

I can See Clearly Now:
Chapter #12

The Prophet Malachi

Time of Ministry: 430 B.C.

Author:

The prophet *Malachi* whose name can be translated as “*My messenger*” was *Faithfully* speaking the “*Truth*” that was given to him by *Yahweh*.

This prophesy is a *Loving* teaching that was delivered for one reason, *Malachi’s prophesy* was to bring *Repentance Redemption* and *Salvation* to *Father God’s Chosen People*.

Malachi was the last in the line of *Minor prophets*, this prophesy was delivered just before the *400 years* of “*Biblical Silence*” (a time when no Holy Prophets or *Yahweh* spoke to the Hebrew people).

This *Silence* will soon like a *Dark Cloud* spread over the *Unrepentant Hebrew people* and their *Homeland*.

Truly little information is recorded in the *Holy Bible* or known about the prophet *Malachi*, but we do have the prophesy that he received from *Yahweh*.

The author of the prophetic *Book of Malachi* was the *Hebrew prophet Malachi* who was chosen to truly be *Yahweh’s “Messenger”!*

The *Book of Malachi* will be the final chapter of this book, in *Chapter #12* I will attempt to pull all the threads of thought together and form the *whole cloth* of how all mankind *Jew* and *Gentile* can and must find the “*True*” path to *Repentance Redemption* and *Salvation*.

In the introduction for this book, I described two men who were prominent religious leaders that walked beside *Marten Luther King* in the “*Civil Rights*” freedom marches one was a *Hebrew Rabbi*, and the other was a *Christian Theologian*.

Both men found common ground in the struggle for *Human Equality* and *Justice*, “*Truths*” that can be found in the teachings of both the *Hebrew* religion and the *Christian* religion.

This *Spiritual Connection* they developed and *Believed* is at the foundation of mankind’s *Physical Creation* and *Spiritual Eternal Destiny!*

The need for *Love* and *Compassion* when it comes to all our brothers and sisters was their driving force, this mission of “*Love*” was guiding them on the path to show other men this *Eternal Truth!*

Understanding this need for *Love* and *Compassion* must be our highest goal, and the only path to this goal is to “*Truly*” understand who *Father God* is and how deeply *He Loves* all mankind. This knowledge about *God’s Love* will help us know why “*Redeemed*” sinners are called by *Father God --- His Children!*

We are now living in a world of intensified *Internal Strife* and *Spiritual Testing* due to the approaching “*End-Times*” political struggles where the *secular world* intends to force its *sinful* agenda on everyone.

Our *sinful Lost world* is now in a time that could be called a *“Trumpet Call”*, and it is announcing an upcoming *Earth-Shattering* event --- *“The Revelation of Jesus Christ”!*

In the time leading up to this world changing event *“The Revelation of Jesus Christ”* a teaching was recorded in the *Holy Bible*. This is the *prophetic* teaching where a *“Watchman”* is positioned at the top of the wall of the city and his job is to *Protect* the *“Chosen People”* by *watching* for *Danger* and then announcing the approaching *Danger* with a --- *Trumpet Call!* The *Hebrew* people who are living in the *Promised Land* during the time of the prophet *Malachi* did not understand that the prophet *Malachi* was the *“Watchman”* of their time. It is recorded in the *Holy Bible* that the *Hebrew* people *Failed* to listen and *“Believe”* the previous prophets, or the last *“Trumpet Call”* *Warning* *Malachi* *Faithfully* delivered from *Yahweh*.

Ezekiel 3:16–19 (NLT)

A Watchman for Israel!

¹⁶ *After seven days the LORD gave me a message. He said,* ¹⁷ *“Son of man, I have appointed you as a watchman for Israel. Whenever you receive a message from me, warn people immediately. ¹⁸ If I warn the wicked, saying, ‘You are under the penalty of death,’ but you fail to deliver the warning, they will die in their sins. And I will hold you responsible for their deaths. ¹⁹ If you warn them and they refuse to repent and keep on sinning, they will die in their sins. But you will have saved yourself because you obeyed me.*

This *Biblical Warning* recorded in the book of *Ezekiel* as is all prophetic instruction in the *Holy Bible* is intended to *Protect* from physical and Spiritual danger all who read or hear *Father God’s* *warning!*

Today it is vital to understand that this *Biblical Warning* is always *Relevant* and *Trustworthy* at all times and ages of mankind.

Hosea 5:5–7 (NLT)

When Leaders Fail!

