

Post-Exile Prophets
A GODLY REMNANT
Thursday, October 9
Reading: Malachi 3:13-18

Malachi 3:16 *Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored His name.*

If they only turned back to Him, God had promised to pour out blessing on them (3:10), so much that the nations would call them blessed (3:12). But instead, the people had called “the arrogant blessed” (3:15). They had looked around at the prosperity of the heathen nations, compared it to themselves, and found their own situation wanting. Their conclusion: “It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out His requirements?” (3:14). They believed it was useless to humble themselves before God and do His will because they were getting nothing in return. They failed to realize that they were not being blessed because they were merely going through the motions. There was no heart behind their actions, only selfish ambition.

But there was still a godly remnant in Judah “who feared the LORD” (3:16). This is the first of the distinctions between the righteous and the arrogant. They had a genuine awe and reverence for God, unlike the priests and the other people who showed no honor for God (1:6; 2:1). The second distinction that made them different was that they “talked with each other.” They shared their love of God and met together for prayer and encouragement. Worship for them was not merely an external action, but a personal relationship that needed to be shared.

Several promises were made to these faithful believers living among a faithless generation.

- (1) God would hear and listen to their prayers. While the nation complained that God did not hear them, God’s ears were ever open to His faithful few.
- (2) God would remember their faithfulness. The image of a scroll of remembrance pictures the truth that God would remember their faithfulness. While the nation would likely berate them and call them stupid for honoring God, the Lord would honor and reward them.
- (3) God would not only remember them, but they would be His “treasured possession.” This is what God had wanted for His people all along (see Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 7:6; Psalm 135:4).
- (4) God would protect them when the day of judgment came. As a loving father, He would spare those who serve Him. This does not mean they will not go through difficulties and trials, but that they are ultimately safe in God’s arms no matter what happens.

In the New Testament, these beautiful promises are repeated for followers of Jesus.

Look up the following verses:

- (1) 1 John 3:22;
- (2) Hebrews 6:10;
- (3) 1 Peter 2:9;
- (4) John 5:24; Romans 1:8

How do you respond to these promises?

How can you be more faithful in honoring God with your life?