

Final words for the Wicked & the Righteous  
Malachi Lesson 4  
Malachi 3:13-4:6  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from the reminders provided by Micah.

Introduction

- I. Harsh words and a statement to the doubters (3:13-4:3)
  - A. Their harsh and hateful words (3:13-15)
    1. The charge and their denial (v.13)
    2. Their words about serving God (v.14)
      - i. It's useless
      - ii. No profit
      - iii. Only brings mourning
    3. They say the happy ones are the proud, the ones who work wickedness and even those who tempt God. (v.15)
      - i. They obviously view happiness as something that only comes from selfish living and happiness even at the cost of others.
  - B. The Lord listened and heard the words of the faithful (3:16-18)
    1. (v.16) The Lord heard and the faithful and a remembrance book was written, this appears to be the same book referenced in Rev 20:12,15.
      - i. The book that contains the names of the faithful, the Lamb's book of life.
      - ii. (v.17) The faithful are spared, spared the 2<sup>nd</sup> death.
    2. God discerned the righteous and the wicked. (v.18)
      - i. He is able to tell the righteous (those who serve Him) and the wicked (those who do not serve Him) from one another.
      - ii. God only sees the obedient and the disobedient, no other category exists.
- II. Judgment, Exhortation & the coming messenger (4:1-6)
  - A. Judgment is coming (4:1)
    1. Judgment day is coming for the wicked, and one day for all of man (v.1a)
    2. The proud and the wicked will perish. (v.1b)
  - B. Exhortation to those who fear Him (4:2-4)
    1. v.2 - This would be Jesus coming to heal those who reverence the name of the LORD.
      - i. These will be redeemed by the salvation he provides.
      - ii. They would be like a calf, full of a healthy life, and satisfied with everything they need.
    2. v.3 – The righteous will have the ultimate victory over the wicked.
    3. v.4 - This law was given to all Israel, in Mount Horeb. Horeb is either the whole mountain of Sinai, or a particular peak of the Sinai range.
      - i. It had all kinds of statutes and judgments (decrees and laws).

C. The coming messenger (4:5-6)

1. This is a prophecy of the coming of John the baptizer, who came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Lk 1:17).
  - i. This will be before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.
2. If families do not work together to establish godly homes, then they have no alternative but to expect the Lord to come and smite (strike) the earth (the land) with a curse.

III. Lessons for us today.

- A. The Lord heard the words of the rebellious and the righteous (3:13,16).
  1. The Lord responded to both groups.
  2. Only one group has hope and blessings from God.
- B. Judgment is coming & preparedness is a necessity (4:1-2)
  1. Judgment day is coming for the rebellious and the righteous.
  2. Judgment day isn't a possibility it is a certainty.
  3. Only those living righteously will be prepared.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Are you guilty of doubting why one should be loyal to God (3:13)
2. Are you prepared for the judgment day or unprepared like the wicked?
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9