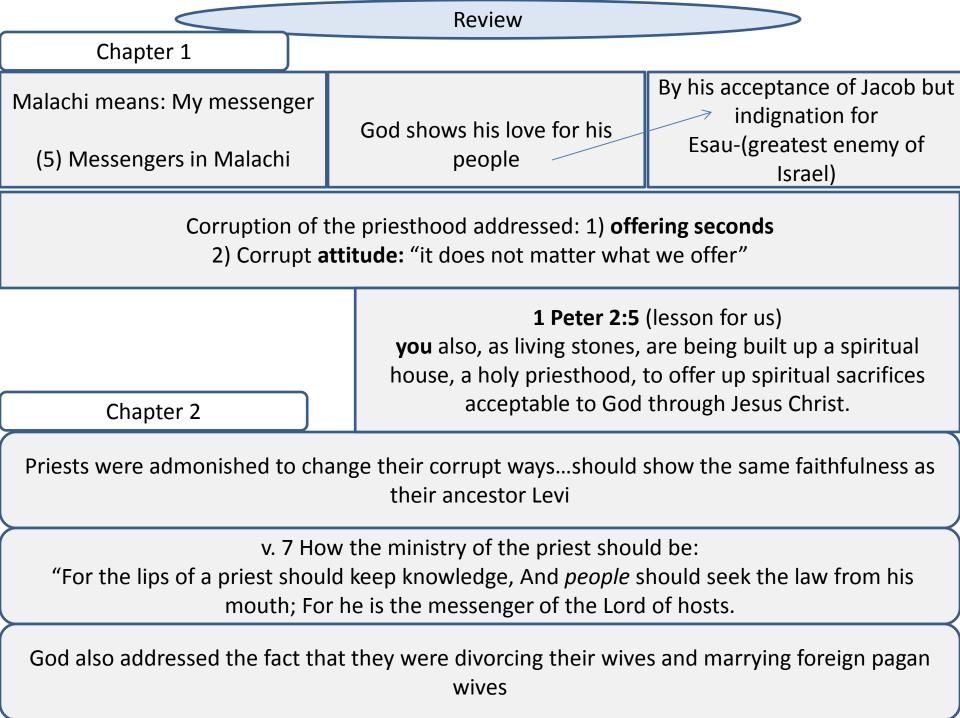
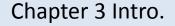
Malachi 3-4

Bible Study







You have **wearied** the Lord <u>with your words</u>;

Yet you say, "In what way have we wearied Him?"

In that you say,

(1) "Everyone who does evil *Is* good in the sight of the Lord, And He delights in them,"

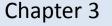
Or, (2) "Where is the God of justice?"

God will answer this is chapter 3: 5

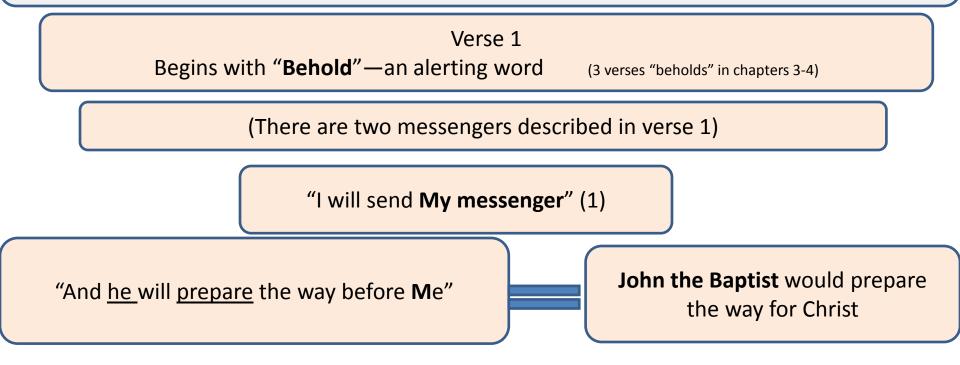
God will answer this skeptical question in chapter 3: 1

