

Tuesday, December 31

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Malachi 3:1 - 4:6

3 **1** “Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. **2** “But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes. **3** He will sit like a refiner of silver, burning away the dross. He will purify the Levites, refining them like gold and silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the LORD. **4** Then once more the LORD will accept the offerings brought to him by the people of Judah and Jerusalem, as he did in the past. **5** “At that time I will put you on trial. I am eager to witness against all sorcerers and adulterers and liars. I will speak against those who cheat employees of their wages, who oppress widows and orphans, or who deprive the foreigners living among you of justice, for these people do not fear me,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. **6** “I am the LORD, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed. **7** Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my decrees and failed to obey them. Now return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. “But you ask, ‘How can we return when we have never gone away?’ **8** “Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! “But you ask, ‘What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?’ “You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. **9** You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. **10** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! **11** Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. **12** “Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. **13** “You have said terrible things about me,” says the LORD. “But you say, ‘What do you mean? What have we said against you?’ **14** “You have said, ‘What’s the use of serving God? What have we gained by obeying his commands or by trying to show the LORD of Heaven’s Armies that we are sorry for our sins? **15** From now on we will call the arrogant blessed. For those who do evil get rich, and those who dare God to punish

them suffer no harm.” **16** Then those who feared the LORD spoke with each other, and the LORD listened to what they said. In his presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared him and always thought about the honor of his name. **17** “They will be my people,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. “On the day when I act in judgment, they will be my own special treasure. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child. **18** Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”

4 1 The LORD of Heaven’s Armies says, “The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. On that day the arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw. They will be consumed—roots, branches, and all. **2** “But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture. **3** On the day when I act, you will tread upon the wicked as if they were dust under your feet,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. **4** “Remember to obey the Law of Moses, my servant—all the decrees and regulations that I gave him on Mount Sinai for all Israel. **5** “Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives. **6** His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

Revelation 22:1 - 21

22 1 Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. **2** It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations. **3** No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. **4** And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. **5** And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever. **6** Then the angel said to me, “Everything you have heard and seen is trustworthy and true. The Lord God, who inspires his prophets, has sent his angel to tell his servants what will happen soon. ” **7** “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book. ” **8** I, John, am the one who heard and saw all these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me. **9** But he said, “No, don’t worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers the prophets, as well as all who obey what is written in this book. Worship

only God!" **10** Then he instructed me, "Do not seal up the prophetic words in this book, for the time is near. **11** Let the one who is doing harm continue to do harm; let the one who is vile continue to be vile; let the one who is righteous continue to live righteously; let the one who is holy continue to be holy." **12** "Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds. **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." **14** Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life. **15** Outside the city are the dogs—the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshipers, and all who love to live a lie. **16** "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star." **17** The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let anyone who hears this say, "Come." Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life. **18** And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the words of prophecy written in this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book. **19** And if anyone removes any of the words from this book of prophecy, God will remove that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book. **20** He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! **21** May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's holy people.

Psalms 150:1 - 6

150 1 Praise the LORD ! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heaven! **2** Praise him for his mighty works; praise his unequalled greatness! **3** Praise him with a blast of the ram's horn; praise him with the lyre and harp! **4** Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with strings and flutes! **5** Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals. **6** Let everything that breathes sing praises to the LORD ! Praise the LORD !

Proverbs 31:25 - 31

31 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future. **26** When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness. **27** She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness. **28** Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her: **29** "There are many

virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!” **30** Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised. **31** Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.