

WEEK 11 — OUTLINE

Experiencing the Healing Christ in Malachi for the Lord's Second Coming and the Consummation of the Age

Scripture Reading: [Mal. 3:1-3, 10, 14](#); [4:2](#)

DAY 1 >>

I. We must see the signs of Christ's second coming and of the consummation of the age [Matt. 24:3, 14-15](#); [Luke 21:28-36](#)):

- A. The Lord prophesied that before Antichrist makes the covenant of seven years with the nation of Israel at the consummation of the present age, the nation of Israel would be restored [Matt. 21:19](#); [24:32-35](#); [Dan. 9:27](#)).
- B. Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel, and his idol will be set up in the temple of God at the beginning of the great tribulation, which will last for three and a half years; this indicates that the temple must be rebuilt before the Lord comes back [v. 27](#); [2 Thes. 2:3-4](#)).

<< DAY 2 >>

- C. Before the great tribulation the gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth, and the overcomers will be raptured, leaving the majority of the believers, those who are not yet mature, on the earth to pass through the great tribulation ([Matt. 24:14-15, 40-41](#); [Rev. 12:5](#); [14:1, 4](#)).
- D. The mystery of lawlessness is working today among the nations and in human society; this lawlessness will culminate in the man of lawlessness, Antichrist ([2 Thes. 2:3-10](#)):
 - 1. Antichrist's power will be the power of Satan; Antichrist is the embodiment of Satan; Antichrist will persecute and destroy the people of God—both the God-fearing Jews and the Christ-believing Christians [Dan. 8:24](#); [Rev. 12:17](#); [13:7](#)).
 - 2. Antichrist will wear out the saints of the Most High; in the days before the Lord's coming, there will be great deceit and delusion, so we must persevere in and with the Lord in this final hour [Dan. 7:25](#); [2 Tim. 3:1](#); [Mark 6:45-52](#)).

3. Satan and Antichrist want the souls of men to be the instruments for their activities in the last age ([Rev. 18:11-13](#); [2 Tim. 3:5](#); cf. [Zech. 12:1](#)).
- E. The mystery of godliness (Christ as the individual manifestation of God in the flesh) is being lived out today by the Lord's overcomers, who are the corporate manifestation of God in the flesh [1 Tim. 3:16](#); [Acts 9:5](#)).

« DAY 3 »

II. The book of Malachi reveals that as overcomers we need to experience the healing Christ for His second coming [3:1-3](#); [4:2](#)):

- A. Malachi prophesied at the time of Nehemiah; at that time the priests and the remnant of God's people were in the darkness of self-deception, which is obsession [1:6-7](#); [1 John 1:8](#); [Acts 9:1-2](#); [John 16:2](#); cf. [Phil. 3:3](#)):
1. The symptom of a person who is obsessed is that what he thinks and does is totally wrong, and yet he thinks and believes that he is totally right.
 2. Malachi shows us the degraded condition of God's self-deceived people, who were under Satan's authority of darkness [1:2](#), [6-7](#); [2:13-14](#), [17](#); [3:7-8](#), [13-15](#); [Col. 1:12-13](#); cf. [Acts 26:18](#)).

« DAY 4 »

3. The children of Israel worshipped and served God, but in their self-deception they did it mournfully, not at all happy that they were required to do these things [Mal. 3:13-14](#)).
4. The reasons for obsession, self-deception, are loving the darkness rather than the light ([John 3:19-20](#)), pride ([Obad. 3](#)), not receiving the love of the truth ([2 Thes. 2:10-11](#); [Prov. 23:23](#)), and not seeking the glory that is from the only God [John 5:44](#)).
5. The way to be saved from obsession, self-deception, is to live in the light so that we may see what God sees [Isa. 50:10-11](#); [Psa. 36:9](#); [1 John 1:5](#), [7](#), [9](#); [Col. 1:12](#)).

