, and so 3 ½ years, the second half of the Tribulation which begins with the breaking of the covenant with Israel, must consist of 1260 days – the Tribulation being divided into 2 equal halves - Now we read in Daniel 12:11 about a period of time of 1290 days beyond the mid-point of the Tribulation, which takes us 30 days beyond the end of the Tribulation.

c). And then in v12 we find, 'blessed is he' who comes to 1335 days beyond the mid-point of the Tribulation. This adds another 45 days beyond the original 30 giving us a 75 day period beyond the end of the Tribulation, but before the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom.

d). And we see in v13 that Daniel shall be resurrected to his inheritance, 'at the end of the days' – referring to the 1335 days - So as Daniel will be

raised at the same time as all the other OT saints we will realize that this resurrection must take place towards the end of the additional 75 days – And this of course is pictured in the Feast of Firstfruits that we had looked at last week in conjunction with the fulfillment of Israel's prophetic calendar set out in the 7 Feasts given by God to the nation through Moses recorded in Leviticus Chapter 23.

e). We can note then that the 6 feasts, Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, that will complete Israel's redemption and restoration will find themselves within the duration of the 75 days beyond the end of the Tribulation.

f). And the one 'who waits and comes' to the 1335th day will be blessed, because he will be the one re-gathered to the land, remember the Day of Atonement takes place in the land, in preparation for rulership in the Kingdom of Christ - Isa 27:13 *So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, And they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, And shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.*

g). If the one who comes to the 1335th day is blessed, then the one who doesn't come to that day isn't blessed – and this must refer to that which takes place following the resurrection of all the OT saints on the Feast of Firstfruits.

h). Going back to where we started this morning in - Malachi 3:18 *Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.*

We would see that the separation that has always existed between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him will become apparent at this time with respect to receiving or not receiving an inheritance in the coming Kingdom.

i). For those OT saints who have not served the Lord, such as those we have seen through their complaining and treachery in Malachi, along with the first generation to come out of Egypt, except Joshua and Caleb, and the scribes and Pharisees of the Lord's first advent – to name but a few – they will be found unworthy before the Lord and will be denied an inheritance in the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and as a consequence they will not return to the land to participate in the events of the Day of Atonement, having no place in the earthly realm of the Millennial Kingdom – just as we have seen in - Joh 5:28 *"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 "and come forth--those who have done good,*

to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

j). And according to Malachi 4:1 those who are raised to the resurrection of condemnation will be left neither root nor branch, something we can also see in - Isa 5:24 *Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, So their root will be as rottenness, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.*

So then, with respect to God's purpose for Israel to be 'a kingdom of priests, a holy nation' during the Millennium there will be no trace of those who 'have rejected the law of the Lord and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel'.

4). Malachi 4:1 ¶ *"For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.*

a). Now we have just seen this verse in relation to those unfaithful OT saints raised in the resurrection to condemnation, but this verse also has a dual aspect dealing with both the unfaithful, resurrected Jew and with the overthrown Gentile nations - Ob 1:17 ¶ *"But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, And there shall be holiness; The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. 18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau," For the LORD has spoken.*

b). This may be a literal truth for the house of Esau, but it does not teach us that there will be no Gentile survivors of the Tribulation, rather than this we should see this with regards to Gentile world power, which will have been completely obliterated at this time and will not exert itself in the earth ever again. This we might remember is the very thing we had looked at last week in the destruction of the great image recorded in -Da 2:34 *"You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*

c). The image in the dream here was seen standing in Babylon picturing 4 forms of an earthly kingdom that would have its power base in Babylon – the final form of this kingdom will be the world wide kingdom of Antichrist, who himself will come out of the area covered by the old Assyrian empire – Isa 14:25 *That I will break the Assyrian in My land, And on My mountains tread him underfoot. Then his yoke shall be removed from them, And his burden removed from their shoulders.*

d). But this kingdom, as we see in Daniel, will be completely destroyed along with all traces of Gentile power that has existed during the times of the Gentiles - Mic 5:6 *They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, And the land of Nimrod at its entrances; Thus He shall deliver us from the Assyrian, When he comes into our land And when he treads within our borders.*

e). And here in Micah, talking of exactly the same event, we see the inevitable connection with the foundational type for Antichrist, Nimrod.

5). Mal 4:2 *But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. 3 You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this," Says the LORD of hosts.*

a). Malachi then provides further commentary on the verses at the end of Chapter 3 and the beginning of Chapter 4 in Chapter 4 v2-3 where a distinct contrast is made between the events at the end of the Tribulation on what will then be repentant Israel, unfaithful resurrected Jews and the overthrown Gentile nations.

b). Again in these verses the timeframe would take us to the end of the Tribulation when the Lord returns to the earth, through the 75 days following the end of the Tribulation, which will include the resurrection of all the OT saints, and into the Millennial Kingdom.

c). We have seen in Malachi 4:1 imagery that speaks of this time 'burning like an oven' and being a time when the wicked will be 'burned up' like stubble and in v3 we see the wicked, continuing the imagery of burning, being seen as ashes under the soles of the feet of faithful Israel.

d). In Daniel Chapter 2 the events that take place in this timeframe are described by the rock striking the image and destroying it, then becoming a mountain that fills the whole earth – The 'rock' would of course be a metaphor for the Lord and in the same way the 'Sun of Righteousness' is also a metaphor for the Lord – both descriptions describe the same events and the same

person, but just using different imagery to create a more comprehensive picture.

e). When 'The Sun of Righteousness' will arise this event will produce 2 diametrically opposed outcomes – for those who fear the Lord there will be healing in His wings – healing from the centuries of unbelief and disobedience. For those who fear the Lord this will be a time of repentance and restoration and rejoicing in the antitype of that seen in - Ge 45:4 *And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.....14 Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. 15 Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.*

f). And the health and prosperity that will come to the nation because of this is presented through the analogy of growing 'fat like stall fed calves' – Isa 4:2 ¶ *In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing For those of Israel who have escaped.*

g). But for the resurrected, unfaithful Jew and the overthrown Gentile nations this same rising of The Sun of Righteousness within the timeframe we have previously determined, brings only calamity and destruction – Isa 17:9 ¶ *In that day his strong cities will be as a forsaken bough And an uppermost branch, Which they left because of the children of Israel; And there will be desolation. 10 Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation, And have not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold, Therefore you will plant pleasant plants And set out foreign seedlings; 11 In the day you will make your plant to grow, And in the morning you will make your seed to flourish; But the harvest will be a heap of ruins In the day of grief and desperate sorrow.*

Isa 24:21 *It shall come to pass in that day That the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, And on the earth the kings of the earth. 22 They will be gathered together, As prisoners are gathered in the pit, And will be shut up in the prison; After many days they will be punished. 23 Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed; For the LORD of hosts will reign On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem And before His elders, gloriously.*

h). In that day when The Sun of Righteousness shall arise the plans and schemes and lives of the unfaithful and disobedient, along with the power of the Gentiles and the power from the heavens will be so completely destroyed

that they are pictured as no more than ashes under the feet of the faithful – gone completely, never to return.

i). And then within the context of the certainty of that day is the prophetic promise that brings our Book of Malachi to a close –
Mal 4:4 ¶ *"Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."*

j). But this will have to wait until next time - if the Lord is willing.