⁵ *“The arrogance of Israel testifies against her; Israel and Ephraim will stumble under their load of guilt. Judah, too, will fall with them.*

⁶ *When they come with their flocks and herds to offer sacrifices to the LORD, they will not find him, because he has withdrawn from them.*

⁷ *They have betrayed the honor of the LORD, bearing children that are not his.*

Now their false religion will devour them along with their wealth.

The Prophecy:

This book of prophecy written by the prophet *Malachi* is a *three-part documentation* of the *Never-Ending Love Yahweh* has for the *Hebrew People*.

First with the *Understanding of the Truth* that *Yahweh* is "*King*" of the *Hebrew people*, they need to *Accept Yahweh* must first "*Righteously Judge*" *His Chosen People*.

Then only after *His Judgement and Punishment* can their *Loving Father God* with *His gift of "Grace" Bless and "Redeem"* all who "*Accept*" *Jesus Christ* as *Lord, and Savior*, they will be *washed clean of sin* with "*The Sinless Blood*" of *His Son --- Jesus Christ!*

Malachi 1:1–5 (NLT)

This is the message that the LORD gave to Israel through the prophet Malachi.

The LORD's Love for Israel

² *"I have always loved you," says the LORD.*

But you retort, "Really? How have you loved us?"

And the LORD replies, "This is how I showed my love for you: I loved your ancestor Jacob,³ but I rejected his brother, Esau, and devastated his hill country. I turned Esau's inheritance into a desert for jackals."

⁴ *Esau's descendants in Edom may say, "We have been shattered, but we will rebuild the ruins."*

But the LORD of Heaven's Armies replies, "They may try to rebuild, but I will demolish them again. Their country will be known as 'The Land of Wickedness,' and their people will be called 'The People with Whom the LORD Is Forever Angry.'⁵ When you see the destruction for yourselves, you will say, 'Truly, the LORD's greatness reaches far beyond Israel's borders!' "

This first part of the prophecy *Malachi 1:1-5* answers the questions of how and when has *Yahweh "Proven" His Love* for the *Hebrew people*.

Father God takes the *Hebrew people* back in time to *2000 B.C.* and the book of *Genesis* where *Yahweh* has chosen *Jacob* and renamed him "*Israel*". The *Blessing* and reason for this Biblical "*wrestling match*" visit from *God* was that *Israel* is forced to *Recognize Yahweh* as the *True Source* of his *Blessing*.

The newly renamed "*Israel*" will be *Blessed* and then father the *Blood Line* of the "*One*" who will lead the *Chosen People* to --- *The Final Land of Promise*.

Genesis 32:28 (NLT)

Yahweh Blesses Jacob!

²⁸ *"Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won."*

Genesis 35:9–12 (NLT)

You Will Become a Great Nation!

⁹ *Now that Jacob had returned from Paddan-aram, God appeared to him again at Bethel. God*

blessed him, ¹⁰ saying, “Your name is Jacob, but you will not be called Jacob any longer. From now on your name will be Israel.” So God renamed him Israel.

¹¹ Then God said, “I am El-Shaddai—‘God Almighty.’ Be fruitful and multiply. You will become a great nation, even many nations. Kings will be among your descendants! ¹² And I will give you the land I once gave to Abraham and Isaac. Yes, I will give it to you and your descendants after you.”

Exodus 19:5–6 (NLT)

Yahweh’s Holy Nation!

⁵ Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. ⁶ And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.”

Hosea 3:1–5 (NLT)

Hosea’s Wife Is Redeemed!

Then the LORD said to me, “Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that the LORD still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them.”

² So I bought her back for fifteen pieces of silver and five bushels of barley and a measure of wine. ³ Then I said to her, “You must live in my house for many days and stop your prostitution. During this time, you will not have sexual relations with anyone, not even with me.”

⁴ This shows that Israel will go a long time without a king or prince, and without sacrifices, sacred pillars, priests, or even idols! ⁵ But afterward the people will return and devote themselves to the LORD their God and to David’s descendant, their king. In the last days, they will tremble in awe of the LORD and of his goodness.

If the Hebrew people can remain “Obedient” to Yahweh’s Written Law “Faithfully” keeping all the Requirements of their Covenants with Father God, they will be “Abundantly” --- Blessed! On the other hand, the sinful Hebrew people who cause the LORD to show His “Anger” and do not “Repent” will not Escape Yahweh’s Anger with distance or the passing of time.