First part of Ch. 3: 1 is quoted in the New Testament (Matthew 11: 10; Mark 1: 2; Luke 7: 27) Matthew 11:10

'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'



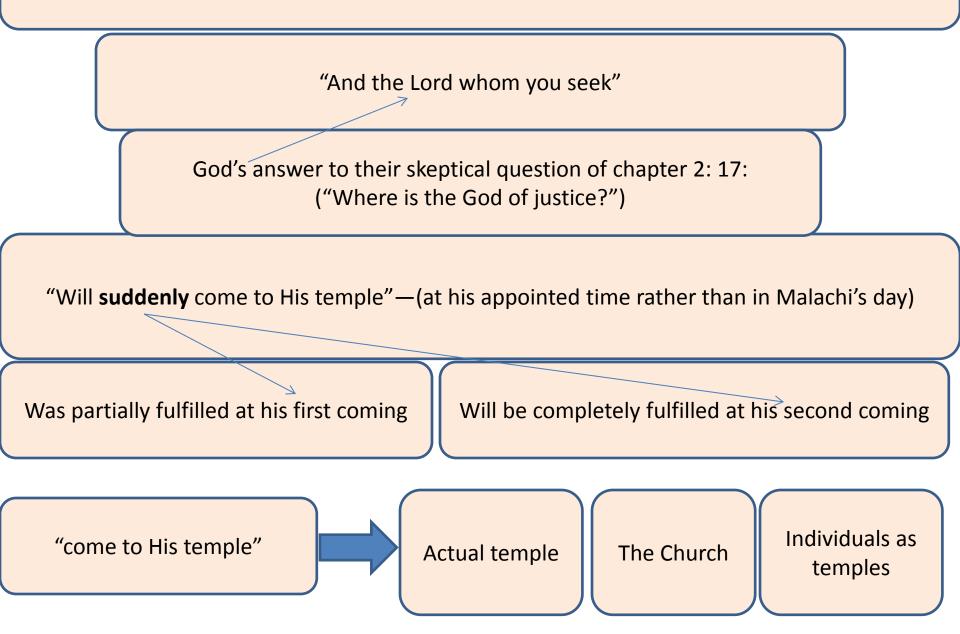
Chapter 3 begins prophecy of the Messiah's first and second coming....with both appearances joined together

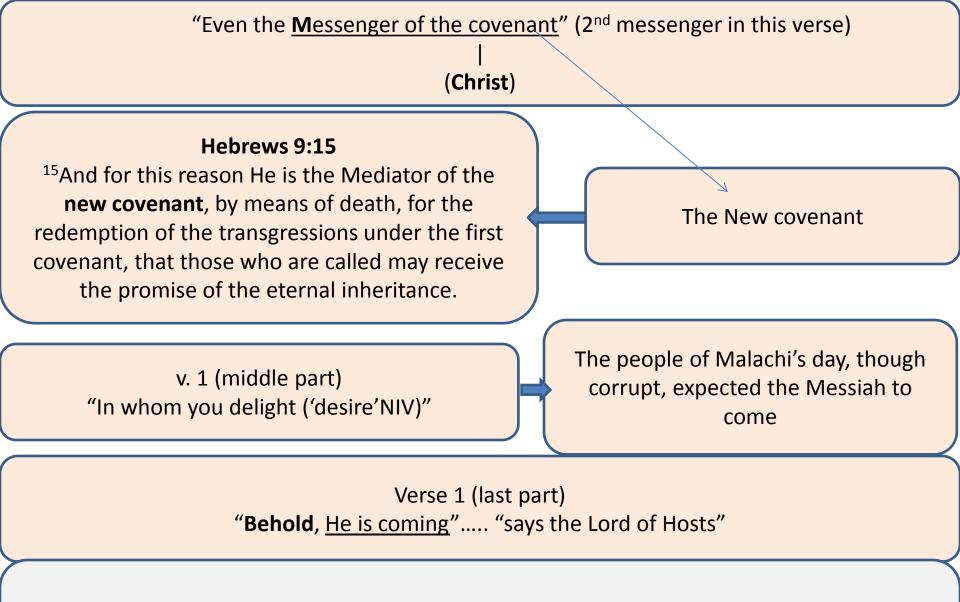


Isaiah 40:3

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "<u>Prepare</u> the way of the Lord; Make straight [£]in the desert A highway for our God.

