

## GOOD NEWS OR BAD NEWS

### Malachi 3:13 – 4:6

#### Introduction:

- A. What happens at death?
  1. For the believer in Christ – the spirit will separate from the body and go into the p\_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord
  2. For the unbeliever – the spirit will separate from the body and go into a p\_\_\_\_\_ reality.
- B. What will God say to you on the final day of judgment?
  1. It will be good news to the believer in Christ but bad news to the unbeliever.
  2. How can you be certain today that you will be hearing good news from God?
  3. We will be looking at the bad news first and then the good news.

#### Unbelievers will be like burning chaff (3:13-15; 4:1)

- A. The LORD's charge against the people of Judah - *Your words have been arrogant against me.* (KJV – *stout*; NLT – *terrible*).
  1. The Hebrew word is the same one used in Ex 9:35 to refer to Pharaoh's h\_\_\_\_\_ heart.
  2. It refers to an open r\_\_\_\_\_ to God.
- B. The people deny the charge and so God reveals their own words
  1. They saw no benefit in s\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (3:14,15)
  2. They saw the evil doers as b\_\_\_\_\_
  3. The people of Judah were only looking at the temporary (the here and now) rather than at the e\_\_\_\_\_.
- C. God declares the eternal destiny of unbelievers – they will burn up like chaff in a furnace (4:1)
  1. The ancient furnace
    - a. A large pit in the earth with p\_\_\_\_\_ sides.
    - b. Chaff or s\_\_\_\_\_ was used to start the fire and as the fire was fed it would heat up the sides.
    - c. E\_\_\_\_\_ were removed from the sides and used for cooking.
  2. The destiny of the unbeliever is compared to burning chaff.

D. Further revelation is made in the New Testament

1. Beware of the false teaching that unbelievers will not suffer for eternity but will simply cease to exist and go into nothingness. Their argument is as follows:
  - a. God is a God of l\_\_\_\_\_, and it would not be loving to put people through eternal misery.
  - b. Since chaff becomes no more, so will unbelievers become no more.
  - c. The words forever uses the Greek word aion, which means a\_\_\_\_\_ and refers to a limited period of time.
2. The Biblical teaching
  - a. The word aion may refer to a limited period (e.g. Lk 18:30) but it also can mean without e\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. Jn 3:16 uses the adjective form to describe life for the believer as e\_\_\_\_\_ by defining it as never p\_\_\_\_\_)
  - b. Jesus used the term Gehenna for the future place of punishment for unbelievers.
    - 1) Jesus' audience knew Gehenna to be the g\_\_\_\_\_ dump southwest of Jerusalem. It was continually burning.
    - 2) Jesus used this place as a metaphor to teach
      - a) There is a real place of punishment (Matt 5:29; 10:28; 23:33)
      - b) This place was originally created for the d\_\_\_\_\_ and his angels (Matt 25:41)
      - c) The punishment does not end (Rev 14:11 – literally translated as *into the ages of ages*, a common idiom in Greek literature meaning f\_\_\_\_\_).
  - c. Rev 20 calls the future place of punishment the Lake of F\_\_\_\_\_.
    - 1) Unbelievers will be bodily raised from the d\_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 20:12,13; Jn 5:29)
    - 2) Unbelievers will be judged according to their d\_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 20:12,13)
    - 3) Unbelievers will physically die a s\_\_\_\_\_ time when they are cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:14)
    - 4) The unbeliever's spirit will be forever separated from their body (physically dead) and forever separated from God's spirit (spiritually dead) yet will be in a state of a\_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 14:11 – they have no rest from their torment).

**Believers will be like a skipping calf (3:16-18; 4:2,3)**

- A. The LORD states that there will be a d\_\_\_\_\_ made between the righteous and the wicked (3:18)
1. All who f\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord will have their names recorded in a book of remembrance. (3:16)
    - a. Ps 139:14 – the Lord formed us in our mother’s w\_\_\_\_\_ with fear (He used great care).
    - b. To fear the Lord means to handle your relationship to Him with great care, with a deep r\_\_\_\_\_.
    - c. To fear the Lord is equated with esteeming or honoring His n\_\_\_\_\_ (Mal 3:16)
  2. On that final day we will be like a skipping calf released from its stall
    - a. Newborn calves are weaned through s\_\_\_\_\_
    - b. Calves have to be locked up in a p\_\_\_\_\_ away from the herd until they can be trusted not to drink milk from the udders.
    - c. When a calf is released from being penned up they literally s\_\_\_\_\_ for joy.
- B. How can you be certain that you will escape the Lake of Fire and experience this eternal joy? Base your certainty on:
1. God’s promise of eternal l\_\_\_\_\_ for all who trust in Jesus (Jn 3:16).
  2. God’s promise that He will k\_\_\_\_\_ us (Jn 10:27-19).
- C. Verse 4 calls the people of Judah to remember the Law of Moses and live in o\_\_\_\_\_.
1. Jesus summed up those laws in two commands, to love the L\_\_\_\_\_ your God with all your heart, and to love your n\_\_\_\_\_ as yourself.
  2. God’s promises should inspire us to live in o\_\_\_\_\_