« DAY 5 »

- B. The healing Christ is the Messenger of God and the living message from God as a refiner's fire and as fullers' soap to purify and refine the degraded remnant of God's people [Mal. 3:1-3](#); [Rev. 1:20—2:1](#); [Amos 3:7](#); cf. [Luke 2:26](#); [Heb. 11:7](#)).
- C. The healing Christ is the Angel of the covenant [Mal. 3:1](#)):

1. Christ's coming suddenly as the Angel of the covenant will be to execute upon Israel the covenant that He enacted through His death ([Matt. 26:28](#)).
2. In His first coming Christ came in the way of an Angel, a serving one (cf. [Heb. 1:14](#)), to serve God in forming the new testament ([Mark 10:45](#)).
3. When Christ established His table on the night in which He was betrayed, He established the new covenant ([Luke 22:20](#)), in which God is obligated to forgive our sins and to dispense Himself into our being to be our life, our law of life, and our everything as our inward content so that we may live Him ([Jer. 31:31-34](#); [Heb. 8:8-12](#)).
4. As the Angel of the covenant, Christ in resurrection executes the new covenant as its surety ([7:22](#)), making it real to us by assuring us that our sins have been forgiven and by dispensing the riches of the covenanted Triune God into us.

D. The healing Christ is the Desire of the nations ([Mal. 3:1](#); [Hag. 2:7](#)).

« DAY 6 »

E. The healing Christ is the Sun of righteousness ([Mal. 4:2](#); [3:1-3](#)):

1. The word *Sun* indicates life, and the word *righteousness* indicates justice; the whole earth is filled with death and injustice, but with the healing Christ we have life and justice (cf. [2 Cor. 5:4](#); [Heb. 6:10](#)).
2. In His first coming Christ was the dawning Sun to the dark age; in His second coming Christ will return as the Sun of righteousness in His kingdom ([Luke 1:78](#); [Mal. 4:2](#); cf. [Matt. 17:1-8](#)).
3. As the Sun of righteousness with healing in His wings, Christ heals us in life ([Mal. 4:2](#); [John 1:4-5](#); [8:12](#)).
4. To be healed is to be saved, to be made whole; Christ will heal us, but we must give Him the freedom to use His wings to fly above us, around us, through us, and within us ([Mal. 4:2](#); [Prov. 4:18](#)):
 - a. We must see God's great love for us and keep ourselves in the love of God ([Mal. 1:1-2](#); [Eph. 1:4-5](#); [2 Cor. 5:14](#); [Jude 19-21](#); [2 Thes. 3:5](#)).
 - b. We must take heed to our spirit, exercise our spirit, not grieving or quenching the Spirit ([Mal. 2:15-16](#); [Eph. 4:30](#); [1 Thes. 5:19](#); [Rom. 8:6](#)).

- c. We must honor and fear God by bringing the whole tithe into the storehouse for the need of the church, the advancement of the gospel, the supply of the Lord's servants, and the supply of the needy saints ([Mal. 3:7-12](#); [Deut. 14:22-23](#); [Phil. 1:5; 4:15-16](#); [3 John 5-8](#); [Rom. 12:13](#)):
 - (1) Although the word concerning the tithe was spoken to the Israelites in the Old Testament, in principle it applies also to the New Testament believers [Mal. 3:10](#); cf. [Heb. 7:1-3](#); [Matt. 23:23](#)).
 - (2) If we would be faithful to live for God's administration in caring for money and material matters, there would be no financial needs in the recovery [Neh. 13:10-14](#); [Luke 6:38](#); [Acts 20:35](#); [Matt. 6:1-4](#)).
- 5. The overcomers, who are reconstituted with Christ as the Sun, will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father [13:43](#); [Judg. 5:31](#)).

<< WEEK 11 — DAY 1 >>

Morning Nourishment

Matt. And as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him **24:3** privately, saying, Tell us, When will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming and of the consummation of the age?

15 Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let him who reads understand).

