

God Are You Really There? - Part 10

Sunday, September 10, 2023
10:30 AM

Our journey through the book of Malachi has centered around one arching question - God, Are You Really There? While they may have never directly asked those words; their lack of love and devotion, faith and obedience and their repeated accusations against God, revealed that at their core they doubted the existence of God or at the very least, His active love and presence in their lives. God's messages to them presented proof after proof that He was there. Messages like...

“YOU HAVE LOST YOUR WAY”

"I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED YOU" - Malachi 1:1-5

“YOU ARE NOT LOVING ME” - Malachi 1:6-14

“LISTEN” - Malachi 2:1-9

"YOU HAVE BEEN UNFAITHFUL TO ME" - Malachi 2:10-17

"REPENT AND RETURN" - Malachi 3:1-7

"TO TITHE OR NOT TO TITHE?" - Malachi 3:8-12

"LIES OF THE ENEMEY" - Malachi 3:13-15

"TRUE BELIEVERS" - Malachi 3:16-18

Here in chapter 4 God closes His words to the people with 5 more convincing proofs that answers their question with a resounding - **YES, I AM HERE!**

Malachi 4 (NLT)

1 The Lord of Heaven's Armies says, "The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. On that day the arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw. They will be consumed—roots, branches, and all.

2 "But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture. 3 On the day when I act, you will tread upon the wicked as if they were dust under your feet," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

4 "Remember to obey the Law of Moses, my servant—all the decrees and regulations that I gave him on Mount Sinai for all Israel.

5 "Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives. 6 His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse."

Each of these proofs are prophetic and progressive in nature. They were taking place in Malachi's day. They continued and increased with the 1st coming of the Messiah. They continue to take place and increase until they find their complete fulfillment in Christ's second coming.

Judgment of the Wicked

1 The Lord of Heaven's Armies says, "The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. On that day the arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw. They will be consumed—roots, branches, and all.

3 On the day when I act, you will tread upon the wicked as if they were dust under your feet," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NIV)

14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Psalm 96:13 (NIV)

13 Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

1 Peter 4:5 (NIV)

5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NIV)

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Revelation 20:11-15 (NIV)

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Healing and Provision for those who fear God

2 “But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.

Psalm 103:2-3 (NIV)

2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

Matthew 4:23-24 (NIV)

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the

people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them.

Revelation 21:4 (NIV)

4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'[a] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

Matthew 6:25-32 (NIV)

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life[?]

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

The Blessings of Obedience

4 "Remember to obey the Law of Moses, my servant—all the decrees and regulations that I gave him on Mount Sinai for all Israel.

Deuteronomy 30:11-18 (NIV)

11 Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. 12 It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" 13 Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" 14 No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16 For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, 18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

John 13:17 (NIV)

17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Luke 11:28 (NIV)

28 He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

The Proclamation of The Gospel

5 “Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives. 6 His preaching

Matthew 24:14 (NIV)

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Romans 10:9-15 (NIV)

9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Restoration of Relationships

6 His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

*Between God and ourselves and between ourselves and others

2 Corinthians 5:18 (NIV)

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

Matthew 5:43-48 (NIV)

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor^[a] and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 6:12 (NIV)

12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

You want proof I am here... If I weren't you would already be destroyed.

*Note: The blessings of Obedience and The Restoration of Relationships can turned around to be evidence that God is in our lives