Sermon Notes for September 6, 2015

Last Words from the Old Testament

Malachi 3:13-4:6

Introduction

Today we are going to look at the last words from the Old Testament.

These words would be followed by 400 years of silence.

There are three things God wants us to remember.

I. Remember the distinction God makes between the righteous and the wicked. Malachi 3:13-18

“You have said harsh things against me.”

They said it is futile to serve the Lord.

The arrogant are blessed. Evildoers prosper. Even those who challenge God escape and God does nothing.

In the short run it can look like the enemies of God are winning.

Something significant happened as a result of Malachi’s ministry.

- Those who feared the Lord talked with each other.
- The Lord listened and heard their prayer.
- A scroll of remembrance was written in God’s presence.

The idea that God has a book goes back to Exodus 32:32-33.

- “But now please forgive their sin – but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written. The Lord replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.”
- Paul mentions a book of life in Philippians 4:3
- The last mention is in Revelation 21:27. “Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

Notice what God says about the righteous.

- They are mine – my treasured possession.
- I will spare them from the judgment that is coming.
II. Remember the Day of the Lord is coming. Malachi 4:1-3

“Surely the day is coming and it will burn like a furnace.”

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Zephaniah and Zechariah all wrote about the Day.

- Isaiah 13:6, 9 – “It will be a day of destruction, a cruel day with wrath and fierce anger to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.”
- Jeremiah 46:10 – “That day belongs to the Lord Almighty – a day of vengeance, for vengeance on his foes.”
- Joel 2:11 – “It will be a day of darkness and gloom.” “The Day of the Lord is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it?”

The wicked will be totally destroyed.
The righteous will be filled with joy.

Do you long for that day, when the fight against sin is done and you are free to be the person God created you to be?

“The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.” Romans 8:19

“”For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. It is written, ‘As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’” Romans 14:10-11

III. Remember the guides he has given us. Malachi 4:4-6

“Remember the law of my servant Moses.”

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength. Fear the Lord and serve him only.” Deuteronomy 6:4, 5 and 13

Remember the word of God and apply it to your life.

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.” II Peter 1:3-4

Remember the prophets.

“I will send you the prophet Elijah.

His mission is to call people to repentance – to turn to the Lord and be saved.

Notice that the emphasis is on turning the hearts of fathers to their children and children to their fathers.

Remember those who taught you the word of God.
“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” Hebrews 13:7

Conclusion

The choice before us is life or death, a blessing or a curse.
Remember the distinction God makes between the righteous and the wicked.
Remember the Day of the Lord is coming. It is near or at hand.
Remember the guides God has given us and follow their example.