[Antichrist] will make a covenant with Israel for seven years and permit them to freely worship God. After three and a half years, Antichrist will be slain temporarily; then the spirit of the fifth Caesar (Nero) of the Roman Empire will come up out of the abyss and enter into the dead body of Antichrist to resurrect him to be the eighth Caesar. Antichrist will break the covenant and begin to persecute the Israelites and the Christians. He will also set up his image in the temple [Matt. 24:15](#); [2 Thes. 2:4](#)), until the complete destruction that is determined will be poured out upon the desolator, that is, upon Antichrist ([Dan. 9:27](#)). (*The Up-to-date Presentation of the God-ordained Way and the Signs concerning the Coming of Christ*, p. 55)

Today's Reading

In [Matthew 24](#) the Lord gave a clear revelation concerning the restoration of Israel. In [verse 32](#) the Lord said, “But learn the parable from the fig tree: As soon as its branch has become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near.” To the saints, the fig tree is a sign of the consummation of the age....The fig tree is a symbol of the nation of Israel [Jer. 24:2](#), [5](#), [8](#)). Because Israel was stubborn and rebellious and had no fruit that could satisfy God, she was rejected by God [cf. [Matt. 21:19](#)]. In A.D. 70, Titus, the Roman

prince, brought with him a great army to destroy Jerusalem and the temple, as prophesied by the Lord...(Matt. 24:2). From that time, the children of Israel were scattered among the nations. Not only did their nation fall, but even their homeland was lost. Humanly speaking, there was truly no hope for the nation of Israel to be reformed. However, the Bible contains a prophecy saying that one day the cursed and dried up fig tree would become tender and put forth leaves.

Concerning the rebuilding of the temple, first we need to see the two halves of the last week. The last week will be cut into two halves by Antichrist's abolishing of the seven-year covenant he will make with Israel. In the first three and a half years, Antichrist will support the children of Israel, permitting them to freely worship God; in the latter three and a half years, Antichrist will cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease (Dan. 12:7; 9:27) and replace them with an idol of himself. In Matthew 24:15, the holy place in which Antichrist's image will stand refers to the sanctuary within the temple (Psa. 68:35; Ezek. 7:24; 21:2) and the abomination refers to the image of Antichrist as an idol. In other words, the idol will remain in the temple for three and a half years until Christ will destroy Antichrist by the manifestation of His coming. Therefore, first the temple will have to be rebuilt; then the children of Israel will be able to worship God and offer sacrifices to Him, and Antichrist will be able to set up his image.

Before the great tribulation, the overcomers will be raptured, leaving the majority of the believers, those who are not yet mature, on the earth to pass through the great tribulation. Matthew 24:40-41...indicates that while the worldly people are befuddled by material things, with no sense of the coming judgment, some of the sober and watchful believers will be taken away. To the befuddled and senseless people, this should be a sign of Christ's coming. Therefore, we should take heed to ourselves, lest at some time our hearts be weighed down with debauchery and drunkenness and the anxieties of life (Luke 21:34), and we miss the rapture and become like Lot's wife. *The Up-to-date Presentation of the God-ordained Way and the Signs concerning the Coming of Christ*, pp. 56-59)

Further Reading: The Up-to-date Presentation of the God-ordained Way and the Signs concerning the Coming of Christ, ch. 6

<< WEEK 11 — DAY 2 >>

Morning Nourishment

Matt. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole **24:14** inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Dan. And he will speak things against the Most High and wear out **7:25** the saints of the Most High...and they will be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.

This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole earth for a testimony to all the nations before the end of this age. Hence, that preaching, signified by the white horse of the first seal in [Revelation 6:1-2](#), will be a sign of the consummation of this age....This testimony must spread to the whole earth before the end of this age, the time of the great tribulation. ([Matt. 24:14](#), footnotes 1 & 2)

Today's Reading

The lawlessness that will characterize Antichrist ([2 Thes. 2:3](#)) is already operating in this age mysteriously. It is the mystery of lawlessness working today among the nations and in human society. ([2 Thes. 2:7](#), footnote 1)

Antichrist will be the last of the false Christs and will work signs and lying wonders with the power of Satan in order to deceive the perishing ([2 Thes. 2:3, 9-10](#)). ([Matt. 24:24](#), footnote 1)

Mrs. Penn-Lewis once said, "Many believers say that they have encountered a lot of pressure. The battle now seems to grow thicker day by day. It seems as if we are the only target of Satan. But the question now is whether you can persevere through the final half-hour....To wear out [in [Daniel 7:25](#)] is to consume. Now the work of consuming the saints has already begun. It is harder to recognize Satan as the one who consumes the saints than to recognize him as

the roaring lion.”