John the Baptist's **work** prepared the way for the <u>first coming</u> of Christ....and a **work** continues in our day....preparing for the <u>second coming</u>

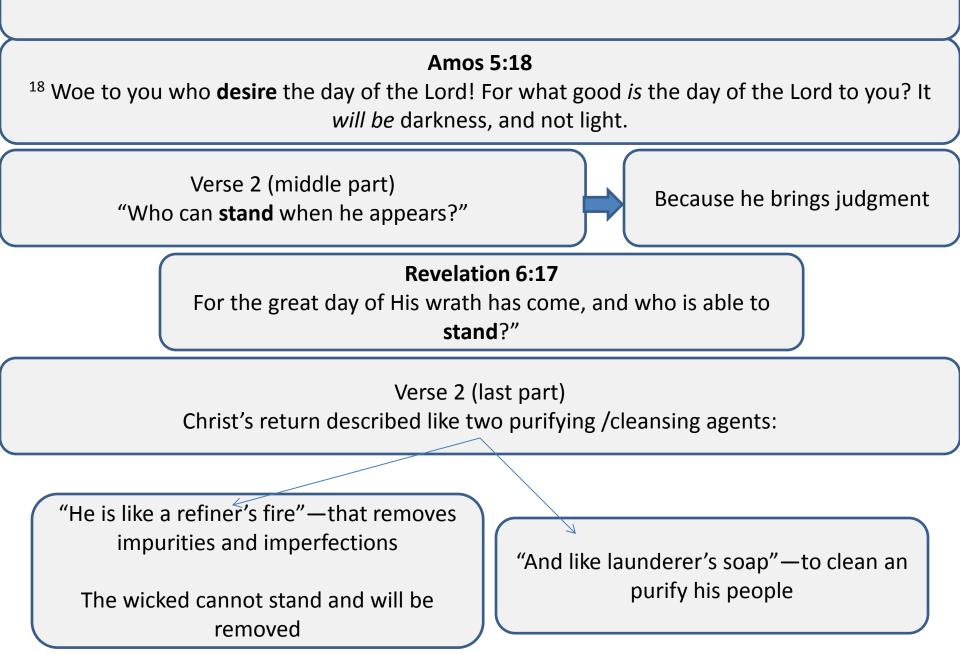




Verse 1 describes the Messiah's first coming.... (the Messenger of the covenant)

Verse 2 describes his second coming...

Verse 2 "But who can **endure the day of his coming**?" (The Day of the Lord)



Verse 3 The Messiah "will sit"—as judge (no mention of other nations)
"refiner and purifier of silver"—like metal being purified of dross
"He will purify " beginning with the house of Levi A purified Church brought through trials
I Peter 4: 17 "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God"
Verse 3 (middle part) "purify the sons of Levi"—the Levitical priesthood had been slack in their duties and worship
"That they may offeran offering in righteousness"—in contrast to the unacceptable offerings of Malachi's day
Verse 4 (Millennium) "Then" the entire nation will offer pleasing offerings to God

A righteous offering from the heart..."as in the days of old"—when Levi was right before God

Verse 5 "I will come near you for judgment" "judgment"= justice

An answer to chapter 2: 17—where they asked "where is the God of Justice?"...and that God rewarded those who do evil

Social injustices included in the judgment: exploiting wage earners, widows and orphans...mistreating aliens

