

Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup> 2014  
Malachi – God’s Messenger  
Part Twenty Six

1). 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."*

a). We had seen last week how Moses and Elijah had been present at very significant events as recorded in the gospels and the Book of Acts – We had seen them both present on the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew Chapter 17, we had seen them present at the tomb on the day of the Lord’s resurrection in Luke Chapter 24 and again at the Lord’s ascension in Acts Chapter 1 – And all these events have as their focus the 3<sup>rd</sup> Day/7<sup>th</sup> Day; Israel and the theocracy, Israel and the coming Kingdom of Christ.

b). And we would realize from this that the focus – the coming 7<sup>th</sup> Day, is the point to which all scripture moves and therefore it is entirely appropriate, if not even inevitable, that we should find the representatives of the Law and the prophets, the whole of scripture, present with the One of whom the whole of scripture speaks, the One who is the Word of God made flesh, at significant events related to the 7<sup>th</sup> Day and His coming Kingdom.

c). This may be very obvious, but let’s remember that the whole of scripture begins in Genesis [written by Moses] with a creation, a ruin of that creation and a restoration of that same creation which takes us through 6 days of work followed by a 7<sup>th</sup> day of rest, providing a skeletal framework upon which all subsequent scripture builds – and as we remember this let’s also remember God’s own commentary on His creation and subsequent restoration, part of the flesh added to the skeleton, that we find recorded in - Joh 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 ¶ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

d). With further commentary, more flesh to put on the bone, added in - 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. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

e). Simply put then, the creation of the heavens and the earth has to do with rulership, with visible and invisible thrones, dominions, principalities and powers and the restoration of the ruined creation can only have to do with rulership as well – something made very plain in - Da 4:17 *'This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.'*

f). God's purpose and God's plan with respect to rulership, which has always been by, through and for His Son, is the very content of the scriptures as set out by the hands of Moses and the prophets through the use of types and signs and word pictures, all pointing to the Christ and to His Theocratic Kingdom which will be established on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day, the 7<sup>th</sup> period of 1000 years beyond the creation of Adam.

g). This is why Moses and Elijah figure so prominently with regards to both history and prophecy and why they, above all others, would be present at the significant events leading up to the establishment of Christ's Kingdom – which is God's purpose with respect to rulership, to which the whole of scripture moves.

h). These 2 individuals, Moses and Elijah, in history had pivotal roles in God's purpose for His people Israel within the context of the Theocratic Kingdom with both of their roles speaking to that which will befall Israel and the nations yet future as Man's Day comes to a close and the anticipated Kingdom is ushered in.

i). Moses we will remember is the one God uses to bring His people out of the bondage of Egypt in order to establish them by covenant and take them to the land of their inheritance, the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob within a Theocracy, with a Tabernacle and the Glory; and for this to be brought to pass Moses has to confront the most powerful and brutal Gentile ruler of his day, the Assyrian Pharaoh. A confrontation that he is empowered to conduct through the use of supernatural signs – Ex 7:19 *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood*

*throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone." 20 And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.*

j). And Elijah is used of the Lord to turn the entire Jewish nation from unbelief to belief during some of the darkest days of Jewish history when the hearts of the people had been turned away from the prophets of God to the worship of Baal within a divided kingdom, and Elijah accomplishes this through his empowerment to perform supernatural signs - 1Ki 18:36 *And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. 37 "Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again." 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"*

k). And the conditions that brought about the ministry of both these men in history picture for us the conditions that will exist with respect to Israel and the nations during the time of the completion of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week in prophecy – 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.* Events that will quite literally bring us to the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, the Theocratic Kingdom, the 7<sup>th</sup> Day, established in the heavens and on the earth just as it is set out in foundation in the first chapter of Genesis – just as we pray for in Matthew Chapter 6.

