



GOING DEEPER

Discussion Questions and more from Sunday's message, before we begin, here are the verses for this week's study! Open your bible to the book of Malachi Chapter 4: v. 1

How much time have you spent this past week reflecting on Jesus and the hope of the gospel? How has reflecting on Him been of help to you? Because that is how we grow in how we think about our relationship to God and how we bring Him Glory each day, in each conversation, interaction, our work, our family. **In everything.** The gospel and the love of Christ should indwell us, and we should be burdened to share that good news with others in these last days. ***Have you shared the good news with anyone this week? Have you showed the love of Jesus to anyone this week?***

Pushback: The Day is Coming

God's coming day exposes what we have become before Him.

1: The Fate of Those Who Reject God

Malachi 4:1

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch."

"The day is coming=The Day of Yahweh. (see Malachi 3:2; Joel 1:15; Amos 5:18.)"

What words or images in Malachi 4:1 stand out to you most, and why?

Pompeii 79 AD... just another day and beautiful Pompeii...

Pompeii was a thriving Roman city near Mount Vesuvius located in southern Italy. It was a commercial town of homes, temples, shops, bathhouses, and theaters. Its location near the Bay of Naples made it prosperous and an attractive place to live, but it also placed the city in the area of a dangerous volcano.

Underneath the city, pressure had been building for years
Mount Vesuvius, erupts and completely destroys the city.

Mount Vesuvius erupted in a catastrophic event that buried Pompeii under ash, pumice, and volcanic debris. The eruption began with a towering column of ash and rock, followed by falling pumice that crushed roofs and blocked escape routes. Later, fast-moving pyroclastic surges—superheated clouds of gas, ash, and rock—swept through the city and killed many who remained.

Many victims likely died from a combination of collapsing buildings, suffocation, extreme heat, and the later pyroclastic surges. Recent research also suggests that earthquakes during the eruption itself may have contributed to building collapses and deaths in some parts of the city.

Archaeologist discovered the most chilling thing... people frozen exactly where they were. Completely unaware that judgment was upon them.

"The people found at Pompeii bodies were buried in ashes, and over time the soft tissue decomposed, leaving hollow spaces in the hardened deposits. In the 1800s, archaeologist Giuseppe Fiorelli developed the method of pouring plaster into those cavities, creating the famous casts that preserve the victims' final positions."

Smithsonian Magazine.

Malachi says this clearly... "The day is coming"

THREE interesting points in this one passage...

1. The Image Is a Controlled Oven, Not Random Chaos

Vs 1a. "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven"

God's judgment is precise, intentional, and morally ordered.

A baker Doesn't turn on his oven and hope for the best

Dough is placed with purpose, timing, and measurement

Heat that can ruin unprepared dough perfects what is properly prepared

We have to focus on foundations, not outcomes.

Society is getting healthier and wealthier/prosperity alone does not sustain our soul

"What happens when civilizations build upward without building downward?"

Israel had what seemed to matter. Religion, sacrifice, and a well-organized "church".

Yet their foundation was rotting.

What does this verse teach us about the seriousness of God's judgment?

When you hear about God's coming day, what rises up in you first—comfort, sobriety, urgency, fear, gratitude, or something else?

2. Judgment Targets Postures, Not Just People

Vs 1b. "...when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble."

Our posture matters just as much as our behavior.

Two people can do the same action. With the same results.

When one is done with humility and the other with pride, God takes great notice.

3.. What Burns Is What We Build Our Life On

Vs 1c. "The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch."

God removes what was never meant to last.

What we build outside of God will not remain.

Temporary security will never survive eternal reality.

Where are believers today tempted to live as though "the day is not coming"?

But this oven doesn't have knobs... It has fire!

The deeper discovery... fire is not merely punishment: it is God Himself drawing near.

Throughout Scripture, fire represents the holy presence of God.

The bush burned but was not consumed.

Sinai shook with fire.

Elijah called down fire.

Pentecost rested with tongues of fire.

Hebrews says, "Our God is a consuming fire."

The question is never merely: "Will God come near?"

The question is: "What happens to us when He does?"

How does Malachi 4:1 make you more grateful for Christ?

Why is the gospel our only real hope in view of a coming day of judgment?

How should this verse shape the way we pray for unbelieving friends and family?

Heat/fire doesn't create character... It reveals it.

Pressure cooker or in woodworking a kiln.

We've seen that... Covid... Families came out of Covid either closer or divorced.

Churches after Covid... Larger and healthier or radically smaller. Very few the same.

400 years of silence

Rome Formation (63 BC onward): Rome starts to grow into a major power

Rise of Alexander the Great (332 BC) — Alexander conquered the known world

But not long after Malachi was **Socrates**.

