

Prophet Elijah Malachi 4:1-6

I. Sun of Righteousness Shall Rise – 4:1-6

1. Malachi, last book of Old Testament
Day of the Lord is coming – 4:1
Like an oven burning to consume the stubble
All arrogant and all evildoers will be judged
Leaving neither root nor branch
2. But for you who fear my name – 2
The Sun of righteousness shall rise
With healing in His wings
You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall
The Sun of righteousness is God's Son (Messiah)
He will come as a bright light, a new day
This speaks of His return to earth (the second coming)
This day brings the fulness of all God's creative purposes
3. The Lord shall bring victory over evil – 3
"You shall tread down the wicked"
"They will be ashes under the soles of your feet"
"On the day when I act says the Lord of hosts"
The day when Israel promised obedience to God
4. God will keep His promises to Moses - 4
Note Deuteronomy 4:9-10
5. God will send Elijah the prophet before that day comes – 5-6
That day will be great and awesome
When God holds humans accountable for violating His law
But also great and awesome for those whose faith rests in "Sun of righteousness"
6. Elijah will turn hearts to the Lord – 6
"Hearts of fathers to their children"
"And hearts of children to their fathers"
If those hearts are prepared for His coming
7. This suggests that Elijah will have a role in Israel's salvation
God says that Elijah will minister to Israel before Messiah comes
That happens before Jesus returns to earth (His second coming)
For this we turn to Rev. 11:1-13

II. Ministry of 2 Witnesses – Rev. 11:1-13

1. John is told to reclaim Israel for God – 1
Like a surveyor he is to measure what belongs to God
The temple, the altar & those who worship there
2. He is not to measure the court outside – 2
That court is the court of the Gentiles
Belongs to the nations – they will trample the holy city for 3 ½ years
The day of the Gentiles is almost over

3. God is turning back to restore Israel – 3
He has given authority for 2 witnesses to proclaim for 3 ½ yrs.
They will have this period of time to proclaim with Sackcloth (with hearts of repentance)
4. Authority given to witnesses – 4-6
To shine as lights for God's glory – 4
To shoot fire out of their mouths to destroy enemies–5
Note 2 Kings 1:10-12 – Elijah
Power to shut the sky that no rain falls – 6
Note 1 Kings 17:1 – Elijah
Power to turn water into blood & strike the earth with plagues - 6
Exodus, with Moses and the 10 plagues
5. Source of their testimony
Consider Luke 9:30-32 – with Moses & Elijah
Appeared at Transfiguration of Jesus
As disciples slept, Moses & Elijah spoke with Jesus of His departure & what He was to accomplish at Jerusalem

III. Death & Resurrection of Witnesses – 11:7-13

1. Beast from the pit rises & attacks – 7
He kills the two witnesses
2. Their dead bodies left lying in the street – 8
In great city, symbolically called Sodom & Egypt
City where their Lord was crucified – Jerusalem
3. For 3 1/2 days people gathered to view them – 9-10
People came from various countries to make merry–10
To exchange gifts in celebration of death of these 2 tormentors
4. After 3 ½ days the witnesses arose – 11
God breathed new life into them & they arose
Great fear fell on those who saw them

IV. Ascension into Heaven – 11:12-13

1. A loud voice from heaven, called them – 12
"Come up here"
They went up into heaven in a cloud
And their enemies watched them
2. At that hour there was a great earthquake – 13
One tenth of the city of Jerusalem fell
7,000 were killed in the earthquake
The rest were terrified & gave glory to the God of Heaven
3. When the "time of the Gentiles" is over, God will restore Israel, bring them to faith in Jesus Christ – Rom. 11:25-26
This was promised within the scope of 70 weeks of Daniel 9:24