V. 5 last part The **reason** for the evil doing: "they do not fear me"

Verse 6 God is consistent with his people...as a result they "are not consumed"

God does not change in his promise to the nation.... or his plan and purpose

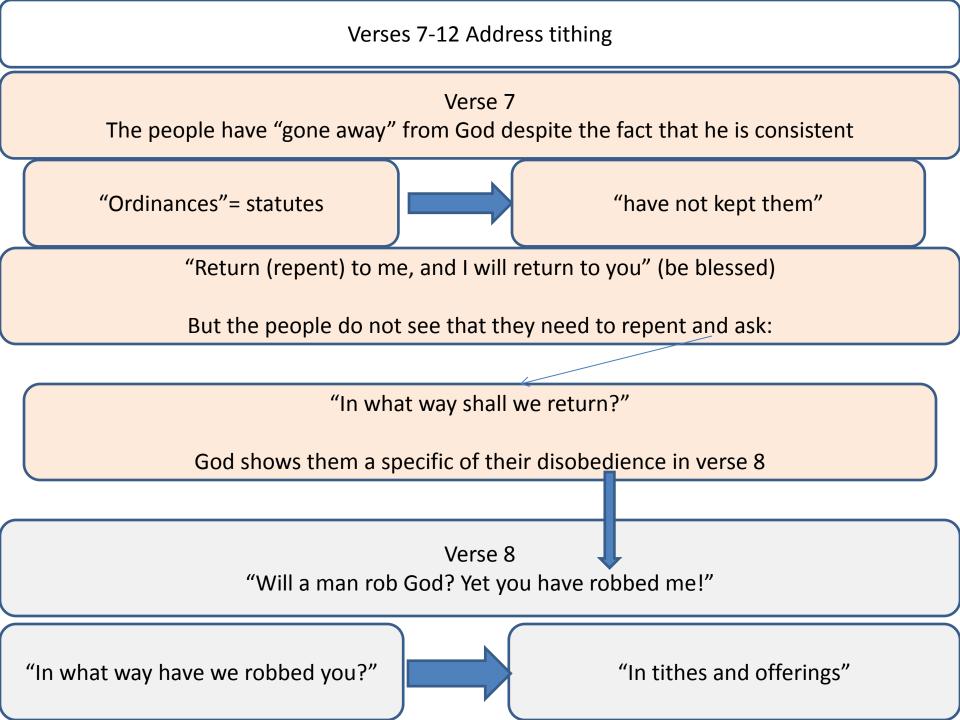
Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Psalms 102:27

But You *are* the same, And Your years will have no end.

(Feinberg) "All the nations' hope, as ours as well, is grounded in the never failing, unchangeable character of our covenant- keeping God"



Verse 9

Stealing from God brought the people of Malachi's day under a curse...the whole nation

Nehemiah 13:10

"I also realized that the portions for the Levites had not been given them;"

By robbing God they robbed themselves—a curse which resulted in bad harvest and famine

Verse 10 "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse"

Leviticus 27:30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the LORD'S. It *is* holy to the Lord.

The temple served as a warehouse where the people brought the produce

God promises to bless for tithing— "If we want God to open his storehouse, we must first open ours" (Feinberg)

Verse 11 (Millennial) How the blessing would be realized

(Paraphrase) "Your crops will be large, for I will guard them from insects and plagues. Your grapes won't shrivel away before they ripen, says the Lord of hosts"

Verse 12 Because of obedience and God's blessing— "All nations will call you blessed"