Socrates story is fitting for this passage of scripture

Outside of scripture, histories' most famous philosopher.

Born **470 B.C.** Gave us...The Socratic Method, Plato's Dialogues, Xenophon's Memorabilia He questioned democracy and popular moral wisdom... bows mattered more than foundation.

He believed society needed truth and virtue

Tried in 399 BC for corrupting youth... by a simple vote of over 500 **Athenian jurors**. was ordered to drink hemlock.

Athens had recently gone through war, defeat, and political upheaval. A man who publicly questioned accepted wisdom could easily be seen as a threat.

"What is our attitude towards that day? That is the supreme test of our position. As the last word of the Old Testament economy was a word declaring the coming of that day, so also is the last word of the New Testament economy. The attitude of men towards that day determines their ultimate relation thereto, and their ultimate destiny." George Campbell Morgan, British Evangelist. 1863-1945. Discipled Martyn Lloyd-Jones.

What would change in our church if we lived more consciously in light of "the day is coming"?

LIVE IT OUT

Bible Study should ALWAYS lead to taking action with what you learned. Think of it as Vitamin A. "Application" into your day, week and interactions.

Here's some simple, practical ways to live out Malachi 4:1 this week with seriousness, humility, and gospel hope:

Malachi 4:1 reminds us that the day is coming, so we should live awake, humble, and ready before God—not casually, proudly, or merely outwardly religious.

In our church family:

Worship sincerely, not just routinely.

Repent quickly where there's pride, bitterness, or spiritual drift.

Encourage holiness in one another with grace and truth.

Pray with urgency for those who are far from Christ.

In our community:

Live visibly differently—with integrity, kindness, and hope. Be Salt and Light.

Speak truth gently, without harshness or self-righteousness. Glorify God in your speech.

Show compassion to hurting people instead of staying distant.

Share the gospel intentionally, remembering time matters.

In our families

Practice humble repentance—say “I was wrong” quickly.

Lead your home toward Christ through prayer, Scripture, and everyday conversations.

Choose character over appearance—focus on what is true and lasting.

Make peace where possible and pursue healing in strained relationships.

In our workplace:

Work with integrity even when no one notices. Colossians 3:23.

Refuse prideful ambition and self-promotion.

Respond to pressure with Christlike character instead of panic or harshness.

Treat coworkers with dignity, patience, and honesty.

One heart rhythm for the week ask each day:

“If I truly believed the day is coming, what would I do differently today?”

Share the gospel with urgency and tenderness. If the day is coming, then love compels us to speak of Christ now. Not next week or next month. It is life-changing news. “Above all it is that you know Christ and then that your neighbors hear about Christ.” — John MacArthur

How should I pray for this life change?

"You don't want to ask the Lord for a trouble-free life. You should ask the Lord this, "Lord, work Your work in my heart, don't give me more than I can endure. Show me grace and compassion, you know my weaknesses and frailties. I want to see Your lovingkindness, but I want You to do Your work. I want You to do Your perfecting work. I want You to do whatever it takes in me to make me what You want me to be." You need to come to terms with that. You need to be able to say that." John MacArthur

Remember:

"We are to run the race with endurance, not in our own strength, but by fixing our gaze on Jesus. He is not only the goal of our faith—He is the source and sustainer of it." R.C. Sproul

***"The gospel is not only about changing WHERE you will live for eternity, it's also about changing HOW you will live today." Shane Pruitt
And that is a heart change. So that we glorify God in all we do.***

Having Jesus as Savior will cost you nothing. Having Jesus as Savior will cost you everything. How so?

Who do you say God is? You cannot "come after" Jesus unless you come to Him.

Two roads stand before us in this world today. There is the way of the divine things of our Lord, which is the way of Christ. And there is the way of human things of the world. There is a way to save your life, and you will lose it there. And there is a way to lose your life for the sake of the Kingdom, and there you will find it.

How do we follow Jesus' ways? First of all, we turn from our sin and entrust our lives to Him as our Savior and Lord. Then, we seek His will in His Word each day and put it into practice by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. We learn to deny our selfish desires and give ourselves completely to following Jesus.

This choice we have — to seek first the kingdom of God — is the fundamental choice everyone makes when they first repent and turn to Jesus Christ. Yet every day after that, our Christian life will either reinforce that decision or deny it.

Remember the gospel is personal. Your changed life shows that to others around you based on what happened at the cross. You are at a crossroads if you have not accepted Christ. Which road are you traveling on right now? Are you on God's side?



Are you in a Growth Group at First Baptist? In this isolated world, Growth Groups help people connect in a healthy way. God has created us for a deep longing for community. We grow when we are living out our faith in a small group with others and we do this by loving, caring for, and encouraging each other. If you have any questions about our Growth Groups, contact the Church Office for more information.