

## DAY 6

1. Reflect on chapter four in its entirety.
  - a. How is this a fitting conclusion to the book of Malachi?
  - b. Remembering the general history of Israel in the Old Testament, how is this a fitting conclusion to the Old Testament?
  - c. What does this mean for you?
2. List three key takeaways from this study and meditate on them.

## LIVE IT

The proper response to God's grace is action. It is not enough to merely think or ponder His truth, we must live it out in our own lives. God, through Malachi, warns His people of the dangers of a stagnant and hard-hearted faith. The major way that God allows our faith to grow and remain fresh is through living out what He says.

## DO (ACTION STEP)

In the text, God says that we will be "leaping like calves from the stall," when faced with his grace. Pinpoint an area of your life where God has shown you tremendous grace and give Him praise.

## SHARE

Share with others about the great and awesome/terrible day of the Lord. This proclamation should motivate our evangelistic efforts.

## MEMORIZE

"But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings." - Malachi 4:2a

## PRAY

Pray that you would see God more clearly as the good judge who lavishes undeserved grace on His people. Pray that the Holy Spirit would have an impact on you as it had on the foretold second Elijah.

## ACT

Do something to show unconditional love to someone who does not yet know the love of God.

## TALK

Read the Sermon on the Mount (Mathew 5-7) and share with someone you trust where you can better "remember" the law that Jesus has given.

# MALACHI

WALK IN STEP WITH  
GOD'S GOOD DESIGN FOR  
YOUR LIFE AND HIS GLORY

MALACHI 4

WEEK 4



GRACE  
FELLOWSHIP

In our study of Malachi, we've learned much of the character of God. In chapter one we see that God chooses to love and pursue His people and that the proper response is fear. In chapter two, Malachi condemns the recklessness of the priests of Israel and calls them to recognize and respond rightly to His goodness. Last week, in chapter three, we're introduced to John the Baptist and Jesus and the Israelites ask the question that may be on our own minds, "What good is it to follow God?" (see 3:14)

In chapter four we see the result of repentance and arrogance toward God. God repays evil and good. Malachi calls on God's people to "Remember the law of...Moses," (v. 4) so that they may walk in step with God's good design for their lives and His glory.

Malachi speaks of Elijah coming and the work of turning hearts in preparation for the Messiah. But then the last words of the Old Testament read, "lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction." The close of the Old Testament is one of hope but also one of warning.

## A CLOSER LOOK

In the study of the Bible, there is a special sort of symbolism called typology. Typology, at its core, is the study of symbols that represent something else in God's narrative in the Bible. This further helps develop the Christian's understanding of who God is by relating him to creation or to other events/objects in the Bible.

One popular kind of typology is Christ typology, that is "types of Christ." The Old Testament is full of Christ symbols that point readers of the Bible to the person of Jesus in the New Testament. One very popular type, or symbol of Christ is present here in Mal. 4:2, "the sun of righteousness." How does comparing Christ to the sun help deepen or clarify your understanding of Him?

*For the week, read chapter four daily.*

## DAY 1

1. The first verse of chapter four begins with, "Surely." This implies some sort of connection back to the last verse of chapter three. What is it? What is God further trying to explain from chapter three here in chapter four?
2. How do these first two verses in chapter four answer the looming question of God from the Israelites? (see 2:17) How do these verses comfort or concern you regarding God's character?

## DAY 2

1. Read Matthew 13:24-30. This is commonly referred to as the Parable of the Wheat and Tares. How does this parable relate to the first few verses of Malachi 4? How does this relate to the modern state of the church?
2. In verse three, God foretells of the joy of those who fear His name when this day of judgement comes. Where is this joy rooted? Why will we go, "leaping like calves from the stall?"

## DAY 3

1. In verse four God calls on Israel to "remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel." Through the death and resurrection of Christ, the church is no longer bound by the Old Covenant (Read Matt. 22:34-40). How do we take this command that God gives for those until the great and awesome day of the Lord?
2. The word, "remember" here seems to imply more than a mental recollection of what God calls His people to do. Examine yourself. Do you "remember" the words of God faithfully and act on them? Explain.

## DAY 4

1. In verse five, God says that He will "send you Elijah the prophet" as a sign that the day of the Lord is near.
  - a. Who is this referring to? (See Week 3 Introduction)
  - b. Research the life and ministry of Elijah and try and draw some comparisons between his ministry and the ministry of who God is referencing here. (See 1 Kings 17:1-7, 1 Kings 19:9-21, and 2 Kings 2:11 for descriptions of Elijah's ministry)
2. The day of the Lord is described here as both "great and awesome." Some translations render this as "great and terrible."
  - a. How can something be awesome and terrible?
  - b. How is the word "awesome" being used here?
  - c. Look at the word "awesome" in these two passages in the Bible. (Genesis 28:10-17 and Exodus 34:1-10) How does this new definition change or deepen your understanding of these passages?

## DAY 5

1. The role of the second "Elijah" is significant. Verse six says that he, "will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers." We know that we, as Christians, cannot change hearts on our own (See Ezekiel 36:26-27, John 15:5). What does this mean for the second Elijah?
2. The last phrase of the Old Testament is chilling, "lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction." Keeping verse five in mind, what does this last verse show about the character of God? Why?