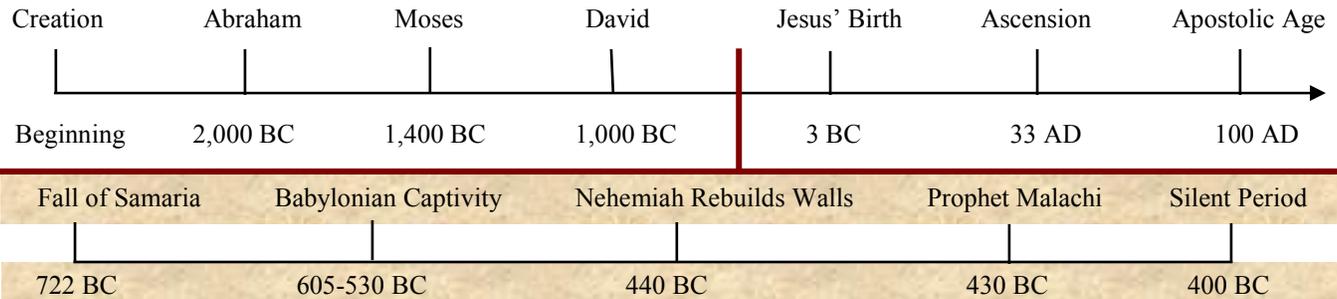


Across the Generations

Learning from God's Word and from Each Other

Sunday, November 12, 2006
"Going to the Extreme"

Context and Time Frame



Overview: [Malachi 4:1,2](#)

“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.”

The Lord's Prophet

His Office

The office of the prophet was simply one whom the Lord raised up to bring his Word to his people. In carrying out his office, the prophet could talk in future terms.

The Message

It is exemplified by the words: “this is what the Lord says.” Elements of that message were usually a call to repentance and to return to the Lord, an exhortation to faithfulness, and a promise that pointed ahead to the Savior. The messages could come through face to face revelation by God to his prophet, it could come through a vision, or it could come as an oracle. (An oracle is something to carry or a burden).

The Messenger

God called the prophet and set him apart for service. In the case of Malachi, we know very little. He was a contemporary of Nehemiah, and that he served the people of Judah.

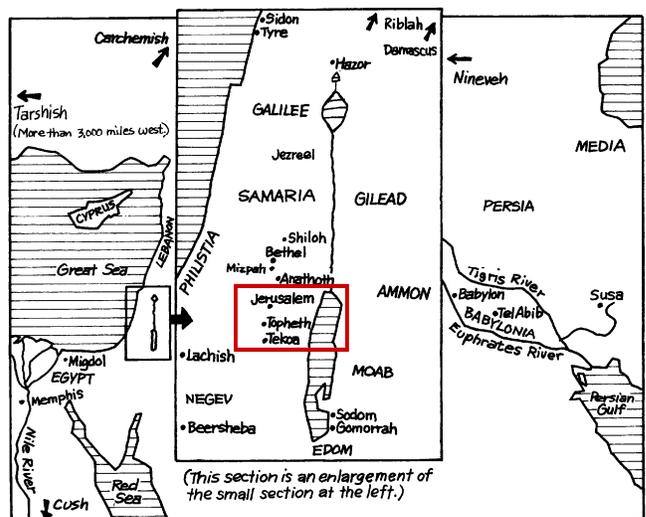
Review

What's in a name: Malachi in Hebrew means “my messenger.”

The message Malachi carried for the Lord was harsh

- † Blemished sacrifices
- † Unfaithful priests
- † Rebellion against the Law
- † Impending judgment
- † Stealing from God (sacrifices)
- † Day of final judgment
- † Promise of Christ

What is the “day” that is coming?



What extreme picture of judgment did the Lord offer?

For whom is this reserved?

Why do they deserve it

What extreme picture did the Lord give in contrast to judgment?

For whom is this reserved?

What will happen on this day?

The *sun of righteousness* is understood as the coming Savior. Remember Isaiah's prophecy—the people walking darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned (Isaiah 9:2)

Why do the people receive it?

(*cf. Malachi 1 / Romans 9:10-16*)

My View

Why do we speak of the last day as the “great and dreadful” day of the Lord?

What do I need to do to prepare myself?

Closing View

Matthew 24-25 offers me a great lesson on being prepared, the Lord gives me signs of the end times, he gives me a warning the end could come at any time, he also shows me why it is important to be ready.