Malachi 1:6–14 (NLT)

Unworthy Sacrifices

⁶ The LORD of Heaven’s Armies says to the priests: “A son honors his father, and a servant respects his master. If I am your father and master, where are the honor and respect I deserve? You have shown contempt for my name!

“But you ask, ‘How have we ever shown contempt for your name?’

⁷ “You have shown contempt by offering defiled sacrifices on my altar.

“Then you ask, ‘How have we defiled the sacrifices?’

“You defile them by saying the altar of the LORD deserves no respect. ⁸ When you give blind animals as sacrifices, isn’t that wrong? And isn’t it wrong to offer animals that are crippled and

diseased? Try giving gifts like that to your governor, and see how pleased he is!" says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

⁹ "Go ahead, beg God to be merciful to you! But when you bring that kind of offering, why should he show you any favor at all?" asks the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

¹⁰ "How I wish one of you would shut the Temple doors so that these worthless sacrifices could not be offered! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "and I will not accept your offerings. ¹¹ But my name is honored by people of other nations from morning till night. All around the world they offer sweet incense and pure offerings in honor of my name. For my name is great among the nations," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

¹² "But you dishonor my name with your actions. By bringing contemptible food, you are saying it's all right to defile the Lord's table. ¹³ You say, 'It's too hard to serve the LORD,' and you turn up your noses at my commands," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. "Think of it! Animals that are stolen and crippled and sick are being presented as offerings! Should I accept from you such offerings as these?" asks the LORD.

¹⁴ "Cursed is the cheat who promises to give a fine ram from his flock but then sacrifices a defective one to the Lord. For I am a great king," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "and my name is feared among the nations!"

This section of Chapter #1:6-14 should be titled "The High Cost of Unworthy Sacrifices" and it was delivered to the Hebrew people so that they would "Properly" and "Correctly" offer *Sacrificial Offerings* at the --- *Alter of God*.

Father God is a Loving God who wants to "Cover" the sins of His Chosen People so that He can provide His Blessings and Protect them. The only method of covering sin during the time of the Old Testament is with the blood of the Hebrews sacrificial offerings as required in Yahweh's Holy Law and the "Covenants" regulations the Hebrew people have Accepted in the past. Regretfully this covering of sins cannot be accomplished with *Sacrificial Offerings* that are "Corrupted" or "Blemished", the Offerings must be the "First Fruits" and "Spotless Lambs" of the flocks and fields Lovingly Provided by their "Father" and "Master".

Yahweh makes it unmistakably clear that God's Children do not "Know Him", His Chosen People must "Honor" His position as El-Shaddai "God Almighty" and not Disrespect His "Holy Name" by sinfully offering corrupt blemished offerings they know are not acceptable.

The Hebrew people would not dare to offer such "Damaged Goods" to their earthly kings, they know that the obvious imperfections of the insulting gifts would bring to them rapid punishment and pain.

Yahweh is not "Blind", and Father God is not required to accept offerings from the Hebrew people that Fail to be the Best and Finest that they can offer to the Loving God that has Provided Everything they have.

Father God would rather have someone shut the doors of His Temple and block the offering of Damaged Goods, offerings that only cause Anger and Offend --- "The Lord of Heavens Armies"! The Hebrew people are Fools to think that an "All-Knowing" God would show them Favor and Bless them with more Abundance and Protection when they Do Not "Respect" Yahweh or "Fear" His Anger and Punishment.

Amos 5:21–24 (NLT)

Hebrew Hypocrisy!

- ²¹ *“I hate all your show and pretense—
the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies.*
- ²² *I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain offerings.
I won’t even notice all your choice peace offerings.*
- ²³ *Away with your noisy hymns of praise!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.*
- ²⁴ *Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice,
an endless river of righteous living.*

Jeremiah 7:21–23 (NLT)

Blessings Come from Obedience!

²¹ *This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: “Take your burnt offerings and your other sacrifices and eat them yourselves! ²² When I led your ancestors out of Egypt, it was not burnt offerings and sacrifices I wanted from them. ²³ This is what I told them: ‘Obey me, and I will be your God, and you will be my people. Do everything as I say, and all will be well!’*

Hosea 6:5–7 (NLT)

A Call to Repentance!

