



Scripture Text: Malachi 3:13–18

13 “Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’
14 You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the Lord of hosts? 15 And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evil doers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

The Book of Remembrance

16 Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name.
17 “They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. 18 Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Key Themes:

- Faithful remnant
- God’s remembrance
- Rewards for obedience

Introduction:

Malachi In this passage, God contrasts the attitudes of two groups: those who complain against Him and the faithful remnant who fear Him. This segment highlights God’s justice, His intimate care for His faithful people, and His promise of distinction between the righteous and the wicked.

Study Notes:

1. *The Complaints Against God (vv. 13–15)*

- The discontented group accuses God of being unjust, claiming that serving Him is futile. Their perspective reflects a transactional view of faith, expecting immediate rewards for obedience.
- They envy the arrogant and wicked, perceiving them as prospering without consequence.
- This attitude exposes a lack of trust in God’s ultimate justice and a failure to grasp His eternal purposes.

2. *The Faithful Remnant (vv. 16–17)*

- In contrast, a faithful group of God-fearing individuals responds differently. They revere God and speak with one another, likely encouraging each other in their faith.
- God listens attentively and records their names in a “book of remembrance,” signifying His personal acknowledgment and eternal commitment to them.
- This imagery recalls ancient practices of recording names in royal archives, emphasizing the value God places on those who remain loyal.

3. *God’s Promise of Distinction (v. 18)*

- God assures the faithful that a day of judgment is coming when He will clearly distinguish between the righteous and the wicked.
- The righteous are described as His treasured possession, reinforcing their identity and the rewards of obedience.

Study Questions & Discussion Questions:

1. What are the complaints made against God in verses 13–15, and how do they reflect a misunderstanding of His character?

2. How does the attitude of the faithful remnant in verses 16–17 differ from that of the complainers?

3. What does the “book of remembrance” symbolize, and how does it demonstrate God’s care for His people?

4. In what ways do the wicked appear to prosper in today’s world, and how should believers respond to such observations?

5. What does it mean to “fear the Lord” in this context, and why is it significant?

6. How does fellowship with other believers encourage faithfulness, as seen in verse 16?

7. What is the significance of being called God’s “treasured possession” in verse 17?

8. How does verse 18 provide hope for the future?

9. What can we learn from God’s response to both groups (complainers and the faithful)?

10. How does this passage inspire you to remain faithful in your service to God, even when it seems unacknowledged?

Practical Application:

- **God's Faithfulness:** Even when the world seems unfair, God's justice prevails.
- **Encouragement in Community:** Fellowship among believers strengthens faith.
- **Eternal Perspective:** God's rewards often transcend earthly blessings.

Take-Home Challenge:

This week, write a personal "book of remembrance" by recording specific ways God has been faithful in your life. Include answered prayers, blessings, and times He provided comfort or guidance. Share one entry with a trusted friend or your small group to encourage them in their faith.

Reflection:

- How does the assurance of God's remembrance change your perspective on your current circumstances?
- What specific steps will you take to cultivate an eternal perspective and trust in God's justice this week?
- End your study with a prayer, thanking God for His faithfulness and asking for strength to remain steadfast in your walk with Him.