In the days before the Lord’s coming, there will be great deceit and delusion. If it has its way, even the elect will be deceived. Furthermore, the “form of godliness” will exceedingly increase. The decrease of faith will be due not only to the love of the world and the denial of God’s Word, but will also be due to the false faith fashioned by Satan. One brother said, “These works of Satan will become an invisible influence in the air surrounding us. They will become a form of godliness, which will be inhabited by the evil spirits and which will be occupied with the oppression of Hades. These evil spirits will do their utmost to harm, deceitfully lead, confuse, and oppress God’s children. They will affect our bodies, suppress our mood, and darken our mind. Various strange feelings and trials unheard of in the past will come upon us and will strip us in a surprising way of all willingness and ability to incline toward God. Our spirit will be tired and weak, our mind will be dull, and our will will slumber. We will be strangely covetous of the things which God forbids and will surprisingly love the amusement and customs of this world. We will find it difficult to preach with full freedom and power and will find it hard to listen attentively to a message or kneel down to give ourselves to prayer continually. At such a time as today, when the evening is at hand, we must quell this kind of atmosphere!” Oh, let us be strong in the Lord! Satan will certainly endeavor with unthinkable power to deceive our mind and our will; he will make it difficult for us to carry on an intimate walk with the Lord, and we will find it easy to live according to the flesh and harder to faithfully serve God and give ourselves to prayer. It will seem as if our entire being is stirred up to oppose our following the Lord Jesus to the end and seduce us to make a covenant with the world. *The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol. 10, pp. 428-429, 431)

Through [the outpouring of the Spirit] the individual Christ became the corporate Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-13), the church as the great mystery of godliness, God manifested in the flesh 1 Tim. 3:15-16). The church as the manifestation of Christ will bring in the glorious day of restoration, the age of the millennial kingdom Joel 3:16-21), in which Christ will be manifested in a fuller way. The restoration will consummate in the fullest manifestation of Christ in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth. Joel 2:28, footnote 1)

Further Reading: The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, vol. 10, pp. 423-433

<< WEEK 11 — DAY 3 >>

Morning Nourishment

Mal. A son honors *his* father, and a servant his lord. Therefore if I **1:6-7** am a Father, where is My honor? And if I am the Lord, where is My fear? says Jehovah of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, How have we despised Your name? You offer defiled food upon My altar. And you say, How have we defiled You? In that you say, The table of Jehovah is despicable.

1 John If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, **1:8** and the truth is not in us.

Spiritual reality is that which is true. It is the truth that sets us free. However, a Christian often does not touch that which is true; instead, he falls into falsehood, and he is deceived and bound by the deception. He does not see the true nature of matters, but is deceived to think that he is very clear. What he thinks and does is totally wrong, and yet he thinks that he is very right. This kind of condition is known as “obsession.” Those who are obsessed need God’s light before they can be delivered from their obsession. (*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol. 36, p. 257)

Today’s Reading

Obsession is self-deception. An obsessed person is like the person described in **1 John 1:8**....If a man knows that he has sinned, yet tells others that he has not sinned, this is a lie. But if a man has sinned, yet believes that he has not sinned, this is self-deception. Lying is knowing that one has sinned but telling others that he has not sinned. Being obsessed is having clearly sinned yet, at the same time, thinking that one is as wonderful and as sinless as the Lord Jesus, even to the point that he believes and says that he has no sin. Lying is knowing that one has sinned and trying to deceive others. Being obsessed is believing that

one has no sin and telling others that he has no sin, when he has really sinned. In other words, lying is deceiving others, while being obsessed is deceiving oneself. The content of lying and obsession are the same; there is sin in both cases. But in one case, a man's conscience knows that he has sinned, yet he deceives others by saying that he has not sinned. In the other case, a man's mind tells him that he has not sinned, and in his heart he also believes that he has not sinned. Those who deceive others are lying, while those who deceive themselves are obsessed. All obsessed persons are self-deceiving persons. All obsessed persons spend so much time considering themselves that they fall into obsession. Many proud people have become obsessed because they not only try to make others believe that they are a certain kind of person, but they themselves believe that they are that kind of person!