2). Now we had seen last time, by comparing scripture with scripture, that the 2 witnesses seen in Revelation Chapter 11 who prophecy in Israel during the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation are in fact Moses and Elijah - 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. 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.*

a). We find them here at a time just prior to the Jews in Israel being killed or sold as slaves when the nation will find itself persecuted out amongst the Gentile nations in the antitype of that seen in Egypt, described here in – Lu 21:23 *"But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

b). This is a time when many in Israel will have made a covenant with the Antichrist, a precursor to what will be the darkest days of Jewish history – and the ministry of Moses and Elijah during this time must be with a view to a twofold purpose, just as in the types – to turn Israel back to the God of their fathers and to make God's purpose known to the Gentile nations.

c). And as we have seen from our verses in Revelation Chapter 11 they are empowered with supernatural signs and given supernatural protection during the time, the 1260 days, of their prophecy.

d). Now you would think that the incredible events taking place during this time would be enough to convince Israel, but this is clearly not the case – and in one sense this is not surprising for two reasons – firstly, when the Lord was performing supernatural signs at His first advent these signs were not received, ultimately being attributed to the power of Satan - Mt 12:24 *Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."*

And secondly, at the beginning of Moses ministry in Egypt the supernatural signs he demonstrated in the presence of Pharaoh were replicated by Pharaoh's magicians - Ex 7:10 *So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. 12 For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.*

e). Consequently it would not be unreasonable to suppose that similar circumstances as these will exist during the ministry of Moses and Elijah during the first half of the Tribulation.

f). That Israel in a national sense did not receive the supernatural signs would be confirmed through there being no national repentance at this time, although 144000 Jews did receive both the signs and the message, much as it was at the Lord's first advent.

g). And we know from the scriptures that the false prophet is able to perform counterfeit signs in much the same way as we have seen with the magicians in Egypt - Mt 24:24 *"For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*  
2Th 2:9 *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,*

3). So then, again as we had seen last week, the ministry begun by Moses and Elijah in the streets of Jerusalem will be curtailed at the mid-point of the Tribulation when the Lord allows them to be killed and then brings about their resurrection 3 ½ days later - Re 11:11 *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.*

a). The ministry they had begun will then be completed when they return to the earth with the Lord in response to the cry of the Jewish nation as seen in the type of Israel in Egypt.

b). The Lord as we know will return to the earth with the armies in heaven which are His angels, and Moses and Elijah. And His angels will have a significant role with regards to events that will transpire during this time, just as they have done in time past.

c). And to be clear as to the timing of the Lord's return to the earth, this will happen just prior to the end of the Tribulation, following the opening of the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, with the events that follow taking us to the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, the Tribulation's conclusion and then into the 75 days that precede the Millennial Kingdom.

4). With all this now in place let's look at the events that take us to the Tribulation's end – Upon Christ's return to the earth the Jewish people who have so far survived Gentile persecution will still be scattered throughout those same Gentile nations – the 6<sup>th</sup> seal will have been opened and conditions on the earth deplorable.

a). Moses and Elijah will then continue the ministry that ended 3 ½ years earlier and this will also take place while the Jews are still scattered amongst the Gentile nations.

b). Moses, as in the type in Exodus will be focused upon the Gentile nations and Elijah as in the type in 1 Kings will be focused upon the Jews.

c). Because of what we see in the type in Exodus we must conclude the Christ, with Moses will appear before the Antichrist, and possibly Satan, on one or more occasions with the same declaration and the same demand as that made by Moses and Aaron to the Assyrian Pharaoh in Egypt –  
Ex 4:22 *"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: 'Israel is My son, My firstborn. 23 'So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me.*

d). And exactly as we have seen in the type Christ's demand will be rejected giving rise to the further devastation of the Antichrist's kingdom pictured in the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal on the 7 sealed scroll with the trumpet and bowl judgments bringing us to the complete fulfillment of that seen through the opening of the first four seals.

e). And so intense and appalling will these days upon the earth be at this time that the Lord will literally shorten the days otherwise the implication is that no human life would survive - Mt 24:22 *"And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.*

f). Now while these events are taking place with regards to Christ, Moses and the Antichrist, Elijah will be ministering to the Jewish people scattered amongst the nations – As far as I know nothing is said about the logistics of this, but we do know from the scriptures exactly that which Elijah is to accomplish - Mal 3:1 ¶ *"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me.*

