

Recap of 11/6/16 (Malachi 2:16-3:4):

1. The complaint against the Israelite's is that they doubted God's justice. They don't believe that God will judge.
2. God was weary of them. "He had become tired of their hypocrisy, inverted morals, spiritual blindness and obduracy." (Alden) they were blind to their own sin.
3. Malachi answers that judgment is coming. God will send a forerunner to precede the Messiah (Malachi 3:1 which references Isaiah 40:3). The New Testament identifies this forerunner as John the Baptist (Matt. 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 1:76 & 7:27; John 1:23). In Malachi 3:1-5, Malachi mingles the First and Second Advents (as often is done in prophetic literature). Malachi 3:1 focuses on the First Coming while 3:2-5 focuses on the Second Coming.
4. The Scripture actually speaks of eight Judgments:
 - The judgment of the cross (Romans 5:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - The discipline or chastening of believers (Hebrews 12)
 - The self-judgment of the believer seen in confession of sin to God with a view to restoration of fellowship with Him (1 John 1:9)
 - The Bema Seat of Christ, where believers' walk and works since coming to Christ will be judged, resulting in rewards or loss of rewards – salvation is not in view, all in this judgment are saved. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
 - The judgment of living Jews before the Millennium (based on acceptance or rejection of Messiah (Ezekiel 20:34-38)
 - The judgment of gentiles before the Millennium (based on treatment of the Jews in the Tribulation which revealed faith or unbelief) (Matthew 25:31-46)
 - The judgment of Satan and Fallen Angels (Jude 6)
 - The Great White Throne Judgment (where all unbelievers will be judged) (Revelation 20:11-15)
5. When Jesus comes, in the Second Coming, He will purify Israel, as a refiner purifies metals or a launderer cleans cloth, resulting in a pure priesthood and people who are not just going through the motions of worship.