- ⁵ *I sent my prophets to cut you to pieces—
to slaughter you with my words,
with judgments as inescapable as light.*
- ⁶ *I want you to show love,
not offer sacrifices.
I want you to know me
more than I want burnt offerings.*
- ⁷ *But like Adam, you broke my covenant
and betrayed my trust.*

Malachi 2:1–9 (NLT)

A Warning to the Priests!

“Listen, you priests—this command is for you! ² Listen to me and make up your minds to honor my name,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, “or I will bring a terrible curse against you. I will curse even the blessings you receive. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you have not taken my warning to heart. ³ I will punish your descendants and splatter your faces with the manure from your festival sacrifices, and I will throw you on the manure pile. ⁴ Then at last you will know it was I who sent you this warning so that my covenant with the Levites can continue,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.

⁵ *"The purpose of my covenant with the Levites was to bring life and peace, and that is what I gave them. This required reverence from them, and they greatly revered me and stood in awe of my name. ⁶ They passed on to the people the truth of the instructions they received from me. They did not lie or cheat; they walked with me, living good and righteous lives, and they turned many from lives of sin.*

⁷ *"The words of a priest's lips should preserve knowledge of God, and people should go to him for instruction, for the priest is the messenger of the LORD of Heaven's Armies. ⁸ But you priests have left God's paths. Your instructions have caused many to stumble into sin. You have corrupted the covenant I made with the Levites," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. ⁹ "So I have made you despised and humiliated in the eyes of all the people. For you have not obeyed me but have shown favoritism in the way you carry out my instructions."*

In *Chapter #2:1-9* the prophetic instruction for "Repentance" is now directed with all the Power and Authority of Almighty God straight at the "Heart" of the sinful Hebrew priests.

The Hebrew priests are Levites with whom Yahweh made a covenant "Requiring" that the Levites would Faithfully carry out the priestly obligations and duties of worship.

This Covenant Duty also came along with Teaching the Hebrew people how to achieve the "Correct" Relationship with Yahweh and His "Written law".

The earthly Benefit of this two-way covenant was that the Levites were to be Exempt from working, all the needs of the Levites were to be provided by the other Hebrew tribes.

As we read in *Chapter #2* the Levite priests have Failed to "Honor" the name of "The Lord" and follow the Requirements contained in the Holy Covenant with Yahweh.

This sinful "Disrespect" for Yahweh was so Complete and Deep-Rooted that the Levites have abused their privileged position to extort money and favors from the Hebrew people.

The outlaw priests have even Perverted the "Written Law" by changing the Intent of the "Law" using it to gain wealth and property by helping Hebrew people sinfully hide wealth by dedicating it to the Temple of The LORD!

When "The Lord of Heavens Armies" Trusts men to follow the Requirements of a covenant and they Blatantly sinfully "Disrespect" God they will Truly Understand what it feels like to be under the Crushing Judgment of --- Yahweh's Anger!

The Loving intent of the covenant Yahweh made with the Levite priests was to bring Peace and Life to the Levites and all the Hebrew people.

During the "Obedient" period of time when the Requirements of this covenant were Faithfully followed by the Levite priests and the Hebrew people the Hebrew people did receive the gifts of Peace and Life from Father God.

This Blessing was provided because the Hebrew people and the Levite priests Faithfully walked the path of Honesty and Righteousness as they turned away from a life of sin.

Sadly, this Obedient Faithful following of the "Written Law" and the Covenants did not continue as intended. The result of this "Disobedience" will be that the Levite priests will be publicly exposed as "Unfaithful Servants" and "false teachers" who should be Despised and Punished for the sin they willingly committed.

This sinful "Disobedience" of false teachers and Unfaithful Servants can be found today in churches and religions that "Fail" to teach that all the "Ten Commandments" given to Moses

must be *“The Law”* and *Faithfully* followed.

The *modern-day priests and churches* have also *sinfully* used their positions as *religious teachers* to gain *worldly wealth and prestige*, they have become --- *“Unfaithful Servants”!*

The *religious teachers and churches* of today must *Faithfully* teach *“The Gospel of Jesus Christ”* instructing that the *Only Path* to *“Redemption”* is with *“Repentance”* from a *life of sin* and the *“Grace”* (the unmerited and unearned total forgiveness of sin) of *Father God* that was made available to all mankind with the *“Sinless Blood” Sacrifice* of our *LORD, and Savior Jesus Christ*.

Hosea 4:6–7 (NLT)

A Warning to The Priests!

