

Day of destruction (Isaiah 13:6; 2 Peter 3:10)

Day of distress (Isaiah 13:7-8; Zephaniah 1:15, 17)

Day of decisive judgment (Isaiah 13:9, 11)

A Day of destiny (2 Peter 3:9)

This day is coming. It is a day of destiny. God has delayed the judgment because of His great mercy and His desire to see all mankind saved and restored. But judgment delayed is not judgment ignored. William Wadsworth Longfellow wrote: "Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceedingly small. Though with patience He stands waiting, with exactness He grinds all."

2. A Promise of Blessing . Verses 2-3

This blessing is seen first of all in verse 2 where we see a description of people...

Worshipping God (v. 2)

Notice this blessing comes to those who: "...revere my name..." What does it mean? It means to hold it in high honor. It means to live your life in such a way that would bring only glory to God's name (Psalm 86:11-13, Proverbs 1:7, Revelation 21:4)

Witnessing God's revenge (v. 3)

Throughout the Bible, God tells us that it's His job to avenge injustice, not ours. Paul cautions us in Romans 12:19. Aren't you glad we serve and worship a Righteous Judge? Someday, all the injustices will be dealt with.

For the righteous, this will be a time of unequaled joy and celebration. The righteous will not be judged according to their sins, because their sins have already been dealt with on the cross (Colossians 1:19-20, 2:13-14).

3. A Plea for Obedience . Verse 4

Here we have the last command of the Old Testament. For the next 400 years, God would be going "offline." There's going to be 400 years of deafening silence from heaven. No prophets to speak God's words. And before God goes offline, He offers a call to remember. This is more than just an intellectual pursuit. This involves so much more than remembering Bible verses. Implicit in this word "remember" is the word "obey." This word means: "put it into practice." Or, as we'd say in our day: "walk the talk." D.L. Moody once said, "The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge but to change our lives."

Listen carefully to the words of Jesus in John 14:23-24. God's last challenge in the Old Testament is a plea for obedience. The same challenge holds true for us today.

4. A Promise of Reconciliation . Verses 5-6

This might seem like a strange way to end this book and more specifically a strange way to end the Old Testament. So tradition says when Jewish rabbis read Malachi they repeat verse 5 after verse 6. Maybe it's because we all like happy endings and the threat of a curse doesn't exactly make for a cheerful conclusion to this book.

The prophet Elijah (v. 5)

God promises that before the "day of the Lord" He will send the prophet Elijah. You might not remember this, but according to 2 Kings 2:11-12, Elijah never died. Elijah is often used in Scripture to represent the prophets as a whole. 400 years after Malachi was written, an angel appeared to a priest named Zachariah and told him he would have a son: "....and he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:14-17).

And who is this? While John the Baptist was not Elijah but, in a figurative sense, represents Elijah. According to this verse in Malachi 3:5, Elijah's coming will be right

before the great day of the Lord. Revelation 11:6 tells of two witnesses who will prophesy for 1,260 days and have the power to "shut up the sky so that it will not rain." Elijah is the prophet that told Ahab "There will be neither dew or rain in the next several years except at my word..." (1 Kings 17:1).

The Jews are still waiting for Elijah to usher in the Messiah's coming. At every Passover meal, there is an empty chair and an empty glass for Elijah and a door is left open in waiting for his arrival.

John the Baptist came in the "spirit and power of Elijah." John the Baptist announced that the Messiah had come. And the Messiah's name is Jesus. And only Jesus can reconcile ruptured relationships.

Unfortunately, some ruptured relationships exist between a father and his children. That's why the promise of reconciliation comes from...

The perfect Father (v. 6)

Maybe your father is no longer living and you miss him. There may be some in here whose father is still alive but you don't have a relationship with him. There's something inside of every child who desperately wants to be known, accepted and loved by their father. When that love is not given, the child can struggle for years with feelings of what psychologists call "father-hunger."

How do you overcome these feelings? Realize that only God is your perfect Father. You may never hear or maybe never have heard the words "I love you" come from the lips of your earthly father. But God demonstrated His love for you as your Heavenly Father. He demonstrated it by sending His one and only Son to show how much He loves you.

Listen to how David describes God's heart for you (Psalm 27:10, 103:13). Reconciliation can happen between a father and a child. It happens ultimately in God the Father making it possible to have the reconciliation by sending His Son. Now, the ball is in our court to receive that love and reconciliation.

Conclusion

In a moment, as we do after every time of worship, we are going to end our service this morning with a song of decision. It's a simple song that reminds us to look to Jesus. He is all we long for.

Perhaps this morning you just need to reflect on where you are with God. Reflect on your relationship with your earthly father. And may I encourage you to focus on the fact that only God can be your perfect Father? And if you haven't done so, I encourage you to completely surrender your life to Christ. Begin the process of healing and forgiveness and bask in God's love for you.

Reflect on Where You Are With God!

Return is Necessary

In Malachi 3:13 (KJV) it says "Your words have been **stout** against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, 'What have we spoken so much against thee?'" In Malachi's day there were people who outwardly spoke against the God of this universe, but then denied being anti-God.

