



## **“The Day is Coming”**

### **Malachi 4:1-6**

Sunday 2/28/2010

➔ **Introduction...** The primary reason for Malachi’s message is that there would once again be a distinction between those who love and serve God and those who don’t (Mal 3:18) and to fill them with expectation that the Messiah is coming (Mal 3:1.) Now, as the last writer of the O.T., Malachi closes with a declaration that contains a message to the wicked and hope to those who revere the Lord. There are either frightening or thrilling expectations – depending on how you respond.

➔ **Open it...**

1. When you were a child, was there a certain day or time in your life that you anticipated with either hope or dread?
  
2. As an adult is there a similar day? How is it different because you are an adult?

➔ **Explore it... Read Malachi 4:1-6**

1. Mal 4:1 says that all the arrogant and evildoers will be set on fire. How would you describe arrogant people and why does God pronounce such a harsh judgment on them?
  
2. A day of judgment is coming. Read the following verses and discuss one or two things about each verse that stands out when you read it.
  - a) Ezek 7:10-14
  
  - b) Joel 2:1-2, 28-32
  
  - c) Zeph 1:14-18, Zech 14:1-6
  
  - d) 2 Peter 3:3-11
  
3. What is the common theme about the judgment in the following verses? Eccl 11:9, 12:14; Rom 2:5-6; Rom 14:11-12; 2 Cor 5:10. How do you feel about your life and future judgment after reading these verses?
  
4. Read Romans 4:7-8, 5:1, 8:1-2; Jude 24-25. Did these verses alter your perception of your judgment? Explain why or why not and how if they did.

5. You may have heard or believe that “the God of the Old Testament” is a God of wrath. On the other hand, you may have pictured God as so loving that He would never send anyone to hell. How do you envision Him? Provide Scripture references that inspire your picture of Him whether like either of these or something different.
  
6. Jesus spoke of the reality of hell in the following Scriptures. What do you learn from each of these verses?
  - a) Matt 5:22
  
  - b) Matt 10:28
  
  - c) Mark 9:42-48
  
  - d) Luke 16:19-26
  
  - e) Matt 22:11-14
  
7. The Day of Judgment will be a day of rejoicing for Christians. What are some of the reasons for this rejoicing in the following verses? Which resonates with you the most?
  - a) 1 Thess 5:8-11
  
  - b) 1 Cor 13:12, Deut 29:29 What questions are you hoping to have answered?
  
  - c) Rev 21:3
  
  - d) Rom 6:17-18

➔ **Apply it...**As you think back on this lesson – answer these questions personally with I, me and my...

1. 2 Peter 3:11 says that we should live holy and godly lives as we look forward to the day of God. Is there something in your life that you wouldn't want to have Jesus see if He were to return today? What can you do about it?
2. 2 Peter 3:11 says that we should hasten or speed the coming of the day of God. How can you do this?
3. 2 Peter 3:13 says that we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. Are you looking forward to His return? If not, why? What is more important to you than to see Jesus' return?

➔ **Pray it...** Pray for those who will suffer wrath when Jesus returns. Ask the Lord to bring people into their lives that will steer them to our Savior. Be open to being that person. Thank God for your salvation. Ask Him to help you to be watchful for His return and to be doing the things He wants you to be doing when He does come back.