

Sunday May 11th 2014
Malachi - God's Messenger
Part Twenty Three

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). God's purpose for Man as a whole must be seen within the context of His purpose for Israel as a nation and as we have seen over and over God's purpose – Man ruling over the earth in the stead of Satan - is to be accomplished at a time yet future with the establishment of Christ's Millennial Kingdom with Christ and His co-heirs ruling from the heavens and Christ and Israel ruling on the earth.

b). And we have also seen that the establishment of Christ's Millennial Kingdom must be preceded by a period of time that is described in Chapter 4 of Malachi as, 'Burning like an oven', a time when Israel is brought to a place of national repentance followed by the complete destruction of Gentile world power under the last king of Babylon, the Antichrist.

c). This period of time we know as the Tribulation, Daniel's 70th week, the time of Jacob's trouble, the redemption of the inheritance – an unprecedented time of destruction and devastation upon the earth just as we see recorded in – Jer 30:7 *Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.*

Mr 13:19 *"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.*

d). This time of tribulation such as there has never been before and will never be again is the same event recorded in the Revelation with the opening

of the 7 seals of the 7 sealed scroll; the same events that have been foreshadowed for us in great detail in the OT types over and over again.

e). So, as we begin today let's spend some time reviewing the details we had set in place from the OT types before moving on to the conclusion of the matter.

2). Now, as we have seen, the complete panorama of the events to take place during the Tribulation is given to us through the opening of the first 4 seals of the 7 sealed scroll revealing the progression of these events moving from the white horse to the pale horse.

a). The opening of the final 3 seals of the scroll then provide for us commentary and additional detail on the previous 4 and as we consider this we will realize that the opening of the 7 seals can be divided into 2 parts – the first 4 and the last 3. And this of course is done quite deliberately to teach significant truth through the use of the numbers.

b). 4 is the number associated with the earth as we can see here from - 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.*

c). And we will remember that it is on the 4th day that the restoration of the earth is completed in the account in Genesis Chapter 1.

d). Now 3, as we know, is God's number of Divine perfection, witnessed in the Trinity – So, to put these 2 sets of numbers together we can see in the opening of the 7 seals God's perfect and complete dealings with the earth with respect to the fulfillment of His purpose.

e). And we might also see in the 4 and the 3 God's Divine intervention into the affairs of Man – something denied by the scoffers of these last days.

e). Then this same truth taught through the numbers 7 and 3 is presented again from a slightly different perspective as a consequence of the opening of the 7th seal.

3). Re 8:1 ¶ *When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.....7 ¶ The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.*

Re 15:1 ¶ *Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.
.....7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. 8 The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.*

a). The opening of the 7th seal produces 'silence in heaven for about half an hour' – Now, no reason for the silence is given and the time frame may or may not be literal, but it would be safe to say that the silence in heaven brings focus to the fact that the wrath of God is about to be complete thereby bringing Israel to the place of repentance and the kingdom of Antichrist to utter devastation, bringing an end to the Tribulation the days having been shortened.

b). As we have previously noted the opening of the 7th seal provides commentary on that revealed through the opening of the first 4 seals, and providing additional detail to that given with the opening of seals 5 and 6 and particularly with respect to the 6th seal.

c). Within this context then the sounding of the 7 trumpets and the pouring out of the 7 bowls that come with the opening of the 7th seal do not present new judgments, but more detail on those that have been concurrently and progressively taking place over the 7 years of the Tribulation – from the white horse to the pale horse.

d). And as we put all this together we will realize that we have 7 seals, 7 trumpets and 7 bowls – 3 sets of 7 relating to God's judgment upon unbelieving Israel and the Gentile nations who have come against Israel.

e). 7 is a number of completion showing completion of that which is view, in this case judgment, and 3 of course gives us Divine perfection – and so we can see in this the complete and Divinely perfect Judgment of God – that which has been necessary, and never needs to be repeated or added to, to bring His purpose for the ages to conclusion - Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

f). The completion of God's Judgment is that which brings the time of Jacob's trouble to an end and causes the people of Israel to cry out to the God of their fathers for deliverance. A crying out that brings about the fulfillment

of that promised in - 2Ch 7:13 *"When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 14 "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

And that seen in - Zec 10:6 *"I will strengthen the house of Judah, And I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back, Because I have mercy on them. They shall be as though I had not cast them aside; For I am the LORD their God, And I will hear them.*

g). We might like to note from our verses in 2 Chronicles that there are 4 things Israel must do – humble themselves, pray, seek God’s face and turn from their wicked ways – all things denoting turning away from the flesh, from the things of this world – and in doing so God’s response to them is then threefold – he will hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land. Mal 3:7 ¶ *Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," Says the LORD of hosts.*

h). Then, as we have noted in previous studies, Israel’s experience during the Tribulation is the antitype of that seen in Israel’s experience in Egypt during the days of Moses - Ex 3:7 ¶ *And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.*

i). The Book of Exodus is the OT type, the OT picture, foreshadowing that presented with respect to Israel in the Book of the Revelation – so let’s draw a visual comparison between the two that will make this very obvious -