Obsession is a matter of the heart. It is doing the wrong thing yet saying in the heart that it is right. If a man does something wrong, yet stubbornly says with his mouth that it is right, this is lying. But if a man does something wrong, and not only says with his mouth but even believes in his heart that it is right, this is obsession.

The symptom of obsession is thinking and believing that a wrong thing is right to the point that one cannot say that it is wrong. This is being obsessed. There are those who imagine that something is happening with others when nothing actually is happening. The imagination goes so far that they become convinced of a certain matter, and they even come up with proofs and evidences to support their imagination. This also is obsession. Some Christians want to do something or desire to achieve certain goals. In the beginning they have some feeling that what they want to do may not be right. But later, as their thoughts are set in that direction, the more they think about it, the more they feel that it is right, and the more real and true the things become. In the end, they believe that it is absolutely right. They consider it to be the truth, and they tell others that it is the truth. This also is obsession. One can be so obsessed that when others use God's Word and prove to him that he is wrong, he will still not take heed. It is not easy to help or correct an obsessed Christian, because he believes that his conscience says he is right. (*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol. 36, pp. 257-259)

Further Reading: The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, vol. 36, pp. 257-271

<< WEEK 11 — DAY 4 >>

Morning Nourishment

**Mal. I have loved you, says Jehovah; but you say, How have You
1:2 loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother, declares Jehovah?
Yet I loved Jacob.**

**3:13-14 Your words have been strongly against Me, says Jehovah; but
you say, What have we spoken against You? You say, It is
vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His
charge and have walked mournfully before Jehovah of hosts?**

In [Malachi 3:13 through 18](#) we see Jehovah's encouragement to those who fear Him and serve Him....The words of some of the sons of Jacob were strongly against Jehovah ([v. 13a](#))....They said, "It is vain to serve God"...(v. 14). They worshipped and served God, but they did it mournfully, not at all happy that they were required to do these things.

Those who spoke strongly against Jehovah also said, "Now we call the arrogant blessed; not only have those who act wickedly been built up, but they also try God and escape" ([v. 15](#)). This indicates that these opposers of God seemed to be saying, "The way to be blessed is not to be humble but to be arrogant. The ones who act wickedly not only are built up, but they try God, not believing Him and not giving Him the tithe, and they escape from any kind of calamity. Instead of suffering, they escape tribulation." (*Life-study of Malachi*, pp. 15-16)

Today's Reading

We must be very careful not to have any intention of deceiving others. Even when we say something inaccurate by accident, we should correct it. If we try to consciously say an inaccurate word, we will first deceive others, but in the end, we will fall into self-deception.

In the Old Testament, there is one book, [Malachi,] which shows us what obsessed people are like....In 1:2 it says, "I have loved you, says Jehovah." This is a fact. Yet the Israelites said, "How have You loved us?" This is obsession. The word which came out of the mouth of the Israelites was different from ordinary lying. They were not afraid to say to God, "How have You loved us?" This proves that they sincerely believed in their heart that God had not loved them. They did not believe the facts; they took falsehood as truth. This is being obsessed.

Malachi 1:6 says, "A son honors his father, and a servant his lord. Therefore if I am a Father, where is My honor? And if I am the Lord, where is My fear?" says Jehovah of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name." This is God's word. Yet they said, "How have we despised Your name?" They did not fear Jehovah, yet they believed that they had not despised His name. This is obsession.

Malachi 2:13 says, "And this second thing you do: You cover the altar of Jehovah with tears, with weeping and sighing, so that He no longer regards the sacrifice or receives it with pleasure from your hand." These are facts. Yet they said, "For what reason?" (v. 14). They did something wrong, yet they did not believe that there was such a thing. This is obsession.

Malachi 3:7 says, "From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says Jehovah of hosts." This is God's word. Yet they asked God, "How shall we return?" It seems as if they had never gone away from God's ordinances. They believed that they did not need to turn any further. This is obsession.

Verse 8 says, "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me." This is God's word. Yet they said, "How have we robbed You?" They robbed God, yet they believed that they had not done anything. This is obsession.

