

The End of Three Things: Malachi's Ministry, the Old Testament, and the World

Malachi 3:16-4:6

(black Bibles page 802; Children's Bibles page 1148)

[3:16-18] This is the way Malachi's ministry ends

- The prophet who got results!
- The Book of Remembrance: not one believer will be forgotten by God
- Saving faith/repentance is often described in the Old Testament as the "fear of the Lord" or "fear/esteem my name." This phrase is used four times in our passage today! (Also, it is described as those who "serve" the Lord.)
 - Note also the "son" language: "I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him..."

[4:1-3] This is the way the world ends

- Thinking in terms of all people (one group) versus two groups of people. Sometimes God wants us to do one, and sometimes He wants us to do the other. [SLIDE]
- What a contrast: Stubble and ashes vs. calves leaping from the stall

[4:4-6] This is the way the Old Testament ends

- What should we do now? How should we live? God responds by pointing to Moses and Elijah. [SLIDE]
- A stark ending... couldn't it be happier?

Applying Malachi today