

**The ending of Malachi has bothered Jews for centuries.** Why? It ends with a curse. Some Hebrew renditions of the scriptures switch the verses around to end with a blessing instead. Interestingly, the New Testament ends with a promise and blessing but the old covenant ends with a cursing.



### GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. What spoke to your heart during the message?
2. Why does it seem like the wicked prosper?
3. What good is it to serve God? Give some reasons.
4. What is the ultimate end of the wicked? Why does it frustrate us when justice isn't served?
5. Does it comfort you that God remembers loyalty?
6. What from the entire book of Malachi helped you?

### Answers to blanks

good  
loyalty  
jewels  
destiny  
coming



# THE BOOK OF MALACHI

## Malachi's Concluding Words

**Text:** Malachi 3:13-18 & 4:1-6

### 1. What \_\_\_\_\_ is it to Serve God? - Malachi 3:13-15

**The people came to the conclusion that the cost of devotion wasn't worth the reward.** We have to be careful of this mentality ourselves. God doesn't owe us anything.

**See Lamentations 3:22**

**See Psalm 73:15-19 - Psalm of Asaph**

### What did Asaph see in the temple?

By prayer and worship in the sanctuary,  
By hearing the word of God in the sanctuary,  
By observing sacrifice at the sanctuary,

**Asaph understands the wicked are sometimes being fattened for destruction.** God sends his rain on the just and the unjust alike and we mustn't mistake God's mercy and patience as a lack of justice.

**Asaph says the destiny of the wicked is 3 words** - destruction, desolation and terrors.

## 2. God Remembers \_\_\_\_\_ - Malachi 3:16-18

**There is always a remnant.** Sometimes we can be guilty of thinking - am I the only one who wants to do right?

**See Romans 11:1-4**

**Even in the midst of a crooked generation** there was still a remnant of people who loved God, respected God and met often together to worship and praise God. God says I am going to remember and record your loyalty to me.

**There are several ways that Christians are like \_\_\_\_\_**

- They are durable.
- They are prized for their luster.
- They are prized for their rarity.
- They are made by God alone.
- They are of all different sizes, yet they are all jewels.
- They are found all over the world.
- They are associated with royalty.
- They are protected.
- Some are hidden and undiscovered.
- Some are not yet polished.

**One day this dilemma will be cleared up. In the end,** the distinction between the righteous and the wicked will be evident. Many parables of Jesus also discuss this judgment day event.

## 3. The Final \_\_\_\_\_ of the Wicked - Malachi 4:1

**See Psalm 1:1-6**

**The eternal destination of the wicked is final.** Malachi says there will be no root or branch left behind. There will be no chance for life to return. The root will be completely burned up. The judgment is final.

**People may ask where is the God of justice?** The world explodes in frustration when justice isn't served. God will deal with wickedness once and for all.

## 4. The Final Destiny of the Righteous - Malachi 4:2-3

From the time of early Christians like Justin Martyr to today, **Christians have regarded the Sun of Righteousness as a reference to Jesus.**

*“Understand the figure. The calf in the stall is shut up, tied up with a halter at night, but when the sun rises the calf goes forth to the pasture; the young bullock is set free. So the child of God may be in bondage. The recollection of past sins and present unbelief may halter him up and keep him in the stall, but when the Lord reveals himself he is set free.”*

*- Charles Spurgeon*

**Malachi warns Israel to remember the Law, because God's prophetic voice would be silent for some 400 years.** We never need to despair or lose hope when God seems silent, because what He has already said is rich enough (if we will only remember).

## 5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of “Elijah” - Malachi 4:5-6

This verse is fulfilled in a couple of ways. One is explained by Jesus Himself. John the Baptist is the foretold Elijah.

**See Matthew 11:5**

The second is in **Revelation 11:3-12** where God will send Elijah back to Earth as one of the two witnesses.

**He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children:** This promise speaks of more than the reconciliation of families. When God turns the hearts of the children to their fathers, it also has in mind the idea of turning to the God of their fathers, to the faith of the patriarchs. **It really is call to faith in God.** John the Baptist fulfilled this role with his preaching ministry.