

Sunday July 6th 2014
Malachi – God’s Messenger
Part 31

1). Mal 3:17 *"They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him." 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. 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.*

a). We will remember that in the days of Malachi’s prophecy unfaithfulness, disobedience and ingratitude were the hallmark of the nation of Israel – corruption, distortion and complacency with respect to the Word of God was the norm and those who feared the Lord and meditated on His name were few and far between.

b). But here at the end of Chapter 3 we see the promise of vindication for the righteous of Malachi’s generation and by extension we would have to see this promise extending to the faithful in Israel throughout the nation’s history – no matter what the circumstances faithfulness will be rewarded – and those who have remained faithful despite their circumstances will see God make a separation between the righteous and the wicked in that future day.

c). And what is true for Israel will also be true for us –
Col 3:23 *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.*

d). And then as we move into Malachi Chapter 4 we see the promise of this day when it comes ‘burning like an oven’, a day described a few verses later as, ‘the great and dreadful day of the Lord’ – and here the Lord’s promise broadens its focus from the faithful in Israel as opposed to the unfaithful in Israel to the vindication of His chosen people, Israel, as a nation with respect

to their treatment over centuries of time, and most specifically during Daniel's 70th week, as a result of the exercise of governmental power by the Gentile nations - the period of time that the scriptures call the 'times of the Gentiles' - Lu 21:24b..... *And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

And in this day it is promised that the 'proud' and those 'who do wickedly', referring to Antichrist and his confederacy and those who will be with them, will be stubble - a separation will be made between God's chosen people Israel and the Gentile nations - rulership being taken from the latter and given to the former.

e). And as a result of this day God's cleansed and restored nation, having embraced the experience of the Sun of Righteousness rising with healing in His wings, will go out and grow fat like stall fed calves, speaking of a time beyond the events of this day - taking us into the Millennial Kingdom.

f). This is then to be a day the significance of which is beyond the scope of mere words as some of the last great prophecies of scripture are fulfilled and God's purpose for the creation of Man is brought to the very cusp of the Kingdom.

g). Just as we find in Exodus - Ex 4:22 *"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn.*

Israel, God's firstborn son, speaks of rulership and Israel being present in this role is ready to have God place them at the head of the nations - and because Egypt refused to accept Israel in this role only one end was in view -

Ex 4:23 *"So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.""*

Ex 14:30 *So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.*

h). And as we know these verses from Exodus form a type of the events that will transpire when Jesus the Christ with Moses His prophet confront the Antichrist prior to Israel's repentance.

i). Antichrist, as with the Assyrian Pharaoh, will not accept the Christ and Israel - And Israel in repentance and restored is now God's obedient firstborn son and ready to rule - Only one end can now be in view.

2). Since 605BC there has been no Theocracy on the earth and the scepter of rulership has been in the hands of Gentile world powers with each of these nations exercising this power under the god of this world.

a). For over 2600 years this has been the status quo with respect to the rulership of the earth, but this is all about to change.

b). Gentile world power as we had seen last week has been allowed to exist for a very specific reason - Eze 22:14 *"Can your heart endure, or can your hands remain strong, in the days when I shall deal with you? I, the LORD, have spoken, and will do it. 15 "I will scatter you among the nations, disperse you throughout the countries, and remove your filthiness completely from you.*

c). Israel's cleansing is to take place out amongst the Gentile nations through persecution and affliction – this process was set in motion by a Babylonian king who destroyed Jerusalem and sent God's chosen people into captivity throughout his empire - Da 1:1 ¶ *In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god..*

d). And this process will be brought to its conclusion by another Babylonian king who after 1260 days from making a peace treaty with Israel will break his covenant with many in Israel, declare himself to be God, destroy Jerusalem and will kill or take captive the people of God in a frenzied attempt to eradicate the Jewish people from the face of the earth - Ps 83:1 ¶ <<A Song. A Psalm of Asaph.>> *Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God! 2 For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. 3 They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones. 4 They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more." 5 For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You:*

e). Mt 24:1 ¶ *Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."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. 17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 "And pray that your flight may*

not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 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.

f). And just as we saw the times of the Gentiles come into existence because of Israel's and then Judah's continued unfaithfulness so we also saw that these times will come to an end as a result of Israel's national repentance and restoration, a condition brought about through the ministry of Elijah the Prophet following his return to the earth with Moses and the Lord.

3). And this will now be the time when the full extent of that recorded in Genesis Chapter 4 is to be fulfilled - Ge 4:14 *"Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me."* 15 *And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.*

a). Just as Cain had slain his brother Abel when they were in the field together, so Israel had killed his brother, Jesus the Messiah, when they were in the land together and as a consequence Israel has become a fugitive and vagabond on the earth – the 'manslayer'.

b). The Gentile nations throughout history have sought to kill the Jews wherever they are found and even Christians have been demonically manipulated to this end. But it will be following the end of the Tribulation that God's sevenfold vengeance will be exacted to its fullness on Antichrist and his armies for what they have done to the Jewish people.