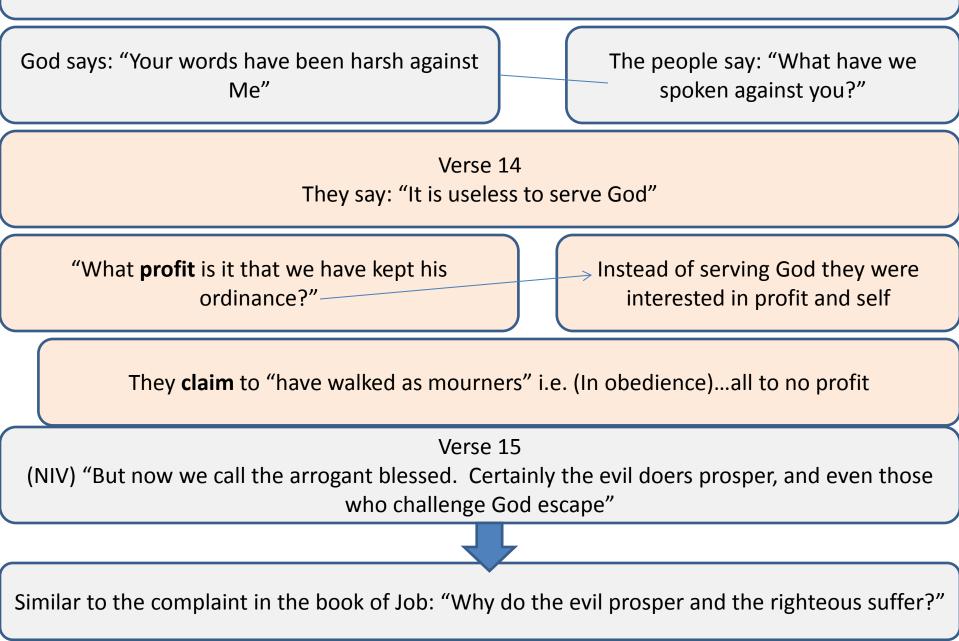
"For you will be a delightful land"—ultimately to be fulfilled in the millennium

Verses 13-15 (shifts back to Malachi's day) Summarizes the **attitude** of the people—What good is to serve God? (they ask) They say: He rewards evil doers and punishes the righteous

But the rest of chapter 3.... and chapter four shows that the righteous will receive just reward...and the wicked will be destroyed

