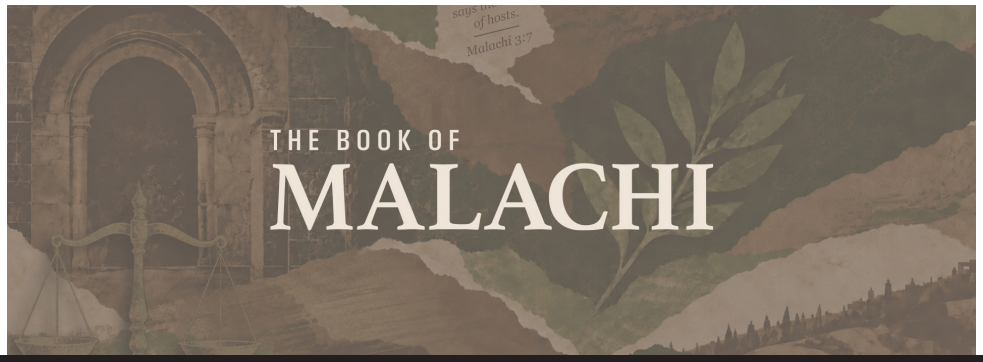


CONVERSATION STARTER

What is a small thing that reliably lifts your mood or makes an ordinary day better?

DEEPER

Read Malachi 3:13-4:6

1. When you picture a day when God puts an end to evil and makes all things new, which part of that promise feels most personal to you right now: the seriousness of judgment or the hope of healing and restoration? What makes you say that?

2. Malachi uses the image of a fire that leaves neither root nor branch. What does this picture help you understand about God's opposition to evil? How does it affect the way you think about God's justice, especially when people have been deeply harmed by evil?

3. The passage describes a sharp difference between those who persist in evil and those who fear God's name. How does that distinction challenge you personally? Is there a way you have been treating God's patience as permission to remain comfortable with a sin? What would a real step toward repentance look like?

4. For those who fear God's name, the coming day is pictured as the sunrise bringing healing. What does that image reveal about God and the future he promises? Is there a particular grief, fear, or unmet longing you need to bring under the hope of that promise?

5. God's people are pictured as leaping like calves released from a stall. What does that joyful, physical image add to your understanding of the future God promises? How might confidence in that coming joy shape the way you face a difficult season now?

6. Malachi's final instructions include remembering the law God gave through Moses. Biblical remembering involves living in light of what God has said. What teaching or command from Scripture do you most need to keep in view as you wait on God? What might acting on it look like this week?

7. The New Testament identifies John the Baptist as the messenger who prepared the way for Jesus. How does Jesus' first coming give you confidence that God will complete what he has promised when Christ comes again? What would living ready for Jesus look like in an ordinary part of your life?

8. Looking back through the entirety of the book of Malachi and your group discussions, what has been the most impactful for you? What has changed in your thinking/being, and what has changed in your "doing"?

NOTES

PRAYER PROMPT

Thank God that evil will not have the final word and that he has promised healing and joy for his people. Pray for anyone who is suffering, grieving, or longing for restoration. Ask God to expose places where you have grown comfortable with sin, help you live by his word, and turn your heart toward those you need to love or reconcile with. Thank him for sending Jesus, and ask for faithfulness as you wait for his return.