Verse 13 says, "Your words have been strongly against Me, says Jehovah." This is a fact. Yet they said, "What have we spoken against You?" Their words had been strong against God, yet they believed that they had not done anything. This is obsession. (*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol. 36, pp. 259-261)

Further Reading: Life-study of Malachi, msg. 3

<< WEEK 11 — DAY 5 >>

Morning Nourishment

Mal. 3:1-3 I am about to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me; and suddenly the Lord, whom you seek, will come to His temple. And the Angel of the covenant, whom you desire, He will come, says Jehovah of hosts. And who will endure the day of His coming? And who will stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. And He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and purge them like gold and like silver, and they will offer to Jehovah a sacrifice in righteousness.

The book of Malachi reveals Christ in His first coming and in His second coming. In His first coming He is the Messenger of God. As the Messenger of God, Christ not only brings a word or a message from God to God's people; He Himself is the living message. This is fully proved by the four Gospels, which are a complete and perfect record of Christ as the living message sent by God to His chosen people. While the Lord Jesus was living on earth, as He traveled through the cities and as He spoke to the people, ministering Himself into the intrinsic part of their being, He Himself was the message. *Life-study of Malachi*, p. 9)

Today's Reading

Jehovah's dealing with the sons of Levi is to refine and purify the priests by His coming as the Messenger of Jehovah (Mal. 3:1-4)....This prophecy has a threefold fulfillment.

First, this prophecy was fulfilled in the coming of the prophet Malachi, the type of Christ as the coming One....Second, this prophecy was fulfilled in the first coming of Christ with John the Baptist as His forerunner (Matt. 11:7-13). In His first coming, Christ came as a Messenger and even as the message sent

by God to adjust, refine, and purify the priests. In the Gospels the Lord Jesus frequently rebuked the priests....Third, this prophecy will be fulfilled in the second coming of Christ with Elijah as His forerunner [Isa. 40:3-5, 9-11](#); [Matt. 17:11](#); [Rev. 11:3-4](#)).

Christ will come suddenly as the Angel of the covenant, whom the people of Israel seek and whom the people of Israel desire [Mal. 3:1](#); [Hag. 2:7a](#))....Christ's coming suddenly as the Angel of the covenant will be to execute upon Israel the covenant that He enacted through His death [Matt. 26:28](#)). He came in the sense of an Angel to serve God in forming the new testament. When He established His table on the night in which He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus told us that He was enacting the new covenant: "This cup is the new covenant established in My blood" [Luke 22:20](#)). Thus He formed the new testament, in which God is obligated to dispense Himself into our being to be our life, our life law, and our everything as our content. Although the Lord Jesus enacted the new covenant nearly two thousand years ago, generally speaking the Jewish people have not benefitted by it. Instead, the benefit has gone to the Gentiles. However, when Christ comes back, He will come as the Angel of the covenant to execute His covenant over the repentant and believing Jews. At that time they will become beneficiaries of the new covenant.

Christ will come also to refine and purify the sons of Levi, mainly the priests, like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap that they may offer to God the proper sacrifice ([Mal. 3:2-4](#)). In the millennium the repentant Jews who are regenerated through the new covenant will be the priests to take care of all the nations. For this they will need much refining and purifying. Therefore, in His second coming Christ will renew, sanctify, and transform Israel to be His refined and purified priests.

In His second coming, Christ will be the Angel of the covenant, the Desire of nations ([3:1](#)), and the Sun of righteousness ([4:2](#)). Actually, Christ was the Angel of the covenant even in His first coming. As the Angel of the covenant, Christ enacted the new covenant. Before going to the cross, the last thing He did was to establish the new covenant at His table ([Matt. 26:26-30](#)). (*Life-study of Malachi*, pp. 5-7, 9)

Further Reading: Life-study of Malachi, msg. 1

<< WEEK 11 — DAY 6 >>

Morning Nourishment

Mal. But unto you who fear My name will the Sun of righteousness
4:2 arise with healing in His wings, and you will go forth and leap
about like well-fed calves.

Matt. Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom
13:43 of their Father....