In our day there are so many people, whether they are politicians or the local guy down at the cafe, who say one thing out of one side of their mouth and then another out of the other side of their mouth. They support freedom of "religion" one minute and then turn-around the next and try to block any expression of Christianity. The mantras of our day seem so silly. For example, we say let's not offend a Muslim. Let's set aside a special room for them to pray in. Let's call this violent, wicked, Godless, religion a "Religion of Peace."

God still says your words have been **stout** against me. The rulings of the Supreme Court and other courts across our land have been **stout** against the True and Living God and His Word, The Holy Bible. They have ruled the murder of the unborn to be legal. They have ruled that marriage is not between one man and one woman. They have ruled against prayer in our schools. And all the while these same people say they are not against God. They say they are for Religious Freedom but will not let freedom ring for the True and Living God!

In 3:14 the prophet Malachi reports that the people say it is vain to serve God and what profit is there in keeping His ordinances? In other words, what good does it do to worship God and obey His commandments? A lot of the people and some of the priest were asking these questions. Yet they failed to look at the past and how God had always taken care of them. They failed to see His protecting hand. They failed to see all of the benefits they had received because they had served Him.

In America, it appears many are at the point where they fail to see the importance of serving God. We have forgotten the past examples of God's protection. He blessed the pilgrims who came from England. He offered protection and help during the Revolutionary War. His healing balm helped to mend a nation after the Civil War nearly split this country in two. God offered hope on the battlefields during WWI and WWII.

Have you ever seen society as twisted as ours is today? Isaiah 5:20-21 speaks woe to those who have distorted reality and declared things to be something they are not. Woe unto us today. The homosexual lifestyle is now an alternative, accepted lifestyle. An unborn baby is no longer seen as human life but referred to as a fetus and that fetus has now become a choice. The nations of Israel and Judah had forgotten all that God had done for them and America has also forgotten. God says Return to me, and I will return to you (Malachi 3:7).

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, March 19, 2017

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Don Sharp, Fred Kerns

Alternate: Isaac Waters

Business Meeting and Fellowship Dinner.....Noon

No Evening Worship.....

Wednesday, March 22

Youth Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Adult Choir.....7:30 pm

Thursday, March 23

W Team.....6:30 pm

Food Pantry Day

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed
Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters
Alternate: Larry McKahan
Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 29

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm
Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 30

VBS Workers Clinic...FBC Saint Joseph... 6:30-9:00 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

March 19 — Lunch and Business Meeting at Noon

March 26 — Diversicare 2:30 pm

March 30 — VBS Worker's Clinic FBC, St. Joseph 6:30-9:00 pm

April 3 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

April 8 — Keyboard Festival 9:00am—Noon

April 9 — Palm Sunday

April 12 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

April 16 — Easter

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

Since today was Business Meeting and Fellowship Lunch, we will not have Bible study tonight at 6:30 pm. Please join us next week.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We have begun a new study entitled *Grace*. This week we view the third session of the study by Max Lucado as we journey to discover the depth of God's grace—*more than you deserve, greater than you can imagine, and all that you need*. Hope to see you here at 6:30 pm!

**North American Missions
And Annie Armstrong**

Easter Offering
Envelopes are now in the pews for your convenience.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER AND BUSINESS MEETING

Today, Sunday, March 19,
Immediately following the Morning Worship Service.

Welcome!!

New Members—

Randy and Gina Harr
5516 Miller Road
Saint Joseph, MO 64505
Phone: (816) 617-1042

Diversicare Nursing Home

March 26, 2017

2:30 pm

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

Food Kitchen

We will serve Monday, April 3, at 5:30 pm. Please feel free to join us as we show the love of Christ and minister to those in need.

Keyboard Festival

April 8th

*Calvary Baptist Church
9 am—Noon*

For the Record-

Attendance: March 12, 2017

Sunday School.....	42
Visitors.....	3
Total.....	45
Contacts Made.....	5
Morning Worship.....	48
Children's Worship.....	11
Wednesday Night	16

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,040.52
Offering Received ... \$ 2,373.20

Offering Received by Mail:

March Counting Team:

Bill Schottel and Mike Green

March Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

March Member Birthdays:

01...Ken Nice
05...Sharon Yarbrough
13...Tim Ford
16... Don Sharp
16... Aleana Lane
20... Betty Campbell
27... Jim Winans

March Anniversaries

Fred and Linda Kerns
March 14, 1969

Prayer Requests ...

Don and Marcia —Don's Health
Schottels traveling
Datha Dillon's Daughter's family
Troy Griswold—surgery recovery
Rev. A. B. Brown
Tracy Maisel and Tim Ford
Juanita and Bill Haskins—adjustments
Tim Izer
Gary & Peggy Fewins, Byron & Joel
George Ferbert—strength
Nellie Reynolds
Larry Danner—cancer treatment
Cynthia Burdick—cancer treatment
Jim Winans at home
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Betty Campbell
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law

Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris

Richardson's sisters

Madeline Swink Ann Riddle
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Louanne Laurence Leona Reynolds

Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Kevin Duty Buddy Means
Bill Haskins Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Judy Anderson
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane

Carolyn Houts

Missionaries Don and Diane Combs

Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church

David and Deborah Grace

Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People

Our Nation and Leaders

Our Military Service people

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
