



## **Lesson 7: The Day of the Lord**

**Malachi 4:1-6**

**Teacher: Beth Seifert**

The book of Malachi ends with a sober warning that we, too need to heed: the day of the Lord is coming. Read Matthew 13: 36-43. What is Jesus explaining here? What will happen to lawbreakers on the day of the Lord? What will happen to the righteous? Is there anything in Jesus' explanation that would suggest that there is no real place of torment?

Read Matthew 25:31-46. As Jesus talks in this passage, again, is He describing real places or is He only using figures of speech? According to this passage, will hell be empty?

Read Matthew 7:21-23. These are some of the scariest words in Scripture. When those who call to Christ and they are denied by Christ, what is it that they point to as "proof" to gain entrance? What does that tell us about our works?

Read Revelation 21:1-4. What is John describing here? Who is the groom? Who is the bride? Who will we dwell with in heaven? What promises do we have, from God, about what will be "missing" in heaven?

Read Revelation 21:22-23. Why is there no temple for the people to worship in, in heaven? What has happened to the sun and moon? Why?

How, then, can we know whether we are truly His? Read 2 Corinthians 13:5-6. What does Paul urge the reader to do? Read 1 John 1:5-10. What is one "evidence" that John gives us, to test ourselves? (There is more than one answer from just these few verses.)

Read 2 Peter 3:9-10. According to Peter, is God "slow" in fulfilling His promises? What is the "delay"? What does this demonstrate about God?

Read Hebrews 12:1-2. Laying aside our sin, we look to Jesus. What attitude did He have when He endured the cross? What two things are we told Jesus does for our faith? Why is that a source of hope and encouragement for the believer?

Read Philippians 1:3-6. What hope does Paul give to us here, regarding the work begun in us?

Read Hebrews 9:25-28. What was unique about Christ's sacrifice, compared to that of the high priest? How many times did Christ sacrifice Himself? How many times will men die? What will happen when Christ returns a second time? Does that knowledge fill you with fear and dread or with longing and joy?

As you spend time with God today, ask Him to help you to affirm your calling to Him, as you consider the reality that the day of the Lord is coming. Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-2. What appeal is Paul making here? If you are filled with fear at the description of Christ's return, consider whether today might be the favorable time for you to obey the call to repent and be saved by the blood of Christ.

Thank Him, today, for the gift of His word, that we can study and see all the ways that He has been faithful. Ask Him to help you to trust Him more today, as you go forward, to the day when those who are His will leap like silly calves. Thank Him for His patience, not slowness, in waiting so that more may be brought to Him, and ask Him to continue to strengthen and guide your path. Thank Him for the prophet Malachi, who provides us with precious warnings and great hope for what our Father has in store for us.