

**Malachi 4:1-6**  
**Coming: The Day of the Lord**

**Introduction: Love of God, Culture, The True Teacher**

1. The Love of God – it can seem strange to our eyes
2. At first appearance, this does not seem loving, but as we look and see, it will become clear
3. Culture: Therapeutic; Rejects a God of Anger who Warns and Threatens
4. The False Teacher versus The True Teacher
5. Christian History: 144 A.D. - Marcion rejected the God of Israel because of His Anger and Wrath
6. The Liberal Theologian: We are ALL the same, wicked and righteous – is this what the Bible teaches?
7. Malachi says we are not...the New Testament says we are not the same, there is a distinction (**1 John 3:10**)

**Central Concern of the Text:**

**God promises a great and awesome Day is coming unlike any other day. It will be a day of Glory in Salvation through Judgment. Therefore, He commands us to be obedient by faith and lovingly warns us to be prepared.**

**The Day of the Lord (Verses 1-3)**

Two Kinds Of Scenarios

1. A Day of Justice and Wrath
  - a. The Wicked Judged (**Joel 2**)
  - b. An Oven's Fire
  - c. Fire in the Bible: Symbol of Judgment
    - i. Sodom and Gomorrah
    - ii. The Sacrificial System
  - d. Jesus' First Advent Inaugurated the Day of the Lord (**Matthew 3:11-12**)
  - e. One Judge
    - i. God is Holy
    - ii. God is Just
    - iii. God is Moral

2. A Day of Deliverance and Redemption
  - a. A Wonderful Future for the Godly
  - b. The Sun's Fire/Heat – revival and rejuvenation
  - c. Key Word: Righteousness
    - a. Justification by Faith in the Substitutionary Atonement of Jesus Christ at Calvary
    - b. We are right before God in Christ's Death, Burial and Resurrection
  - d. Jesus is the Sun of Righteousness (**Isaiah 53:5**)
  - e. A Day of Victory and Final Peace
    - a. **1 Cor 15:24-25; Rom 16:20; Gen 3:15**
  - f. A Day of Joy – Leaping Like Calves – **verse 3**
3. How Should We Respond to Malachi 4:1-3?
  - a. Evangelism – Warn the Wicked & Win Them
  - b. Worship – Rejoicing in the God who Controls History and the Future

**The Response of the People: One Command (Verse 4)**

1. Remember the Law of God
2. God saved and Redeemed You out of Slavery
3. Now, Love Him and Faithfully Obey His Commands
4. The Same is for Christians: **John 14:15**

**One Promise, One Warning (Verses 5-6)**

1. Elijah the Prophet and John the Baptist (**Matthew 11:11-15**)
  - a. Marriage: Ahab/Jezebel, Herod/Herodius & Salome
  - b. Preached Repentance from Idolatry to prepare for further ministry of others: Elisha and Jesus (**cf. 1 Kings 19; Malachi 4:6a**)
2. Rejection Means Judgment (**Verse 6b**)
3. Conclusion
  - a. The Love of God in Malachi 4
  - b. Not the End of the Story
  - c. Bridge between the OT and the NT
  - d. Zechariah's Prophecy (**Luke 1:68-79**)