What should this lead me to do?

Devotional Thoughts - Malachi 4:1,2
Monday, November 13th through Saturday, November 18th

Monday

Read Christian Worship 207 st. 1 & 6

The day is surely drawing near when God's Son the Anointed,
Shall with great majesty appear as Judge of all appointed.
All mirth and laughter then shall cease when flames on flames will still increase,
As Scripture truly teaches.

O Jesus Christ, do not delay, but hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way in fear and tribulation.
Your saints are waiting patiently; Come soon, Redeemer, make us free
From every evil. Amen!

What leads us to look forward to Judgment Day?
How does the freedom secured by Christ for this life, only get better in the life to come?
What alone will keep us ready for this day?

Prayer Thoughts

O Jesus, my Savior, I know you are coming in glory. Help me pay attention to the signs. Help me remain faithful through your Word and Sacraments. Then, give me the blessed joy of welcoming and seeing your return for me and all believers. Amen!

Tuesday

Read Luther on Judgment Day

The longer the world stands, the worse it becomes. It seems that now, too, the world's wickedness is increasing. This is actually comforting to us Christians. Now, too, the more we preach, the less attention people pay . . . People are bent on increasing wickedness and wantonness at an overwhelming speed. We cry out and preach against this. But what good does it do? It does, however, do us good in that we may expect the Last Day soon. Then the godless will be hurled into hell, but we shall obtain eternal salvation on the Day.

What observation did Luther make that we find true today?
In spite of the evil in this world, what do we continue to do?
Why is the world getting worse something we see as "good?"

Prayer Thoughts

O Lord, the end is coming soon. As I see the signs, especially in the world, I know it can not be far away. Teach me to be ready for your return. Keep me faithful in all things. Help me to hold on to Jesus as my Hope, as my Savior, and as my Comfort in these last days. Amen!

Wednesday

Read Matthew 25:13 (The Parable of the Ten Virgins)

"Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

What makes Jesus' return so troubling?
What makes Jesus' return so comforting?
What keeps us watching and waiting, even though we don't know the hour?

Prayer Thoughts

Dearest Savior, your promise is that you will come again. Help me understand the signs you provide. Then help me use them to prepare myself for your return. Help me live every day to your glory, confidently looking forward to the day you will take me into your heavenly kingdom. Amen!

Thursday

Read Christian Worship 206 st. 1

“Wake, awake, for night is flying,” the watchmen on the heights are crying,

“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”

Midnight hears the welcome voices and at the thrilling cry rejoices:

“Oh, where are all you virgins wise? The Bridegroom comes awake!

Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia!

With bridal care yourselves prepare to meet the Bridegroom who is near.”

Who is the sun of righteousness who brings light to break the darkness?

Why is the comparison so good—light for the glory of Christ, and darkness for the shame of sin and death?

What careful preparations do we need to make to meet the Bridegroom?

Prayer Thoughts

O blessed Lord, in the end, you will come as a bridegroom to receive his bride—the church. Help every believer to be ready for that day. Through your Word, help us keep our lamps well-trimmed and burning brightly. Also, keep us from falling asleep and from not being alert for that glorious trumpet call that signals your return. Amen!

Friday

Read Luther on the Last Day

“Come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20). May our Lord Jesus Christ perfect his work which he has begun in us, and may he hasten that day of our redemption for which, by the grace of God, we long with uplifted heads and for which we sign and wait in pure faith and with a good conscience . . . Come, Lord Jesus! And let him who loves you say: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen!

Why is it only love for God that will make us say, “Come, Lord Jesus?”

Why do we pray that Jesus would come quickly and hasten the last day?

Why do we look forward to that day?

Prayer Thoughts

Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly with your redemption. Come free us from this world. Come to take us to be with you in heaven. O Lord, we look forward to your glorious return, help us live every day prepared to meet you and to receive the blessings you have prepared for us. Amen!

Saturday

Read Hebrews 10:11-18

The Epistle Lesson for Saints Triumphant

How is Jesus’ work as a priest similar to the work of a priest who stands in the temple?

How is his work different?

What makes Jesus’ work better?

What alone will remove sacrifices for sin?

Prayer Thoughts

I thank you my Savior for serving as my great priest. Through you the sinless sacrifice is offered that frees me from my sin. Through you I have an advocate with the Father. Through you I have the assurance of eternal life in heaven. Amen!