⁶ *My people are being destroyed
because they don't know me.
Since you priests refuse to know me,
I refuse to recognize you as my priests.
Since you have forgotten the laws of your God,
I will forget to bless your children.*

⁷ *The more priests there are,
the more they sin against me.
They have exchanged the glory of God
for the shame of idols.*

Ezekiel 13:8–9 (NLT)

Judgement Against False Prophets!

⁸ *“Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because what you say is false and your visions are a lie, I will stand against you, says the Sovereign LORD. ⁹ I will raise my fist against all the prophets who see false visions and make lying predictions, and they will be banished from the community of Israel. I will blot their names from Israel's record books, and they will never again set foot in their own land. Then you will know that I am the Sovereign LORD.*

Micah 3:9–11 (NLT)

Judgement Against Israel's Leaders!

⁹ *Listen to me, you leaders of Israel!
You hate justice and twist all that is right.*

¹⁰ *You are building Jerusalem
on a foundation of murder and corruption.*

¹¹ *You rulers make decisions based on bribes;
you priests teach God's laws only for a price;
you prophets won't prophesy unless you are paid.
Yet all of you claim to depend on the LORD.
“No harm can come to us,” you say,
“for the LORD is here among us.”*

*2 Peter 2:1–3 (NLT)**The Danger of False Teachers!*

But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves.

² Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. ³ In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed.

*Malachi 2:10–17 (NLT)**A Call to Faithfulness!*

¹⁰ Are we not all children of the same Father? Are we not all created by the same God? Then why do we betray each other, violating the covenant of our ancestors?

¹¹ Judah has been unfaithful, and a detestable thing has been done in Israel and in Jerusalem. The men of Judah have defiled the LORD's beloved sanctuary by marrying women who worship idols. ¹² May the LORD cut off from the nation of Israel every last man who has done this and yet brings an offering to the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

¹³ Here is another thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, weeping and groaning because he pays no attention to your offerings and doesn't accept them with pleasure. ¹⁴ You cry out, "Why doesn't the LORD accept my worship?" I'll tell you why! Because the LORD witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows.

¹⁵ Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. ¹⁶ "For I hate divorce!" says the LORD, the God of Israel. "To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. "So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife."

¹⁷ You have wearied the LORD with your words.

"How have we wearied him?" you ask.

You have wearied him by saying that all who do evil are good in the LORD's sight, and he is pleased with them. You have wearied him by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"

The last section of *Chapter #2:10-17 Yahweh* asks the *Unrepentant Hebrew* people why they have *Forgotten* that they are *Father God's "Children"!*

The *Chosen People* prove their *Forgetfulness* when they enslave other *Hebrews* attack, and steal from their neighbors they do not treat other *Hebrews* as brothers and sisters.

Hebrew men commit Adultery with pagan temple prostitutes, this unlawful coupling violates their marriage vows and by this sinful act they have committed physical and --- "Spiritual Adultery"!

This *sinful lifestyle* is compounded as the *Disobedient Hebrews* continue to *Blatantly* violate the *Obligations* of the *Covenants* their ancestors made with *Yahweh*.

The *sinful Hebrew* men have married foreign women who have continued the *Forbidden worship of Pagan gods*. The Hebrew men are not only *sinful* they are *sinfully ignoring* the protective instruction in the “*Written law*” that forbids marrying *Pagan women*.

Nehemiah 13:26–27 (NLT)

The Sin of King Solomon!

²⁶ “Wasn’t this exactly what led King Solomon of Israel into sin?” I demanded. “There was no king from any nation who could compare to him, and God loved him and made him king over all Israel. But even he was led into sin by his foreign wives. ²⁷ How could you even think of committing this sinful deed and acting unfaithfully toward God by marrying foreign women?”

Ezra 10:10–11 (NLT)

A Terrible Sin!

¹⁰ Then Ezra the priest stood and said to them: “You have committed a terrible sin. By marrying pagan women, you have increased Israel’s guilt. ¹¹ So now confess your sin to the LORD, the God of your ancestors, and do what he demands. Separate yourselves from the people of the land and from these pagan women.”

Father God is a *Loving Father*, but *He* will not and cannot accept worship or prayers from the “*Unfaithful*”.

The act of being an “*Unfaithful*” husband or wife by *violating* the marriage vows that they entered into with *Yahweh* is being “*Unfaithful*” to *Father God*, *He* is the *third part* of this *Holy Union*.

