2001Malachi 3

King James Version (KJV)

(Malachi = my messenger)

3 Behold, I will send <u>my messenger</u>, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even <u>the messenger of the covenant</u>, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. (This foretells of both the First and Second Advent of Jesus)

(The messenger of the covenant = the angel of the covenant; the word angel means messenger)

²But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: (a refiner's fire purifies metals; and the fuller's soap cleans clothes)

(These are metaphors for – God will test the people. Did they learn His Word? Are they living justly by His Commandments?)

³ And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and <u>he shall purify</u> the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. (The sons of Levi are the priests. God will get rid of the false preachers. Like the slag is thrown away when purifying metals)

(The Book of Malachi focuses on false preachers who were leading people into idolatry with their false doctrines. The same holds true today. Preachers who teach traditions of men instead of God's Word are leading people into confusion and possibly a spiritual death. That is why God will judge them harshly)

- ⁴Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as <u>in the days of old</u>, and as <u>in former years</u>. (As in the days of Abraham <the days of old>; as in the First Age, before flesh man existed <the former years>)
- ⁵ And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the <u>sorcerers</u>, and against <u>the adulterers</u>, and against <u>false swearers</u>, and against <u>those that oppress</u> the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and <u>that turn aside the stranger from his right</u>, and <u>fear not me</u>, saith the LORD of hosts. (sorcerers = drug dealers and drug users. They used drugs to see visions in their pagan rituals) (God will judge all the sinners listed in this verse)

⁶ For \underline{I} am the LORD, \underline{I} change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. (\underline{I} am = \underline{Y} ah - \underline{G} od's name)

(God's Word never changes. HE will not abandon the Israelites who remain true, even in the times of antichrist. God chose Abraham and made a promise to him concerning his progeny. God keeps His word, always)

⁷Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? (You say – "We didn't do anything wrong". They were never taught, so they don't even know the truth. They don't know what God wants from us)

(They think that their traditions of men are pleasing to God. If they had bothered to read the Bible, they would know better. Instead, they sit in a pew in a church, once a week, and listen to some preacher's sermon. Most preachers are preaching sermons, instead of teaching the Bible; chapter by chapter, verse by verse)

- ⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. (If you support a false preacher, then you are complicit in his sins. By keeping a false church in business with your tithes, you are helping them to deceive more people) see 2nd Epistle of John
- ⁹Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. (False teaching robs God and all the people who are deceived by it)
- ¹⁰ Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (Meat is a metaphor for deeper teachings for the mature studiers of God's Word. Milk is the metaphor for beginners the basic teachings)

(Help spread the Word of God and God will shower you with His blessings. The result is that you will have peace of mind. You can live a happy, healthy life)

¹¹ And <u>I will rebuke the devourer</u> for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit

before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. (Satan is the devourer. God will not allow Satan to destroy a church where His Word is taught truthfully and completely – chapter by chapter, verse by verse)

¹² And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts. (Because of God's blessings)

NOTE: (Since WW2, we have become a nation of atheists and politically correct nonsense. We have seen our country and our people slip into drug abuse, poverty, perversion and even abortion. God is removing His blessings from our nation because of what we do; even to the point of people accusing Christians of being right wing radicals)

Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee? (False teachings in the so-called Christian churches; teaching traditions on men instead of the Word of God; calling homosexuality a lifestyle; approving abortion as "a woman's right to choose", instead of calling it baby murder; teaching rapture instead of teaching the Book of Revelation)

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? (They mock Christians. They call us fools to believe in "myths" and in Bible stories)

(God doesn't want His Christians to walk mournfully before the world. HE wants us to walk proudly, with our heads held high. We love God; and we are proud to serve Him, regardless of what this wicked world thinks)

(Our profits are not in money or in the ways of the world. Our "profits" are in God's blessings now; in our peace of mind; in a free conscience. Our profits will also be in our rewards in the Third Age – the Eternity)

¹⁵ And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered. (Political correctness turns everything upside down. The evil and corrupt live in wealth and luxury; while honest hardworking taxpayers live on the edge of poverty. That is the way of this world)

(God will change all of that in the Millennium and in the Eternity. HE will set things right forever) See the acrostic verses in Psalms-37

- 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. (These are the remnant; those who remain faithful to God)
- 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. (They will not fall to antichrist's lies and deceit. They will be richly rewarded in the Millennium)
- ¹⁸ Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not. Revelation-13:18 (Identifies the wicked one. This verse declares that we will know the true Lord from the false one. Satan can't deceive those who know the truth)

(Jesus said – know the truth and the truth will set you free) John-8:32