

Recap of 1/22/17 (Malachi 4:1):

1. Malachi 4:1-6 continues the answer to the charge of the people in 3:13-15 that “it is futile to serve God, that the arrogant are blessed, “evildoers prosper,” and that “those who challenge God escape.”
2. “The Lord assures His people that a time is coming when the wicked will be judged and those who fear Him will be blessed. The day of the Lord will reveal that it is not ‘futile to serve God (3:14).’” (Bruce Wilkinson, **Talk Thru the Old Testament**)
3. The main idea of the section is that there is coming a time when the wicked will be punished and the righteous will be vindicated and rewarded. For the time being believers must be faithful and look with the eyes of faith. We must never doubt that God will triumph or that we are on the winning side.
4. In 4:1-6 Malachi references the coming “day of the Lord.” An Old and New Testament biblical concept which refers to events of the end times including: the Tribulation, the Second Advent of Christ, the Millennium, and the coming of the New Heavens and the New Earth. It’s at that time that God will make a distinction between those who worship Him and those who do not. This judgment is certain, this day when God will take action against His enemies. They are described in 3:5, 15, & 18 as the arrogant and the evildoer, those who do not serve (worship) God. That they are not “blessed” or “prosperous” (3:15) becomes very evident. They are removed completely from the face of the earth and will not enter the Millennium (“no root or branch”). This does not mean, however, that they are annihilated or go out of existence (as in false doctrines such as “soul sleep”).
6. “The Bible teaches that the body goes into the grave whether a person is lost or saved. Your soul and spirit go into eternity, my friend—either to heaven or to hell.” (J. Vernon McGee)
7. Consciousness after death of both believers and unbelievers is taught in passages such as: Luke 16:19-31; Philippians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8. The resurrection of the dead, saved and unsaved both, is taught in Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20; 1 Thessalonians 4; and 1 Corinthians 15. The saved go to be with God forever, the unsaved are cast into the “Lake of Fire.”