

Holiness and the End Times



“**Return** to Me, and I will return to you,” Says the LORD of hosts.” God desires to open the windows of heaven to those who will live committed lives. *Mal 3:7*

Introduction: God’s ultimate desire is always restoration of our lives to Himself (restoration to holiness see *Eph 1:4*). Malachi concludes his ‘burden’ with an appeal for present holiness based on future events!

A. Be Restored: A Final Day of Judgment Will Come *Mal 4:1*

“Behold, the day is coming...”

1. The ‘day’ is for the arrogant and evildoer
2. This ‘day’ will be a complete judgment
“...leave them neither root nor branch.”
3. Characteristics of the ‘day.’ (See back of handout)

B. Be Restored: Enter into God’s Kingdom *Mal 4:2-3*

1. The kingdom is for those who fear God
2. The kingdom will be one of:
healing *Rev 22:2*
freedom *Rev 21:3*
rejoicing *Rev 19:7*

Note: The kingdom is both present and future—so that healing, rejoicing and freedom are NOW part of our present as well as future kingdom experience.

3. The kingdom will not include the wicked :3

C. Be Restored: Live in God’s truth *Mal 4:4*

Remember... read II Peter 3:2-14

D. Be Restored: God provides a warning *Mal 4:5*

1. John the Baptist was the forerunner
‘...in the spirit and power of Elijah’
Luke 1:17; Mat 17:11-13
2. Moses and Elijah both appeared with Jesus on the mount of transfiguration. *Luke 9:30*
3. His Word of warning continues

E. Be Restored: Are you restored? *Mal 4:6*

Has your heart been turned back to God?

Who do you know that is NOT ready for this ‘day of judgment?’

Do you weep for them and pray for their salvation?

Are you witnessing to them for Christ?

Malachi 4:1-6

:1 "For behold, **the day** is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And **the day** which is coming shall burn them up," says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch."

:2 But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves.

:3 You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on **the day** that I do *this*," Says the LORD of hosts.

:4 "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, *with the* statutes and judgments.

:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful **day of the LORD**.

:6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.

Eph 1:4 ...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

“Second Coming”
Painting by Ron DiCianni
rondicianni.com

Characteristics of that "day" Malachi 4:1; 3

This "day" is usually referred to as "**the day of the Lord.**" It is used many times in the Bible. *Isaiah 2:12; 13:6, 9; Ezekiel 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14; Amos 5:18, 20; Obadiah 15; Zephaniah 1:7, 14; Zechariah 14:1; Malachi 4:5; Acts 2:20; I Thessalonians 5:2; II Thessalonians 2:2; II Peter 3:10.*

Zephaniah 1:14-18 summarizes that day, also II Peter 3:1-14

- 1. This day will come quickly on the earth.** I Thessalonians 5:2-4
"For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief."
- 2. This day begins with the church raptured or taken to heaven from the earth.**
I Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 3. Evil will rise because the Holy Spirit's power to restrain sin will be removed with the church.**
II Thessalonians 2:1, 2, 6-12
- 4. A political ruler and world government will be established with an initial peace covenant with Israel which will be broken. Christians will be persecuted and martyred.**
Daniel 9:27; Revelation 13:1-10.
- 5. A false religious system is forced on people.**
Revelation 13:11-18
- 6. Deception and materialism are keys to manipulate people.**
Matthew 24:4-16; II Thessalonians 2:10; Revelation 18:23
- 7. Major catastrophes will destroy much of the earth.**
*Revelation 6—Seven seals;
Revelation 8, 9 Seven trumpets destruction;
Revelation 16—Seven bowls of the wrath of God.*
- 8. The second coming of Christ will destroy the evil rebellion against Him.**
Revelation 19:11-21
- 9. Binding of Satan in an abyss during the thousand year reign after Christ returns.**
Revelation 20:1-3
- 10. Then, Jesus will establish a righteous kingdom to fulfill Abraham's Covenant.**
Revelation 20:4-6; Genesis 12, 15
- 11. After the righteous thousand year kingdom, a final judgment and punishment of Satan.**
Revelation 20:7-10
- 12. Final judgment of all who are not saved by Jesus.**
Revelation 20:11-15 Is your name in the "book of life?"
- 13. New heaven and new earth created.**
Revelation 21, 22