



As you read the title of this essay, you may be thinking that I misspelled a word. That word would be "Sun." You most likely would be thinking that I meant that Jesus, is the "Son of Righteousness." That is what I thought when I first read the verse in Malachi 4:2. However, it reads as follows, "*But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings...*"

As we know, Malachi was writing to the people about who would be coming to truly save them. The entire book of Malachi refers to the coming of the true Messiah to the Jewish people. Ultimately, this would be the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. It is interesting to note that Malachi is actually the last book that was written and that we have in the Old Testament.

After, Malachi, it seems as if God went "silent." However, God was working and putting everything in order for the coming of the Savior of the world. God was not asleep during those 400+ years but rather He was setting everything up, according to His Word, for the time when the true hope of this world, Jesus, would come and then ultimately, die on a cross for all of our sin.

To give us a little background, in Hebrew the book of Malachi is titled "Ykalm" meaning "messenger of Yahweh" or "My messenger." In the Greek Septuagint the book is titled "Malacias," which is a transliteration of the Hebrew title. It actually has the sense of meaning "His (God's) messenger." As mentioned earlier, it was the last book of the Old Testament that we have. It was written around 433 to 424 BC.

The Jewish leaders and people in Malachi's time became very orthodox in their religion. So much so that they ultimately were becoming too orthodox and their faith was turning into religious service and rituals other than truly recognizing and acknowledging God as their one and only true and living God. They were entering into and changing their ways of thinking. So much so, that they were getting into compromises and diluting the concepts given by God for the proper worship of their God.

Malachi's prophecy comes as a wake-up call for the people to renew their concept and true faith in their God. Malachi confronted the people's spiritual apathy and religious thinking. He was calling them back to God. Through Malachi, God asked, "*If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?*" (Malachi 1:6). Wow!!! That is something we all need to think about!!!

If we turn to Malachi 3:1 we read, "*Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.*" Actually, this verse should be broken up into two sections. It is actually referring to two different people.

The first one mentioned is the “*messenger*.” This is referring to John the Baptist who will prepare the way for the Messiah, ultimately Jesus, to come. We actually read of this in the New Testament in Matthew 11:10, as it reads, “*For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.*” Jesus was referring to John the Baptist as the one who came to prepare the way for Him.

As we continue on we read of the “*messenger of the covenant*.” The second part of Malachi 3:1 tells us “*...and the **Lord**, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the **messenger of the covenant**, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.*” The “Lord” that is referred to here, is the Hebrew word “adonai,” which is referring to the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus. The “LORD” who is declaring this through Malachi his prophet, is actually Father God, Yahweh.

The Father is telling us that the “Lord,” Jesus, whom we all seek after, shall come. Well, the truth is that He has come. This Lord, the Messiah, will and did, usher and bring forth the “New Covenant.” BEHOLD. HE IS COMING!!! HE DID COME!!! AND... HE WILL COME AGAIN!!!

In Malachi 4:1-3 we read, “*For, behold, the day comes, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that comes shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the **Sun of righteousness** arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.*”

The “Sun of righteousness” in these scriptures is referring to Jesus. This “Sun of righteousness” will “arise.” This is a promise to those who “fear the Lord” and who are ready for His coming. The term “Sun” in this scripture “refers to a brilliance.” It is capitalized in this scripture which means that it is referring to a “person.” The only brilliant one who is so very, very bright is God – the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit!! The One who comes will be and who was and who will come again is, Jesus!!!

What does the term “righteousness” mean? The answer that we all know and give when asked this question is that it is being in right standing with God. But, what does that really mean? Well, it means that we are able to be, and we can be, in God’s presence. That is what it is all about. It is all about being able to simply be in God’s presence, His glory - forever and ever.

The term, “Sun of righteousness,” can also be translated as the “Son of **vindication**.” The context concerns the “Day of the Lord,” or the “end times. It is the time when God will vindicate His people and judge sin. The term, “vindicate” means to clear someone of blame or suspicion. It can also refer to justifying. “Justifying” means to make an individual who was guilty of wrongdoings, right with the individual that they had done wrong to. In legal terms, it describes a total and unequivocal exoneration of any wrong done.

This “vindication,” or our right standing with God, will be very clear for all to see. It will be as the bright light of the sunrise which breaks through and shatters all the darkness of night. The One described as the “*Sun of righteousness*” can be no other than Jesus Christ, Himself.

The coming of the Messiah is pictured light and as a sunrise in several passages.