Mal 4:5 *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,*

g). Elijah then is to 'prepare the way' for Christ, 'to make ready a people prepared for the Lord', so that they will receive their Messiah when He makes Himself known to them and in doing this Elijah will fulfill that seen in Malachi 4:6, he will turn the nation from unbelief to belief.

h). Again nothing is said as to how Elijah does this, but because of what we see in the type in 1 Kings, we can assume that it will happen after a similar fashion.

i). Suffice it to say that whatever events transpire under Elijah's ministry all those Jews who have thus far survived will be prepared to receive their Messiah - Mt 24:13 *"But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*

j). It may well be that Elijah's ministry during the first half of the Tribulation will have some bearing on his ministry after his return to the earth with the Lord.

5). Zec 12:10 *"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. 11 "In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. 12 "And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; 13 "the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; 14 "all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.*

a). It is following Elijah's preparation of the Jewish people that Christ will then reveal Himself to them and they will look on the One 'whom they pierced' and they will 'mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son' as detailed here in Zechariah Chapter 12.

b). We might remember how this scene with Christ and Israel is presented in foundation - 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.*

c). And remember, all of this takes place while Israel is still scattered amongst the Gentile nations.

d). Looking on the One 'whom they pierced' gives rise to that seen in - Isa 66:7 *"Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child. 8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children. 9 Shall I*

*bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?" says the LORD. "Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?" says your God.*

e). The Jewish nation is 'born in one day' – having gone from unbelief to belief they now go from death to life.

f). That described in the nation being 'born at once' marks the end of the Tribulation – the Tribulation was the time of Jacob's trouble but, he has been saved out of it.

g). Ho 6:2 *After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.*

h). This will now give rise to the nation's Passover when they will appropriate the blood of the Lamb slain at Calvary.

i). It seems that all these events will happen in a very short space of time, immediately preceding and then following the end of the Tribulation.

j). And of course a very short period of time given the shortening of the days.

j). So let's try and set this out in order so that we can be clear.

6). As we can see from our chart the celebration of Israel's Passover takes us beyond the end of the Tribulation into the 75 days that come before the Millennial Kingdom.

a). Now just as a reminder, let's remember how we come by these additional 75 days that we are talking about - 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). These verses come at the very end of the Book of Daniel and set the timeframe for counting the number of days from the setting up of 'the abomination of desolation' to the establishment of the Kingdom. 'The abomination of desolation', refers to the mid-point in the Tribulation when Antichrist enters the newly constructed temple and declares himself to be God Mt 24:15 *"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 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.

c). From the mid-point in the Tribulation we then see 1290 days. Now we know that the Tribulation is divided into 2 halves of 1260 days each, and so the 1290 days must take us 30 days beyond the end of the Tribulation.

d). We are then told that they will be blessed who wait to the 1335 days, which takes us another 45 days beyond the 1290 days, making a total of 75 additional days beyond the end of the Tribulation, before the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom.

e). And these are the days that we move into with the celebration of Israel's national Passover. And it must also be during these 75 days that, that which is pictured in the next 5 feasts of the 7 feasts given to Israel must also take place along with the new covenant being made with Israel, the wedding festivities pictured in the wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the complete overthrow of Gentile world power in the antitype of Egypt destroyed in the Red Sea, with Satan bound and put in the bottomless pit and the Antichrist and the false prophet thrown alive into the lake of fire - Re 19:20 *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.*

Re 20:1 ¶ *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*

f). And also in these 75 days, from a non-Jewish perspective, we must see the sheep and goats judgment where those Gentiles saved through the ministry of the 144000 and still alive on the earth will be judged with respect to their faithfulness, with the Kingdom in view - Mt 25:32 *"All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

7). Filling in these final details though will have to wait until next time – if the Lord is willing.