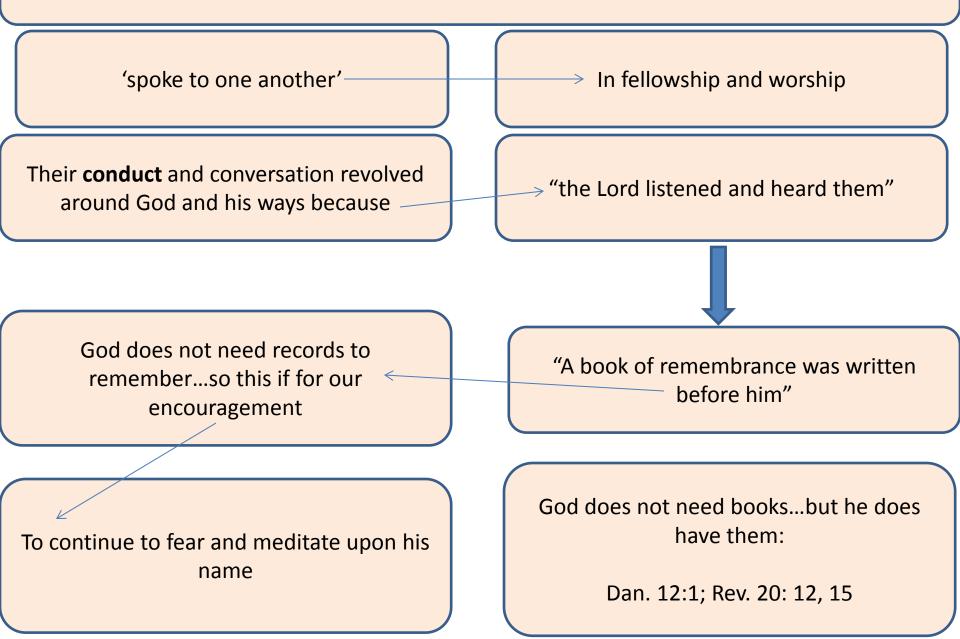
Verse 13

The same attitude displayed by the priests has infected the people as well

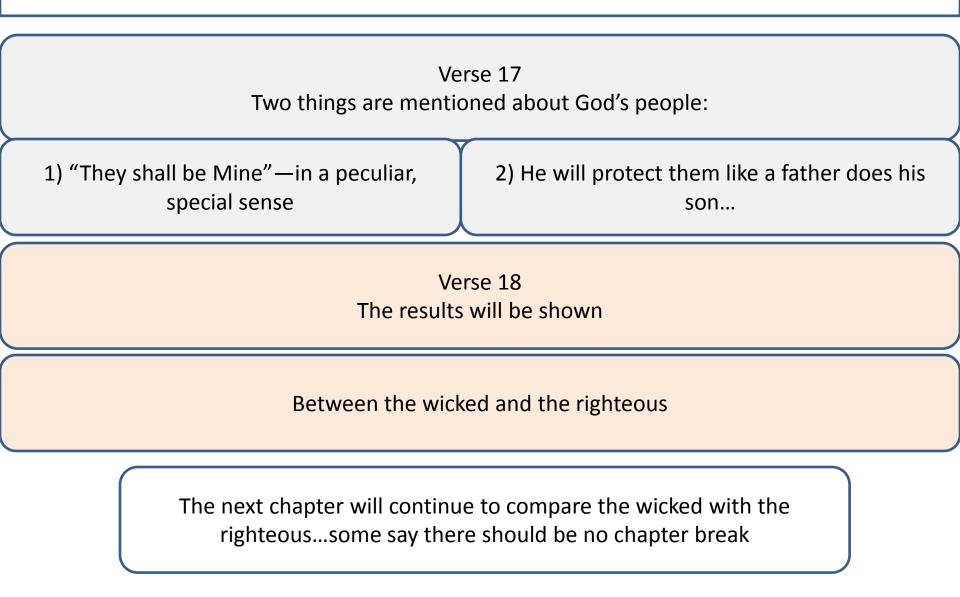


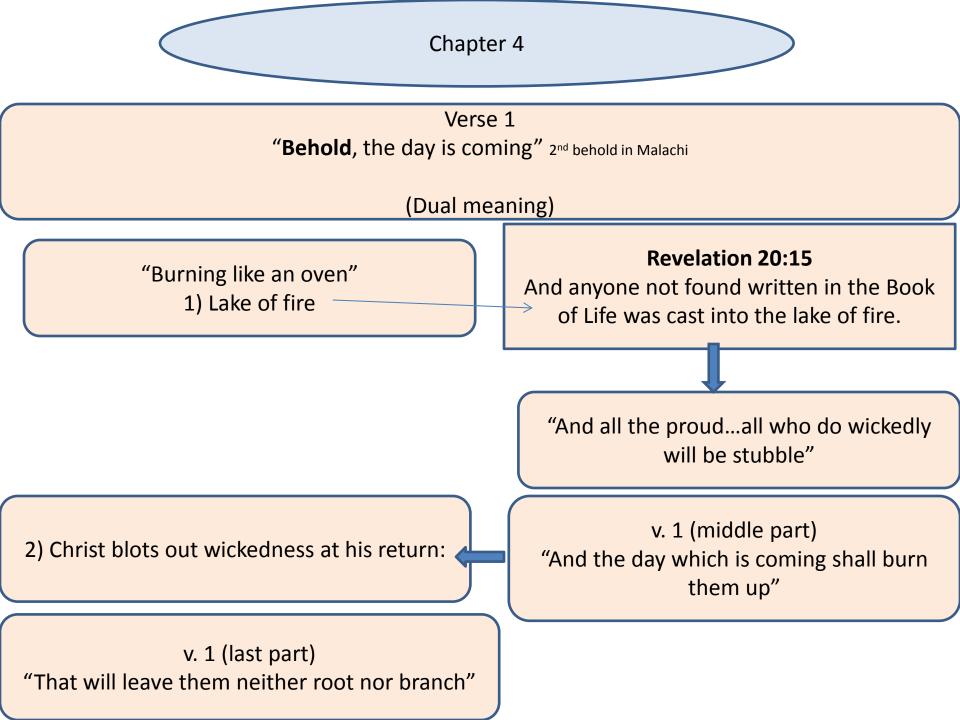
Verse 16

God now shows who the righteous are—those who properly fear him

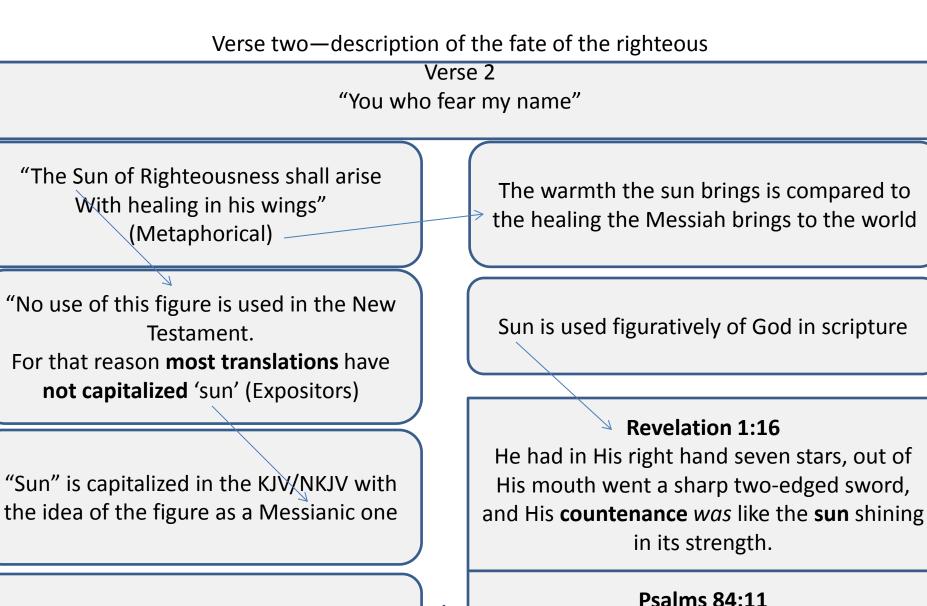


"In the midst of spiritual failure and corruption on every hand, the godly remnant are drawn together by their mutual spiritual needs and desire, in the fear of the Lord" (Feinberg)