Isaiah 60:1 tells us, “*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.*”

2Samuel 23:4,5 tell us, “*And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun rises, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.*”

Luke 1:78-79 tells us, “*Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the day spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*”

The fact that the “*Sun of righteousness*” rises with “*healing in its wings*” invokes the picture of the wings of a bird stretching his wings across the sky, offering healing to all those below. The healing that is referred to in this scripture is not just physical healing. It is referring to the most important healing of all, our spiritual healing. Will those whom this bird with healing in his wings, receive and accept that true healing – salvation!!! That is up to every individual person.

Yes, Jesus will heal our physical ailments, but the most important and the most valuable healing that any one person can receive is that their spirit, which was dead, is totally healed and made alive and totally new. It is now alive in and through the “*Sun of righteousness*,” Jesus. A “healing” will infuse the earth during this time, removing the negative impact and affects of past sins (Isaiah 30:26; 53:5).

Jesus heals and restores that relationship with God which was broken because of sin. In Isaiah 53:5 it tells that that we are healed by the stripes that Jesus took for all our sin. In 1Peter 2:24, Peter tells us in no uncertain terms, that by the stripes that Jesus took for our sin, that we **WERE** healed. It is a “done deal.” All we need to do is simply believe and receive that free gift of salvation. If the person does, then they are “set at one again” with the living God!!!

Through the risen “Sun of Righteousness” (Jesus) we receive “healing” (salvation) in His wings. They shall go out and be “*free as calves*.” This means that every believer will be free from the devil’s power and enjoy their salvation. They shall “*tread down the wicked*.” This means that every true believer will enjoy and partake of the God’s victory over the devil and destroy the works of darkness in, by and through the name of Jesus.

However, we must know that Jesus will come twice. The first time He came was to bring redemption and salvation for all those who believe through His death and resurrection. He had to come as a man to do this for us. BUT... JESUS WILL COME A SECOND TIME.

However, this second time when Jesus comes, He will come as the Son of God. Jesus will bring judgment to the wicked. Jesus will bring judgment to the devil and all the forces of darkness, as well as all those that choose to follow those forces of darkness.

When Jesus returns, the knowledge and understanding of God's righteousness and peace will flood the earth. Isaiah 11:9 and Habakkuk 2:14 tell us, "*For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*"

The Gospels tell us that Jesus came the first time as a man to save us from our sins and to give all of us the opportunity to be saved from eternal damnation and to have eternal life. As we read Revelation 19 and 20, it tells us that Jesus will come again and destroy, once and for ever, all the forces of darkness and any one who makes their own choice and chooses to follow the devil.

Revelation 19:6 tells us very clearly, "*And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, 'Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigns.'*" But then Revelation 19:7 tops it all off by telling us, "*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*" Yes, the true believers are the bride and they shall be ready- waiting for the Jesus to come.

Yet, God is so, so, so very very loving. He desires that none would perish. As we continue to read in Revelation 20, God gives those who are left on this earth after the great tribulation, one last chance to receive salvation. He gives them 1000 years of total peace and life with none of sin's affect. Jesus will rule and reign and it will be wonderful. BUT- they will still need to make their choice.

Unfortunately, there will be many that will be so deceived in their wickedness of their desire for and of self that they will refuse. Ultimately and unfortunately, they will all be cast into that "Lake of fire" for eternity... forever and ever and ever!!!

This was the punishment that should have been done in the Garden of Eden back in Genesis 3. BUT GOD!!! God gave and will give people every opportunity to be saved and have eternal life with Him. John 3:16,17 tells us God's heart for all His most beloved of all creation, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*"

Then... we see in Revelation 21, the "New Heaven and the New Earth." There will be a "New Jerusalem" where all the true believers will be with their God forever and ever. In the midst of the New Jerusalem there will be a river of life. On the sides of that river will be, not just one, but many "trees of life" that we all will be able to partake of forever and ever.

However, the greatest thing that we shall behold is found in Revelation 22:3,4. We shall be able to see God and the Lamb, the Father and Jesus. His name will be upon our foreheads which means that His name shall be within our hearts and our minds forever and ever. But... the greatest thing for us, I believe, is that *THEN WE SHALL SEE HIS FACE!!!* Oh what a day that will be!!!

That is what Malachi 4:2 reveals to us when we read it. Jesus, the “*Sun of righteousness*” will arise with “*healing in his wings...*” He brings and gives us salvation. We are now free in Jesus, “*...for whom the Son sets free is free in deed.*”

Together, “*The Spirit and the bride say, Come...*” Jesus will come quickly.

All we can say is “*...Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*”

- Revelation 22:17,20

We invite you to listen and worship along with the song, “You are my Destiny.”

Just copy and paste this address into your browser:

<https://simplysimpleworship.com/Audio-You%20Are%20My%20Destiny.mp3>

God bless