

Malachi: 3:17-4:5

I. The Opening Question

- A. "Why does God let the w_____ p_____?" (Habakkuk 1:13, Psalm 73, Job 21)
- B. This w_____ the Lord because J_____ is in great sin (consider the rest of Malachi), and His own c_____ is being q_____ (Isaiah 5:16-20).
- C. We should never forget God's l_____ nature when considering His j_____ (Jonah 4:1-2, II Peter 3:9-10).
- D. The question was asked about s_____ y_____ after the temple was r_____, and the M_____ had not yet come (Haggai 2:6-7, Ezekiel 43:1-4).

II. The Lord's Answer

- A. "I will send a m_____ to p_____ the way for the Messiah." This is a p_____ of the ministry of John the Baptist who will call people to r_____ and to r_____ the r_____ places (Isaiah 40:3-4, Mark 1:2-3).
- B. The Messiah will come s_____ - u_____ to His t_____. Consider J_____ as a baby and as one who a_____
people with His m_____ and t_____. Note He is identified as G____ and as the m_____ of the c_____ (close to the Angel of the Lord - Genesis 3:15, Exodus 23:20-22, Hebrews 9:15 and 12:24).
- C. The people may think they will d_____ in His c_____, "But who can endure the day of his coming?" The original question is answered, "The G____ of J_____ is coming." The more important question, "Will you be r_____ for His c_____?"

- D. The d___ of His c_____ begins with His i_____ and ends with J_____ D_____.
- E. Note the dual role of j_____ and p_____ in the illustration of the r_____ f_____ and the f_____ s_____ (Matthew 3:11-12, John 15:1-6, I Peter 1:6-7 and 14-19).
- F. The p_____ p_____ (Levi) will bring r_____ offerings (I Peter 2:4-5, Malachi 1:11). These include our p_____, our l_____ and m_____ centered on worship of God, our g_____ to those in n_____, our l_____ full of p_____ to God.
- G. Those not p_____, those who do not f_____ the L_____, will know that the God of j_____ has come (contrast Revelation 15:3-4 and Romans 3:18 - see also Revelation 22:14-15).

III. Application for Us

Do not ask, "Where is the God of justice?" Remember it is because of His longsuffering that we have been purified. Rejoice in our Savior who has cleansed us from our sins, stand in awe (fear) of such kindness, seek to be priests who make godly sacrifices, and warn those who have not yet been purified that the God of justice has come to His temple and will one day come again to bring full judgment on those who do not fear Him.