

Sunday April 6th
Malachi – God’s Messenger
Part Twenty

1). Mal 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. 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). We had seen last week that our verses here from Malachi Chapter 4 take us all the way from Christ’s return to the earth at the end of the Tribulation through to, and into the Millennial Kingdom – The day that is coming when The Sun of Righteousness will arise speaks of the period of time from Christ’s return to the earth through the events that lead into the Millennial Kingdom – events in which we see the wicked being burned up like stubble and being trampled as ashes under the feet of repentant and restored Israel.

b). These are events of course that relate specifically to the Jewish people, bringing them to repentance that they may be restored so as to fulfill their God given role within the purpose of God for creating Man – rulership over the earth.

c). And in order to understand these events, particularly with regards to their sequencing, we had started last week to put together a time chart that will lay all of this out for us.

d). And we had begun last week by setting the context for that which we see in Malachi Chapter 4 by looking at events touching on this present dispensation as well as the events of the Judgment Seat of Christ, leading up to and including the opening of the 1st seal of the 7 sealed scroll, the beginning of the period of time we know as the Tribulation – so as we begin today we will spend a short time in review of that which we had looked at last week –

2). Section B

We can now move on to our next section of time –

Section B

Opening of 1st
Seal

1260 Days

1260 Days

End of
Tribulation

This now takes us from the opening of the 1st seal, marking the beginning of the Tribulation, through to the end of the Tribulation when Christ will return to the earth.

a). This whole period of time that we know as the Tribulation is the time when judgment is brought upon Israel for her centuries of unbelief and disobedience which culminated in the crucifixion of her Messiah –

- It is also the period of time when destruction is wrought upon the world wide kingdom of Antichrist because of his persecution of the Jewish people, leading to the complete overthrow of Gentile world power, bringing the Times of the Gentiles to an end –
- And it is also the period of time which brings about the redemption of the inheritance for the previously revealed Bride, through the events that take place upon the earth.

b). In history Boaz redeems the inheritance for Ruth by taking the sandal from the closer relative and buying that which belonged to Elimelech, Chilion and Mahlon from the hand of Naomi, all of which happens in a very short period of time – in the fulfillment of prophecy however, that pictured through Boaz redeeming the inheritance takes place over the 7 years of the Tribulation, with the greater focus being on the last half of the Tribulation.

c). A complete panorama for this is given to us in –

Da 9:24 *"Seventy weeks [literally 70 sevens = 490 years] are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. [there is then a specific period of time that is given that concludes with the anointing of 'the Most Holy' – the Kingdom of Christ] 25 "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. [this specific period of time begins with the command to restore and build Jerusalem –*

Ne 2:1 ¶ And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. 2 Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid, 3 and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?" 4 Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has

found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it." 6 Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.,] 26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; [the 7 weeks and the 62 weeks giving us 69 weeks = 483 years takes us to Messiah's first advent and crucifixion – leaving 1 week – 7 years of the 70 weeks yet to be completed] – [The remainder of this verse now takes us to the middle of the Tribulation] And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. [V27 then gives us commentary on v26] 27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; [This is the 70th week – the final 7 years – and takes us to the beginning of the Tribulation] But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. [This is the mid-point in the Tribulation after 1260 days] 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."

c). As we know the Tribulation begins with the opening of the 1st seal – Re 6:1 ¶ Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." 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.

d). An event in the heavens that corresponds with the confirmation of a covenant with many in Israel for 1 week.

e). The first half of the Tribulation – 3 ½ years or 1260 days sees Antichrist operating after this fashion - Da 11:21 ¶ And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. KJV

f). This is Antichrist the 'man of peace', the persuasive orator who uses his skills to smooth talk his way towards a world-wide kingdom – the kingdom that fulfills the 4th part of the image in Daniel, the last of the 4 Babylonian kingdoms.

g). But all is not happy, clappy throughout these 1260 days – Re 11:3 ¶ "And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6

These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

h). These 2 witnesses then, who we will look at in detail in a later study, minister in the streets of Jerusalem and the surrounding area for 1260 days, for the 1st half of the Tribulation.

i). They are given supernatural protection and supernatural powers 'to strike the earth with all plagues as often as they desire.'

j). And it is as a direct result of their ministry during this time that we see the conversion of 144000 Jews –

Re 12:1 ¶ Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

Re 7:1 ¶ After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

k). So then 14400 Jews are 'sealed' having been converted through the ministry of the 2 witnesses and there is a sequence of events that take place immediately before the mid-point in the Tribulation, at the mid-point and immediately after the mid-point that we need to give some attention to, keeping in mind the 2 witnesses, the 144000 and that which we read in Revelation 12:1-5 concerning the fiery red dragon.

l). Let's first deal with the 2 witnesses - *Re 11:7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where*

also our Lord was crucified. 9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and -a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. 11 Now after the three-and -a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

m). Now let's deal with the dragon - Re 12:6 *Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. 7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 12 ¶ "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." 13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.*

n). As a result of Satan and his angels being cast to the earth we find this happening - Re 13:1 ¶ *Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. 12 ¶ "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." 13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.*

o). And it would seem that this triggers the events that we see at the midpoint in the Tribulation - 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.

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. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

Re 6:3 ¶ 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. 5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine." 7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." 8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth. 9 ¶ When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed. 12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. 15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on

the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Mr 13:14 ¶ "So when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house. 16 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 17 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 18 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter. 19 "For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. 20 "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

o). We now enter into the final half of the Tribulation, the period of time known as 'The Great Tribulation' – We shall though pick this up next week – if the Lord is willing.