4). So then, to set the scene – Israel is now back in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob with their Messiah, having experienced their national Passover out amongst the nations, having been re-gathered from those nations to judgment in the wilderness of the peoples – 6 of the 7 feasts given prophetically to Israel will have been fulfilled and a new covenant established - Jer 31:31 *"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah- 32 "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the*

LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

b). God's firstborn son Israel and God's only begotten Son, Jesus the Christ are now ready to rule.

c). And it is at this point that Antichrist with his false prophet along with Satan and his angels, who had previously been confined to the earth, gather a great army from amongst the devastated Gentile nations to come against the Christ and Israel in a final attempt to destroy them.

d). This then will be the great and dreadful day of the Lord, a day that we can find prophesied in - Eze 38:1 ¶ *Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, [the Gentiles] of the land of Magog, [the land other than Israel – the Gentile nations] the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, 3 "and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. 4 "I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. 5 "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; 6 "Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops-many people are with you. 7 "Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them. 8 "After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. 9 "You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you."*

e). What is taking place here is that which we have seen recorded in – Ps 2:1 ¶ *Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."*

f). Eze 38:10 *'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: 11 "You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither*

bars nor gates' - 12 "to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land. 13 "Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, 'Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?'" 14 ¶ "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? 15 "Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. 16 "You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes." 17 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them? 18 "And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," says the Lord GOD, "that My fury will show in My face. 19 "For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: 'Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, 20 'so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.' 21 "I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains," says the Lord GOD. "Every man's sword will be against his brother. 22 "And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. 23 "Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD."

g). This is how these same events are described in - Re 14:14 *Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. 17 Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18 And*

another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." 19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

h). Here in Revelation Chapter 14 we find imagery also recorded in the Book of Joel which describes the same events - Joe 3:1 ¶ "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. 3 They have cast lots for My people, Have given a boy as payment for a harlot, And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.....9 ¶ Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up. 10 Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, 'I am strong.'" 11 Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD. 12 "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. 13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow-For their wickedness is great." 14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. 15 The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness. 16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

i). Then we find this same day described in Revelation Chapter 19 – 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 supper of the great 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.

j). And the imagery we find here draws from the description of this day in - Eze 39:1 ¶ *"And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; 2 "and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel. 3 "Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand. 4 "You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. 5 "You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken," says the Lord GOD.....17 "And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field: "Assemble yourselves and come; Gather together from all sides to My sacrificial meal Which I am sacrificing for you, A great sacrificial meal on the mountains of Israel, That you may eat flesh and drink blood. 18 You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, Drink the blood of the princes of the earth, Of rams and lambs, Of goats and bulls, All of them fatlings of Bashan. 19 You shall eat fat till you are full, And drink blood till you are drunk, At My sacrificial meal Which I am sacrificing for you. 20 You shall be filled at My table With horses and riders, With mighty men And with all the men of war," says the Lord GOD. 21 "I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them.*

k). Re 16:13 *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. 15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." 16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.*

Isa 14:24 ¶ *The LORD of hosts has sworn, saying, "Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, And as I have purposed, so it shall stand: 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.*

l). As the Gentile armies are utterly destroyed so God's sevenfold vengeance is exacted upon their leaders - 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.*

m). So then, as the great and dreadful day of the Lord is completed the beast, Antichrist, and the false prophet are cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone and Satan and his angels are bound with a great chain and cast into the bottomless pit which is sealed with a seal where they will remain for the 1000 years of the Millennial Kingdom; their armies are utterly destroyed and become as ashes under the soles of Israel's feet with such great carnage that the birds and beasts of the earth are satiated through devouring their flesh and drinking their blood.

n). All of which brings our 75 days to a close.

o). And so after 6000 years of human history the times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled, Man's Day will come to an end, the inheritance will have been redeemed and the Day of the Lord on the earth will begin – Satan's crown will be taken from him, as will the crowns worn by his angels, prior to their being cast into the bottomless pit. The crown previously worn by Satan will now be worn by the Lord Jesus Christ and those worn by his angels, along with those cast down by the 24 Elders will now be worn by Christ's co-heirs in the heavens.

p). God's 3 firstborn sons, Jesus the Christ, Israel and faithful Christians in fulfillment of the overcomers' promises will now rule the earth with a rod of iron along with certain OT saints, Tribulation martyrs and saved, faithful Gentiles.

q). The Lord Jesus Christ will sit on His own throne in the New Jerusalem, which will be a satellite city, with His co-heirs - Re 3:21 *"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

r). And the Lord will also sit on His father David's throne in the earthly Jerusalem in the midst of His people – the Theocracy restored and the Millennial Temple built - Jer 30:9 *But they shall serve the LORD their God, And David their king, Whom I will raise up for them.*

And Israel will take the good news concerning the Christ and His Kingdom out to the Gentile nations and the promise made to Abraham will be fulfilled –
Ge 26:4 *"And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;*

Zec 8:23 *"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'"*

s). This will be the time referenced in - Ac 3:20 *"and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 "whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

t). A time when 'all things' will be restored, but not the time when all things will become new. There will be unsaved Gentiles who will enter physically into the time of the Millennial Kingdom and as we have seen from the overcomers' promise in - Re 2:26 *"And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations-- 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' -- as I also have received from My Father;*

This will be 1000 years of judgment for the Gentile nations which has a specific purpose as we approach the endless ages of eternity future –
1Co 15:24 *Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*

u). Although the 7th Day is the focal point of the scriptures and is the age of the ages, there are endless ages beyond it, to which it must be the precursor.

v). But this will have to wait for another time – if the Lord is willing.