

Minor Prophets...

THE MINOR PROPHETS

The Book of Malachi
Mal. 3:13-18

...Major Message

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Mal. 3:13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken *so much* against thee?

14 **Ye have said, It is vain to serve God:** and **what profit is it** that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, *they that* tempt God are even delivered.

16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and **a book of remembrance** was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day **when I make up my jewels**; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

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Mal. 3:13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. **Yet ye say**, What have we spoken *so much* against thee?

b. How Bitterly They Argued, 3:14

Mal. 3:14 **Ye have said, It is vain to serve God**: and **what profit is it** that we have kept his ordinance, and that **we have walked mournfully** before the LORD of hosts?

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"So-called good works that do not arise from genuine faith and gratitude to God are simply 'hot checks' drawn on an empty bank account. They may provide a temporary sense of self-satisfaction, but God recognizes their true value—zero, and he will eventually bring to justice anyone who tries to live on them."

E. Ray Clendenen, *Haggai, Malachi*, p. 437.

c. How Blasphemously They Argued, 3:15

Mal. 3:15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, *they that* tempt God are even delivered.

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Prov. 6:16 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:

17 **A proud look**, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 **An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations**, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Prov. 16:5 **Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD**: *though* hand *join* in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Prov. 21:4 An high look, and **a proud heart**, *and* the plowing of the wicked, **is sin**.

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Jas. 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, **God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**

Jas. 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for **God cannot be tempted** with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

B. To Deal Justly with Saints, 3:16-4:6

1. Righteous Ones Remembered, 3:16

Mal. 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and **a book of remembrance** was written before him **for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.**
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Job 28:28 And unto man he said, **Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom**; and to depart from evil *is* understanding.

Psa. 111:10 **The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom**: a good understanding have all they that do *his commandments*: his praise endureth for ever.

Prov. 1:7 **The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge**: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Prov. 9:10 **The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom**: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

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Prov. 15:16 **Better *is* little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith. ...**

33 **The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom;**
and before honour *is* humility.

Prov. 23:17 Let not thine heart envy sinners: but ***be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.***

Acts 9:31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and **walking in the fear of the Lord**, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

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Mt. 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for **out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.**

35 A good man out of the **good treasure of the heart** bringeth forth **good things**: and an evil man out of the **evil treasure** bringeth forth **evil things.**

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in **the day of judgment.**

37 For **by thy words** thou shalt be justified, and **by thy words** thou shalt be condemned.

Est. 6:1 On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring **the book of records** of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

Psa. 56:8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into **thy bottle**: *are they not in thy book?*

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Dan. 7:10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and **the books were opened**.

Rev. 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life***: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

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Malachi gave three tips for developing a lifestyle of faithfulness.

- Vow to be faithful to God, even if those around you are not. Consider writing your own 'book of remembrance.'
- Surround yourself with a group of likeminded individuals for encouragement. This group 'talked with each other' as they encouraged each other to remain faithful.

Mal. 3:16 Then **they that feared the LORD spake often one to another**: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

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Heb. 10:25 **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and **so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

Prov. 27:17 **Iron sharpeneth iron**; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of **his friend.**

- Remember that God's day of reckoning will come someday. Keep a long-range perspective.

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1 Cor. 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 **Every man's work** shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try **every man's work** of what sort it is.

14 If **any man's work** abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If **any man's work** shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Lu. 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, **because your names are written in heaven.**

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Phil. 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my fellowlabourers, **whose names are in the book of life.**

2. Righteous Ones Rewarded, 3:17

Mal. 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day **when I make up my jewels**; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Prov. 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above **rubies.**

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Mt. 13:46 Who, when he had found one **pearl** of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

1 Thess. 2:19 For what *is* our hope, or joy, or **crown** of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

Isa. 62:3 Thou shalt also be a **crown** of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a **royal diadem** in the hand of thy God.

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Dan. 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a **time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

3 And **they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.**

4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even* to **the time of the end**: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

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3. Righteous Ones Recognized, 3:18

Mal. 3:18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

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Conclusion

Mt. 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered **all nations**: and **he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats**:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

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36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, **Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.**

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, **Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:**

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42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me.**

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

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