Verse one-description of the fate of the wicked



"In the Kingdom, righteousness will prevail like the sun" (BKC)

For the Lord God *is* a **sun** and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory;

Verse 2 (last part) "you shall go out and grow fat like stall fed calves"

Expresses the joy and satisfaction of the righteous in the kingdom

Verse 3 The righteous will achieve victory over the wicked

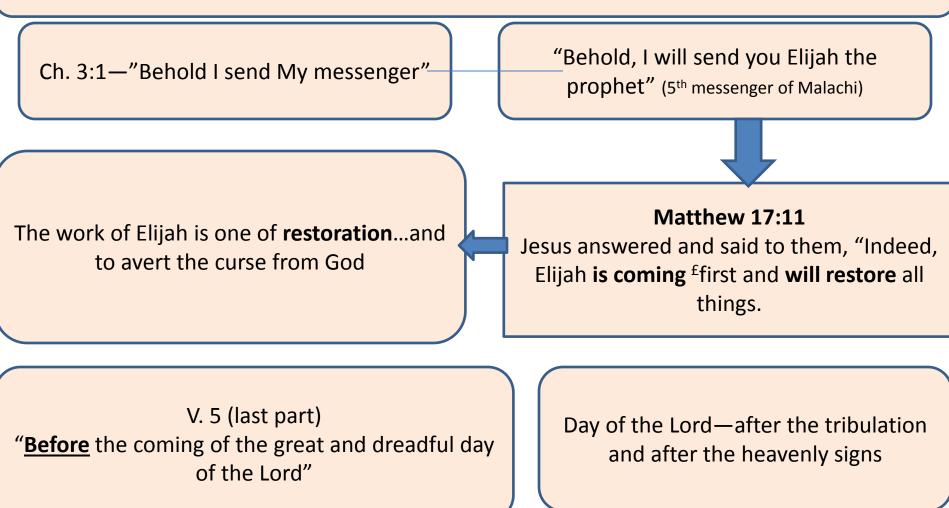
Ashes indicate the complete burning of the wicked (not tormented in hell fire)