A man or a woman cannot “*Divorce*” their vows or obligations to --- *Father God!*

The act of “*Spiritual Adultery*” where the *Hebrew people* have chosen to be “*Unfaithful*” by worshiping *pagan gods* is a *sin* that will cause *Yahweh* to cut off all *His Blessing* and *Protection* to anyone who is *Foolish* enough to be “*Unfaithful*”, they should be cautious when they ask --- “*Where is the God of Justice!*”

Jeremiah 3:6–9 (NLT)

Judah Follows Israel’s Example

⁶ During the reign of King Josiah, the LORD said to me, “Have you seen what fickle Israel has done? Like a wife who commits adultery, Israel has worshiped other gods on every hill and under every green tree. ⁷ I thought, ‘After she has done all this, she will return to me.’ But she did not return, and her faithless sister Judah saw this. ⁸ She saw that I divorced faithless Israel because of her adultery. But that treacherous sister Judah had no fear, and now she, too, has left me and given herself to prostitution. ⁹ Israel treated it all so lightly—she thought nothing of committing adultery by worshiping idols made of wood and stone. So now the land has been polluted.

*Malachi 3:1–5 (NLT)**The Coming Day of Judgment!*

“Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.

² *“But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes. ³ He will sit like a refiner of silver, burning away the dross. He will purify the Levites, refining them like gold and silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the LORD. ⁴ Then once more the LORD will accept the offerings brought to him by the people of Judah and Jerusalem, as he did in the past.*

⁵ *“At that time I will put you on trial. I am eager to witness against all sorcerers and adulterers and liars. I will speak against those who cheat employees of their wages, who oppress widows and orphans, or who deprive the foreigners living among you of justice, for these people do not fear me,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.*

The prophet *Malachi* in *Chapter #3:1* introduces the *Hebrew* people to “*John the Baptist*” the prophet who will come to *prepare the world* for the --- *Gospel of Jesus Christ!*

It is *John the Baptist* who will set the stage for the introduction of the “*Messiah*” *Lord*, and *Savior Jesus Christ* to the *Hebrew* people and all the world.

The *Lord, Jesus Christ* will “*Prove*” *His Obedience* to *Yahweh* with *His Death* on the cross, then with *His Sinless Blood* He will “*Baptize*” the “*Repentant*” *sinner* with --- *The Holy Spirit!*

This first part of this chapter also includes the future “*Second Coming*” of “*The Lion of Juda*” when the *Lord* will “*Suddenly Come to His Temple*”, this future event will bring --- *Righteous Judgement!*

The *Blinding “Brilliance”* of the “*Light*” *Shining Out* from the *Lord, Jesus Christ* will cause all who stand before *Him* to *Fall* on their faces because of the *Righteousness* of the --- *LORD!*

All the people who “*Accept*” *Jesus Christ* as *Lord*, and *Savior* will be made “*Pure*” as *Refined silver* and *gold*, made “*Clean*” with the *Power* of the *Gift* of “*Grace*” (the unearned and totally unmerited forgiveness of all sin).

The “*Holy Fire*” of *Yahweh’s Purification* will make the *Levite* priests *free of sin* so that they once again can offer sacrifices at the *Temple* of the *Lord*.

With this “*Cleansing*” *Yahweh* will not be blocked by *sin* from giving *His Blessings* and *Provision* to *His Chosen People*.

This time of *Repentance* and *Renewal* for the *Hebrew* people will also come with the “*Righteous Judgement*” of the *sinful Unrepentant* *Hebrews* who did not --- “*Fear The Lord!*”

*Matthew 3:1–3 (NLT)**John the Baptist Prepares the Way*

In those days John the Baptist came to the *Judean wilderness* and began preaching. His message was, ² *“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” ³ The prophet Isaiah* was speaking about *John* when he said,

*“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming!
Clear the road for him!’ ”*

Matthew 3:11–12 (NLT)

Baptism with The Holy Spirit!

¹¹ “I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

The “*Righteous Judgement*” part of *Chapter #3* is the “*Perfect Will*” of *Father God*, and it is not for us as *mortal men and women* to fully understand *His ways* are not our ways.

Zechariah 13:8–9 (NLT)

The Scattering of the Sheep!

*⁸ Two-thirds of the people in the land
will be cut off and die,” says the LORD.
“But one-third will be left in the land.
⁹ I will bring that group through the fire
and make them pure.
I will refine them like silver
and purify them like gold.
They will call on my name,
and I will answer them.
I will say, ‘These are my people,’
and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’ ”*

Deuteronomy 31:11–13 (NLT)

“I Will Put You on Trial”!

