

A BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

MALACHI

God has spoken of His displeasure with the priests:

- lack of conviction and enthusiasm
- lack of proper sacrifices
- lack of proper regard for the Law.
- lack of proper regard for the separation from other nations/wives.

God has spoken out against the people who ask “Where is the God of Justice?”

GOD SPEAKS OUT AGAINST THE ARROGANT. Mal.3:13-18

The arrogant speak:

- Say it’s “vain” to serve God (no reward).
- Charge God with not considering their mourning (no favors).
- Conclude that it pays to be arrogant (against God), and others successfully test Him without punishment.
- They forgot that only good comes from God. Jam.1:17

The God-revering remnant speak (by contrast):

- What they said is not recorded, but God approves.

God speaks (:17-18): He will make it evident that it pays to serve him. Cf. Psa.58:11

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- National records were kept. 1Ki.11:41, Ezr.4:15, 6:1, Est.6:1
- References to God’s records: Pas.56:8, 69:28, Phi.4:3 “book of life”, Rev.20:12
- Book of remembrance: God knows those who are His. (2Ti.2:19)
- Book is ever open before the Lord: He remembers, knows!

A DAY IS COMING. Mal.4:1-6

- Fearful day for wicked.** Justice meted out.
- Opportunity to be healed for those who feared God.**
- John (in spirit of Elijah) came to prepare people.**
- What day?**

- God visited a day of judgment of individuals and nations at various times.
- God was to visit Jerusalem with judgment. AD 70.
- “Smite land with curse”=extermination of the people.
- Also God will judge at the final judgment. 2Th.1:6-10

LESSONS WE LEARN

- We show our own lack of remembrance and faith when we complain** that it “doesn’t pay to serve the Lord”, when He doesn’t do what we ask.
- We may “do everything right” but still have trouble in life.
- Remember: God helps us over hurdles, not remove them.

It’s possible that our troubles are of our own doing, not a lack of God’s care.

We shouldn’t concern ourselves with those who do evil and seem to get away with it.

- There is a “Book of Remembrance”— what we have done. Nothing hidden. Heb.4:12-13
- Give an account. Rom.14:12

It is not the Lord’s will to condemn anyone.

- John sent to turn hearts of people.” Luk.1:17
- Jesus “came not to judge... but to save” Joh.3:17
- “How often I wanted to gather your children together” Mat.23:37
- “Not willing that any should perish, but all come to repentance” 2Pe.3:9

God doesn’t get any perverse enjoyment in condemning men, but justice demands it.

All those who find “grace and truth” in Jesus are saved from condemnation.

There is a book of life...and our name needs (must) be in it. Phi.4:3, Rev.21:27, Luk.10:20

Your name can be in it: Jesus makes it possible . . .you make it a reality.