

As Malachi concludes with the final disputation, the prophet makes it clear that the Lord makes a distinction between those who follow Him and those who do not. The final chapter brings hope for an upcoming day where hope, joy, and order will be restored, but it leaves with a warning of the finality for those who refuse to fear and obey the Lord.

## Malachi 3:16-4:6

# The Day of the Lord

### I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

As Christians we're called to live differently from the world. The idea that there is a clear distinction between those who follow God and those who don't seems like an obvious one. However, that distinction, being different, sadly is what prevents many from obeying God fully and living like the culture of the day instead.

**MY EXPERIENCE...**

**YOUR EXPERIENCE...**

### II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

**WHAT** are some characteristics about your life that tend to be quite different than that of someone who does not follow God?

**ARE** there areas you've struggled with or maybe even compromised when it comes to living out your full devotion to the Lord?

**HOW** much does your eternal perspective influence your ability to endure hardship, trials, or patience for things that *appear* better now?

**WHAT** is one thing you've yet to experience and are hopeful for in Christ?

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# The Day of the Lord

Malachi 3:16-4:6

## OBSERVATION

According to vs. 16, who rose to speak with the Lord?

What do you observe about the relationship between the Lord and the people from vs. 16-17?

In vs. 18, what does the text make clear will be visible?

How is the upcoming day mentioned in 4:1 described?

What is promised to those who fear the Lord in vs. 2-3?

What does the Lord call the people to remember in vs. 4?

In vs. 5-6, what will result in the coming days when the Lord will send Elijah?

## INTERPRETATION

What does it mean to, “Fear the Lord”? Recall Proverbs 1:7, 29; 9:10

What is the book of remembrance mentioned in vs. 16? Consider Ex. 32:32-33, Psalm 69:28, and Daniel 12:1 for insight.

What does it take to become God’s treasured possession (vs. 17)? Why might this be a significant way to conclude the Old Testament? Recall Exodus 19:4-6 and 1 Peter 2:9-10.

How are God’s people to be a distinction from the rest of the world (vs. 18)?

Contrast the hopefulness of the two groups of people recorded in 4:1-3 and how “final” this future reality is.

Why do you think God is calling the people to remember those things he mentions in vs. 4? Consider what Jesus spoke of in Luke 24:25-27.

Has God sent Elijah? What is the great and awesome day? What is meant by verse 6? (see Matthew 11:14, Mark 9:11-13, Luke 1:17)

## APPLICATION

What hope do you experience knowing that Christ has come and that He makes you distinct from the world? How does your obedience to Him draw you to live differently, and what are the ways you struggle to do so?