Based upon [His] new covenant ([Heb. 8:10-12](#)), we are forgiven by God, who even forgets our failures. God is then able to dispense Himself into our intrinsic being to be our life, to be the law of life, and to be everything to us as our inward content that we may live Him. This means that the new covenant is to make us absolutely one with God. He becomes us, and we, being constituted with Him, are one with Him in His life and nature. (*Life-study of Malachi*, p. 10)

Today's Reading

God has been constituted into us to become us and...we have become one with God in His life and nature. The New Testament reveals that God is our Father and that we are His sons. We are not sons who have been adopted by God but sons who have been born of God. God is our Father because He has begotten us, and we are His sons because we have been born of Him. Just as a child shares the life and nature of his father but not the fatherhood, so we as sons born of God share God's life and nature but not His fatherhood nor His Godhead. We are the same as God our Father in life and nature, but we surely are not God in His Godhead or the Father in His fatherhood. This is the intrinsic revelation of the Bible, especially of the New Testament.

In our daily living, we need to remember our status as sons of God possessing the life and nature of God. For example, if a brother and his wife both realize this, knowing that they are not only human but also divine, they

will respect each other to the uttermost. Instead of disputing, they will honor each other and be kind to each other....We should not forget our status as sons of God.

In His second coming, Christ will also be the Desire of the nations ([Mal. 3:1](#); [Hag. 2:7](#)). Christ is the One whom we desire. Day by day we desire Him to be our love, our humility, our meekness, and our joy. Nothing is better than joy. This joy becomes our strength, our healing, our feeding, and our nourishment. Real joy comes from Christ being our life, our virtues, and our everything. I can testify that I have been loving this One for over seventy years, and I love Him today much more than ever. Daily I desire Him, love Him, and consider Him. He surely is our Desire.

As the Sun of righteousness, Christ will come with healing in His wings ([Mal. 4:2](#)). Today the Pentecostal people practice what is called divine healing. Actually, Christ Himself is our healing. He is the Sun that heals us as it shines upon us.

In His first coming, the earth rejected Christ; therefore, the earth lacks His healing. But because we have received Him in a secret, hidden way, we receive His healing every day. His healing causes us to have joy so that we forget our anger and anxiety. We are sick from sin, death, and many deficiencies and imperfections. Only this healing Christ can make us whole. To be healed is to be saved. To be healed, to be saved, is to be made whole. He will heal us, but we must give Him the freedom to use His wings to fly above us, around us, and within us.

In His first coming, Christ healed the degraded priesthood, but in His second coming, He will heal the remnant of the people of Israel. Then He will be everything to the earth and to us. This healing Christ will come suddenly. Thus, we need to be alert, ready to receive Him.

The center of the book of Malachi is the healing Christ. This healing Christ is the Messenger of God, the Angel of the covenant, and the Desire of the nations. Christ's being our healing is based upon His being the Sun of righteousness. The word "Sun" indicates life, and the word "righteousness" indicates justice. The whole earth is filled with death and injustice, but with the healing Christ we have life and justice. We are waiting for Him to come as the Sun of righteousness with healing in His wings. *Life-study of Malachi*, pp. 10-12)

Further Reading: Life-study of Malachi, msg. 2

<< **WEEK 11 — HYMN**

Hymns, #200

- 1 Thou art the Sun of righteousness
With healing in Thy wings;
The shining of Thy glorious face
To us Thy riches brings.
- 2 The tender mercy of our God
Caused Thee on us to dawn,
To those in darkness giving light
That shades of death be gone.
- 3 Thou art the Morning without clouds,
And as the Morning Light;
We are the tender grass on earth,
Who in Thy rays delight.
- 4 Thy shining light with pleasant rays
Increases all the way;
It shines within us more and more
Until the perfect day.
- 5 It shines thru woe with clearest beams,
As shining after rain;
And in Thy mercy with Thy love
Thy shining e'er remains.
- 6 Thou also art the Morning Star
To us as a reward;
While still 'tis dark it shines with light
To those who love the Lord.
- 7 Lord, help us e'er to love Thy light
And see things from afar;
And look for Thee in watch and prayer
As for the Morning Star.