

The People Complain Harshly

¹³ “Your words have been harsh against Me,” Says the LORD, “Yet you say, ‘What have we spoken against You?’ ¹⁴ You have said, ‘It is useless to serve God; what profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, and that we have walked as mourners before the LORD of hosts? ¹⁵ now we call the proud blessed, for those who do wickedness are raised up; they even tempt God and go free.’”

A Book of Remembrance

¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name. ¹⁷ “They shall be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.” ¹⁸ Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.

Malachi 4

The Great Day of God

¹ “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,” Says the LORD of hosts, “That will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. ³ You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this,” Says the LORD of hosts.

Murmuring, complaining, insincerity and continued rebellion against God. They perceive that their worship of God is in vain because they see the wicked exalted and go unpunished. These things were spoken against God. Some wrongly maintained that if material prosperity did not come their way, there was no point in serving God.

There were some who did not defect but revered the Lord and praised Him. These faithful ones were noted in a book of remembrance for special reward because of their faithfulness. These individuals genuinely honored and worshipped God. God promises to keep in remembrance those who honor Him by living faithfully for Him. He will not forget them. God observes and records our acts of faithfulness to and love for Him. On the Day of Judgment, when the books are opened and rewards are distributed, the “Pure in heart” will stand out.

Romans 10:3-4(NKJV) *For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.* These people were sanctimonious. They had an outward show of righteousness.

Isaiah 58:2 (AMP) *Yet they seek, inquire for, and require Me daily and delight [externally] to know My ways, as [if they were in reality] a nation that did righteousness and forsook not the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God [in visible ways].* And they assumed that they were innocent. Jeremiah 2:35 (AMP) *Yet you keep*

saying, I am innocent; surely His anger has turned away from Me. Behold, I will bring you to judgment and will plead against you because you say, I have not sinned

By their murmuring and complaining about the good fortune of those who were wicked, they were walking in disobedience. In Psalm 37, David speaks of the destiny of the wicked and urges the righteous not to be envious when they see them flourishing.

The people were not tithing yet murmuring against God for their misfortunes. In Deuteronomy 28, God promised Israel blessings provided the nation obeyed Him, but curses if they disobeyed. Israel had forgotten that they had a responsibility to fulfill as their part of the Covenant.