



# The Message of Malachi (4)

The fourth chapter of Malachi, is the shortest, only six verses, but it contains some big ideas and promises.

- In the Hebrew Bible, these final six verses are part of chapter 3. There is no Malachi 4 in the Hebrew Bible



## A. Two Promises of the Fourth Chapter

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is sure (1)  
 The image of burning chaff is seen in Mt 3:12  
 Leaving neither root nor branch—indicates no future  
 - some see this as the final judgment  
 - others see this as the purifying work of the Lord (3:3)

- (a) for those who fear the Lord, the coming day will be healing and joyous (2)  
 - the wicked will no longer be a threat (3)  
 - this is referred to in Luke 1:78

What does “fear”  
God mean?

- (b) Remember the law of Moses (4)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is coming (5)  
 - He will come before the terrible day (1)

## B. Similarities between how the O.T. ends and the N.T. ends

1. \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word (Mal 4:4)  
 Rev 22:18-19
2. Last O.T. word is \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rev 22:3 no curse

## C. The Silence of God

This is the longest period in history in which God has not spoken to His creation

- There is no whisper of explanation in moments of personal suffering, a pointed, directing word in crisis, a shout of vindication when the wicked seem to have the upper hand. Nothing. Just silence.
- 1 in 3 Americans believe that God speaks to him directly
- D.A. Carson: “Many now rely far more on inward promptings than on their Bible knowledge to decide what they are going to do in a situation.”
- Jack Deere: “God can and does give personal direction to believers today that cannot be found in the Bible. I do not believe that he gives direction that contradicts the Bible, but direction that cannot be found in the Bible.”

### The name “Elijah” appears 30x in the N.T.

- Mt 11:14 John himself is \_\_\_\_\_ who was to come
- Mt 17:10-13 I say to you that Elijah \_\_\_\_\_ came
- Lk 1:17 in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Elijah
- Mt 16:14 Some say John the baptist; and others, \_\_\_\_\_
- Mt 27:47 “And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, ‘This man is calling for \_\_\_\_\_’”

- God speaks in a way that you \_\_\_\_\_ it is the Lord and you can understand
- God uses \_\_\_\_\_ not feelings
- God’s word \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa 40:8)  
 Heb 1:1-2
- God has \_\_\_\_\_ everything we need (2 Pet 1:12)
- God will speak at the coming \_\_\_\_\_

Some of this is based upon a misunderstanding of the role of the Holy Spirit

- This has led to less relying on the Bible and more upon opinions and feelings