

4. What will the Lord's return be like for those who trust in Him?

But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 4:2-3 (ESV)

1. It will be like warm sunshine.
2. It will be healing.
3. It will be a day of sheer joy.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. Isaiah 60:2 (ESV)

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. **Read Malachi 3:13-15; 4:1, Psalm 94:1-7.** How do Malachi and the Psalmist describe the wicked and their thinking?
2. **Read Malachi 3:17, Exodus 19:5, 1 Peter 2:9, Titus 2:14, Deuteronomy 32:10.** How are God's people described? How does that make you feel when life is hard?
3. **Read Malachi 3:16, James 3:1-12, Psalm 56:8, Revelation 21:4.** God hears all our words. How does this change the way we speak publicly, privately, and in our thought life?
4. **Read Malachi 4:1-3, Revelation 20:11-15, Matthew 25:31-46.** What do these verses teach us about final judgment?



Malachi 3:13-4:6 – Why Follow God When I Don't See Results?

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1. The Complainers — We worship God for His good gifts.

"Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the Lord of hosts? And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.' " Malachi 3:13-15 (ESV)

- It is vain to serve God.
- What is the profit of keeping his charge?
- Why walk in mourning?
- The arrogant are blessed.
- Evildoers prosper. They test God and escape.

But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. Psalm 73:2-3 (ESV)

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:20-21 (ESV)

2. The Believers — We worship God for who He is.

Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. “They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him. Malachi 3:16–18 (ESV)

- They feared the Lord.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)

- They met together.
- God paid attention and heard them.

And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13 (ESV)

- God remembers our faithfulness in his book.

On that night the king could not sleep. And he gave orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles, and they were read before the king. Esther 6:1 (ESV)

You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book? Psalm 56:8 (ESV)

- They are the people that esteemed his name.
- They are God’s treasured possession.

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; Exodus 19:5 (ESV)

“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. Deuteronomy 7:6 (ESV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Titus 2:14 (ESV)

3. What will it be like for those who do evil when the Lord returns?

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. Malachi 4:1 (ESV)

1. What is the Day of the Lord?

2. It will be a day of fire.

3. It will be complete destruction.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:14–15 (ESV)