Verse 4 "Remember the Law of Moses"....as Malachi has been doing in the entire book

"Malachi began with an illustration from Genesis (Jacob and Esau) and spent most of the first half of the book reminding priests and people of the need to keep the Mosaic law.

Now, close to the end of the book, he gives another terse reminder of their continuing obligation to those laws" (Expositors)

Verse 5 (the 3rd "Behold")—Ch.3:1; 4: 1; 4: 5



"He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers"

Luke 1:16-17 (Description of John the Baptist's mission)

¹⁶And he will **turn** many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

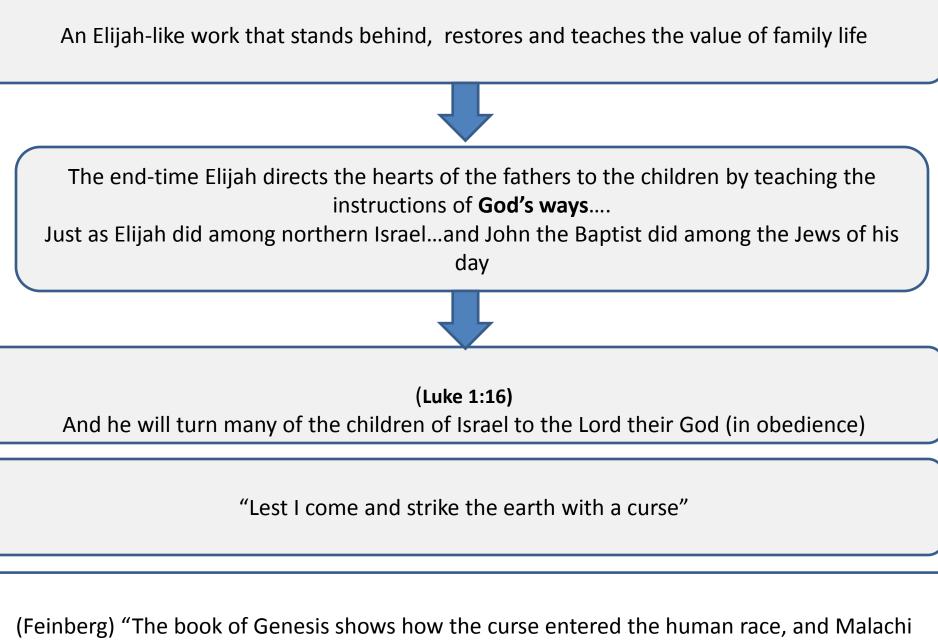
¹⁷He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' ^f and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, **to make ready a people** prepared for the Lord."

John the Baptist did not fulfill this prophecy And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."

In an end time setting, before the day of the Lord—

an Elijah-like work will be making ready a people...preparing for the return of Jesus Christ-

The work of the Church today



indicates the curse still threatens"

Lessons from the book of Malachi

We are a special chosen priesthood (I Peter 2: 5)—we must give our best to God and our service must be acceptable

We must properly fear God with worship and fellowship

We must continue faithfully the Elijah-work..... of teaching our children **and** the world the importance of walking with God in obedience