

Recap of 1/29/17 (Malachi 4:2-6):

1. The Day of the Lord, which Malachi describes in 4:1, is a day of judgment and destruction for those who refuse to worship the Lord but it is also a day of triumph for those who “revere His name.” These are the ones who feared, served and worshipped the Lord. Their obedience was heart commitment not just going through the motions.
2. This day of triumph is described as a day of healing, a day when righteousness rules the earth as the sun brings warmth and life and growth, a day of renewal and restoration. A day when suffering will be no more, a day when God’s people will be vindicated, released from sin, sickness and death. Some believe that the “sun of righteousness” (vs. 2) is a reference to Jesus based upon Zechariah’s song (Luke 1:76-79). The feeling of release will be akin to that of calves released from their stalls into pasture.
3. There will be no prophetic word from God for 400 years until John the Baptist bursts onto the scene, so Malachi reminds the Israelites to “remember” the Mosaic law. Craig Blaising, in the Bible Knowledge Commentary, points out that “remember” can have several meanings in the Old Testament. It can mean: simply a mental act; “reciting or repeating something verbally;” or “mental acts combined with appropriate external actions.” Based upon Malachi’s emphasis on action/obedience, rather than just going through the motions, the third meaning would seem to be his point here.
4. Elijah (Elijah himself or one in the “spirit and power of Elijah; not John the Baptist, based on Matthew 17 which occurred after John’s death and where Jesus said Elijah’s coming would be future) would come before that “great and dreadful day of the Lord.”
5. Herbert Wolf warns: “Sad to say, the attitudes of ancient Israel are all too common in the modern world. ... Dishonesty, bribery, and irreverence abound, and God seems much more of a slogan than a reality. Even church members are so married to the world and its values that the coming of Christ is a hazy possibility at best.”
6. The last prophetic word of the Old Testament is “curse.” A word of warning but a word of hope as well. The Old Testament begins and ends with the curse. The New Testament begins with the introduction of the One who would become a curse for us (Galatians 3:13) to free us from sin and death and ends with the curse removed (Revelation 22:3).
7. The Daily Walk Bible suggests an appropriate ending to the study of Malachi: “Close your study of Malachi with a prayer. If you know Christ as Savior, tell Him how much He means to you. If you don’t, wouldn’t now be a perfect time to put your trust in Him?”