¹¹ you must read this Book of Instruction to all the people of Israel when they assemble before the LORD your God at the place he chooses. ¹² Call them all together—men, women, children, and the foreigners living in your towns—so they may hear this Book of Instruction and learn to fear the LORD your God and carefully obey all the terms of these instructions. ¹³ Do this so that your children who have not known these instructions will hear them and will learn to fear the LORD your God. Do this as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy.”

Malachi 3:6–15 (NLT)

A Call to Repentance!

⁶ "I am the LORD, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my decrees and failed to obey them. Now return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

"But you ask, 'How can we return when we have never gone away?'

⁸ "Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me!

"But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?'

"You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. ⁹ You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. ¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! ¹¹ Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. ¹² "Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

¹³ "You have said terrible things about me," says the LORD.

"But you say, 'What do you mean? What have we said against you?'

¹⁴ "You have said, 'What's the use of serving God? What have we gained by obeying his commands or by trying to show the LORD of Heaven's Armies that we are sorry for our sins?'

¹⁵ From now on we will call the arrogant blessed. For those who do evil get rich, and those who dare God to punish them suffer no harm.' "

In this section of *Chapter #3:6-15 Yahweh* points out that *He* has protected *His Chosen People* from punishment for their *sins*, punishment that they *truly deserved*.

This has been a growing mountain of punishment that has built up since the time of the creation of "Israel" when *Yahweh* had *His* wrestling match with *Jacob*.

Father God again *Reminds His "Forgetful"* children that they like their *ancestors* have *Failed to "Faithfully"* follow *Yahweh's Written Law* and the *Requirements of the Covenants* the *Hebrew* leaders of their past have *Pledged* to follow.

The *sinful Hebrew* people have been "*Unfaithful*" they have "*Gone Away*" from *Yahweh* by choice, they have *Blatantly* and *Hypocritically* adopted *pagan worship* and taken *pagan wives*. It will be their *sins* that will *bring down Yahweh's Righteous Judgement* on the *Hebrew* people, *Correction of Attitude* and "*Repentance*" is *Father God's* desired response from the *Hebrew* people.

Yahweh has been "*Faithful*", and it is *Father God* who feels the "*Deep Sorrow*" of a husband that has been *Cheated On* by his bride.

If the *sinfully Disobedient Hebrew* people do not "*Repent*" and "*Return*" to *Him*, *He* must *Punish* them as --- "*His Law Requires*"!

2 Chronicles 36:15–17 (NLT)

Follow the Written Law of Yahweh!

¹⁵ The LORD, the God of their ancestors, repeatedly sent his prophets to warn them, for he had

compassion on his people and his Temple. ¹⁶ But the people mocked these messengers of God and despised their words. They scoffed at the prophets until the LORD's anger could no longer be restrained and nothing could be done.

The Fall of Jerusalem

¹⁷ So the LORD brought the king of Babylon against them. The Babylonians killed Judah's young men, even chasing after them into the Temple. They had no pity on the people, killing both young men and young women, the old and the infirm. God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar.

Isaiah 44:21–23 (NLT)

Restoration for Jerusalem!

*²¹ "Pay attention, O Jacob,
for you are my servant, O Israel.
I, the LORD, made you,
and I will not forget you.*

*²² I have swept away your sins like a cloud.
I have scattered your offenses like the morning mist.
Oh, return to me,
for I have paid the price to set you free."*

*²³ Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done this wondrous thing.
Shout for joy, O depths of the earth!
Break into song,
O mountains and forests and every tree!
For the LORD has redeemed Jacob
and is glorified in Israel.*

Malachi 3:16–18 (NLT)

The LORD's Promise of Mercy!

¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke with each other, and the LORD listened to what they said. In his presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared him and always thought about the honor of his name.

¹⁷ "They will be my people," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. "On the day when I act in judgment, they will be my own special treasure. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child. ¹⁸ Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not."

The last section of *Chapter #3:16-18* describes "a scroll of remembrance" some commentators and *Bible scholars* interpret this scroll as a *record book* used by the priests to record the good deeds of *Hebrew* priests and prophets.

The statement from *Yahweh* in *verse #17* “*On the day when I act in judgment*” makes it clear to me that this section is again a look at the “*Final Judgement*” at the “*Great White Throne*”. This is a time of *Judgement* that has not yet occurred, but it will take place after “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*”.

