

Malachi 3

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

* Hebrew for messenger is mal'aki. This was fulfilled in John the Baptist. Since Pentecost it also refers to Christians. We are to prepare the way.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,

*When the Lord comes it will be to purify.

*The day of the Lord, see Rev. But those who follow Him seek his return. See Psalm 24:3 ³ Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? ⁴ The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

*see Isa 1:25-26 refiner's fire: ²⁵ I will turn my hand against you; ⁿ I will thoroughly purge away your dross and remove all your impurities. ²⁶ I will restore your leaders as in days of old, your rulers as at the beginning. Afterward you will be called the City of Righteousness, the Faithful City."

⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵ "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the Lord Almighty.

*the Lord comes pronounce judgement.

*see Isa. 40: 3-5 ³ A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ^b ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Breaking Covenant by Withholding Tithes

⁶ "I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

*see James 1:17. ¹⁷ Every gift God freely gives us is good and perfect, streaming down from the Father of lights, who shines from the heavens with no hidden shadow or darkness and is never subject to change. ¹⁸ God was delighted to give us birth by the truth of his infallible Word so that we would fulfill his chosen destiny for us and become the favorite ones out of all his creation!

⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty.

"But you ask, 'How are we to return?'

*Remember the Lord must save Israel, but Israel does not repent until Rev. see. Zec. 1;3 Return to me and I will return to you.

⁸ "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

"But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'

"In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

*see Deut 11:26-28 ²⁶See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse—²⁷the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; ²⁸the curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.

*the storehouse refers to the Treasury rooms of the Sanctuary.

¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the Lord Almighty.

*an example of the curses found in Dt. 28

¹² “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.

*see the blessing of the Abraham Covenant Gen. 12:2 ²“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Israel Speaks Arrogantly Against God

¹³ “You have spoken arrogantly against me,” says the Lord.

“Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’

¹⁴ “You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty?’

*in other words they didn’t get what they prayed for.

¹⁵ But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly evildoers prosper, and even when they put God to the test, they get away with it.’ ”

*the evil ones are described Psalm 10:11 ¹¹He says to himself, “God will never notice; he covers his face and never sees.”

The Faithful Remnant

¹⁶ Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.

*they sought fellowship and kept a book of remembrance.

¹⁷ “On the day when I act,” says the Lord Almighty, “they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

*another reference to the day of the Lord.