4). So then, at the conclusion of the Judgments contained within the 7 sealed scroll Christ will return to the earth ultimately bringing the Tribulation to an end - Re 19:11 ¶ *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16*

And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

a). Here then, at the conclusion of the Tribulation, we have a scene reminiscent of its beginning – at the beginning we saw a crowned individual, riding a white horse, who goes forth ‘conquering and to conquer’ and here at the conclusion we see another crowned individual, riding a white horse, who is seen going forth in order to accomplish the same end goal – but these 2 riders are diametrically opposed to one another.

b). The first is from below, coming from the earth with the purpose of conquering the earth, and his ride takes place before the redemption of the inheritance when the inheritance is still under Satan’s control and within his dominion, still belonging to him as the god of this age.

c). The second Rider is from above, riding forth from an opened heaven to the earth and His purpose is to take possession of the inheritance that is about to be fully redeemed, the inheritance that is still under Satan’s dominion, but no longer belonging to him, an inheritance that is about to be taken from him.

d). And we might remember here that all we see with respect to Satan, Christ and the inheritance was foreshadowed in the type, in the picture given, through the account of Saul and David, in I and II Samuel.

5). Now before we follow Christ’s return to the earth to its complete conclusion there is an event recorded in Revelation Chapter 19 that precedes Christ’s return that we need to pay attention to - Re 19:1 ¶ *After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! 2 "For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." 3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" 5 ¶ Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" 6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife [lit. Bride] has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the*

righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

a). That which we see here in v1-6 refers to the outcome of the opening of the 7 seals – ‘the great harlot’, Israel, has been judged and brought to the place of repentance, that which is absolutely necessary for God’s purpose to be fulfilled, and as a consequence Christ is about to ride forth out of heaven to conclude the matter.

b). But before He does the ‘marriage supper of the Lamb’ first takes place in the heavens.

c). The Bride of Christ had previously been revealed through the events at the Judgment Seat of Christ recorded in Revelation Chapters 2-3. The Bride having been revealed, Christ, in the antitype of Boaz, then sets about redeeming the inheritance which is detailed through the events proceeding from the opening of the 7 sealed scroll.

d). Now we must be careful to note that what we see here in Chapter 19 of the Revelation are festivities in anticipation of the marriage, not the marriage itself. Those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb are blessed for they will be the ones having been revealed at the Judgment Seat as faithful who will become Christ’s Wife for the purpose of rulership.

e). Again, if we follow the type given through Boaz’s dealings with Ruth, we will remember that Ruth becomes Boaz’s wife as a result of the legal transaction of redeeming the inheritance belonging to Elimelech –
Ru 4:9 ¶ *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."*

f). Ruth is not present when she becomes Boaz’s wife, nor is there any ceremony such as we would come to expect in the West today; and such must also be the case in the antitype with respect to Christ and His Bride.

g). The marriage supper of the Lamb is a celebration of that which is about to happen, which has been precipitated by Israel’s repentance – following this marriage supper, Christ then returns to the earth to bring to conclusion the redemption of the inheritance while His Bride remains in the New Jerusalem. At the moment the inheritance is fully redeemed, the Bride, by

legal transaction, will become Christ's Wife for the purpose of rulership – she does not return with Him and is not present when this happens. This is simply the way things are put in the scriptures.

h). Following Christ's return to the earth and the re-gathering of the remnant of Israel from the nations there will be other wedding festivities on the earth with respect to Israel.

i). As a result of Israel's past harlotry God the Father, who had taken Israel as His wife, divorced her - Jer 3:8 *"Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce;*

j). As there had been a divorce there must of necessity be a re-marriage and in connection with this marriage there will be festivities – and these festivities are the subject of the first sign given in the Gospel of John following a sequence of 4 preceding days - Joh 2:1 ¶ *On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.....11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.*

k). We also find, at the conclusion of the 75 day period following the end of the Tribulation another 'supper' – this being 'the great supper of God' – a supper that has nothing at all to do with marriage, but everything to do with the final overthrow and complete destruction of Gentile world power under the Antichrist - Re 19:17 *Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the great supper of God, 18 "that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." 19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

l). However, a full explanation of all this will have to wait until next time – if the Lord is willing.

OT Type

Exodus

Future Fulfillment

Revelation

Israel in Bondage in Egypt _____

**Israel in Bondage in the
Gentile Nations**

**Israel persecuted by the
Assyrian Pharaoh** _____

**Israel persecuted by the
Assyrian Antichrist**

Israel cries out to God _____

Israel cries out to God

A Deliverer is Sent _____

A Deliverer is Sent

**The kingdom of Pharaoh is
Devastated by 10 Plagues** _____

**The kingdom of Antichrist is
Devastated By the Judgments
of the 7 Seals**

Israel is removed from Egypt _____

**Israel is removed from the
Gentile Nations**

**The Power of Egypt is Destroyed
in the Red Sea** _____

**Gentile World Power is
Destroyed At the
Battle of Armageddon**