The “*Obedient*” servants of *Father God* will be *Rewarded* with “*Eternal Life*”, then they will be called “*Children of God*”, they will *Inherit* --- *His Kingdom!*

Revelation 20:11–15 (NLT)

The Final Judgment!

¹¹ *And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide.* ¹² *I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books.* ¹³ *The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds.* ¹⁴ *Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death.* ¹⁵ *And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Malachi 4:1–6 (NLT)

The Coming Day of Judgment!

¹ *The LORD of Heaven’s Armies says, “The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. On that day the arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw. They will be consumed—roots, branches, and all.*

² *“But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.* ³ *On the day when I act, you will tread upon the wicked as if they were dust under your feet,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.*

⁴ *“Remember to obey the Law of Moses, my servant—all the decrees and regulations that I gave him on Mount Sinai for all Israel.*

⁵ *“Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives.* ⁶ *His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse.”*

In *Chapter #4:1-6* the prophesy of *Malachi* is again looking forward in time to the *Final Return* of the *Hebrew* people to the *Nation of Israel*, a *Peaceful* time when the *Chosen People* are living under the *Protection* of their *King Lord*, and *Savior Jesus Christ*.

The *Hebrew* people who remain *Faithful* and *Obey* the *Written Law* given to *Moses* will be set “*Free*” by their *Faithfulness*. Then with *True Repentance* they will be granted *Freedom* from *sin* through “*Grace*” (the unearned and totally unmerited forgiveness of all sin”).

With *Father God’s Grace* and the *Power* of “*The Lord of Righteousness*” (*Jesus Christ*) the

Hebrew people will be victorious; they will have the *Power to Crush* all who are wicked under their feet.

Yahweh Promises to send the *Prophet Elijah* to the Hebrew people before the “*Day of the Lord*” and that day is “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*”, this will be the “*Return*” of *Jesus Christ* as the “*Lion of Judah*”, He will deliver *Righteous Judgement* to all the *Unrepentant sinners*.

The prophet *Elijah* and one *unknown prophet* will for 1,260 days before the “*Return*” of *Jesus Christ* deliver the *Brilliant Light* of “*Redemptive*” teaching “*The Gospel of Jesus Christ*” to the Hebrew people.

The Hebrew people will with this *Redemptive* teaching learn and “*Believe*” that *Jesus Christ* is their *Messiah* their “*Kinsman Redeemer*” that they have been looking for and did not recognize the first time “*The LORD*” walked the *Promised Land* as the *Spotless “Sacrificial” Lamb of God!* With this *Redemptive Faith* and *Acceptance* of *Jesus Christ* as “*Lord, and Savior*”, only the *Disobedient Hebrew* people will be punished with “*Death*” and the “*Curse*” of the *sinful --- Unrepentant sinners!*

Isaiah 66:15–16 (NLT)

Judgement and Final Salvation!

¹⁵ See, the LORD is coming with fire,
and his swift chariots roar like a whirlwind.

He will bring punishment with the fury of his anger
and the flaming fire of his hot rebuke.

¹⁶ The LORD will punish the world by fire
and by his sword.

He will judge the earth,
and many will be killed by him.

Psalms 57:1–2 (NLT)

Protection for the Repentant!

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy!
I look to you for protection.

I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings
until the danger passes by.

² I cry out to God Most High,
to God who will fulfill his purpose for me.

Revelation 11:3–4 (NLT)

The Two Witnesses!

³ And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will be clothed in burlap and will prophesy during those 1,260 days.”

⁴ *These two prophets are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of all the earth.*

Romans 5:6–11 (NLT)
Faith Brings Joy!

⁶ *When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.*
⁷ *Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good.* ⁸ *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.* ⁹ *And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.*
¹⁰ *For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.* ¹¹ *So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.*

With the final chapter of this book and the *Wisdom* found in the *Holy Bible*, I Pray that anyone who reads this book will look at the *Minor Prophets* in a *New Light* seeing them as our "Spiritual" guides in the *Dark* and *Troubled* times we are now living in.

The *Holy Bible* contains the *Light* and *Truth* found in the "*Gospel of Jesus Christ*", *Believing* this *Truth* will bring *Never-Ending Joy* to all who will "*Accept*" *Jesus Christ* as *Lord*, and *Savior*!

Psalms 16:11 (NLT)
Joy to the World!

¹¹ *You will show me the way of life,
granting me the joy of your presence
and the pleasures of living with you forever.*