



Connection Group Participant Guide

November 21, 2021

Malachi 3:16-4:6

Teaching Point 1. The Lord gave attention and heard it – Here is a word of comfort for those who feared the Lord both then and now. God has not forgotten you. God has not abandoned you. God will not judge you for the sins of your neighbor. No matter how dark it gets, He still sees you. No matter how confused things are around you, He still hears you. In this passage we learn that a book of remembrance was written for those who fear the Lord. It is likely that their names and even their deeds were recorded in this book as a guarantee that God would never forget them. This concept is similar to that in the book of Esther where we learn that the king was reading a similar book on a sleepless night and was reminded of what Mordecai had done for the kingdom. God is omniscient and never forgets. Yet to our minds the book of remembrance is an added assurance that we are valued in God's sight and that nothing we do for Him will be forgotten.

Teaching Point 2. They will be Mine – Here is another added comfort for the people. God viewed them as His own. They were His people. He would take care of them just as a father takes care of a son. He was going to spare them, not judge them. Going back to verse fourteen, we see the question about “what profit” there is in serving God. Here at the end of this chapter we see that there is indeed a great profit in serving God. If we believe and follow Him, we will receive His mercy instead of His judgment.

Teaching Point 3. The wicked will be judged. Sinful people think that God is far away and that they will never be caught or punished for their sins. But their fate is certain. Though they do not see God, He is there, nonetheless. His holiness demands that their sinful deeds be punished.

Teaching Point 4. I am going to send you Elijah the prophet – In this prophecy we see God's great mercy. His patience is very great indeed. He gives us chance after chance after chance, long after we don't deserve any more chances. We see that God is not rash. We see that He is not easily angered. He doesn't forget His promises. He cares so much for us that He tries again and again to reach our hearts so that we will repent and turn to Him. What a merciful God we serve!

Application: When we truly turn to God our entire lives will be transformed. If our lives are not transformed, we have to ask the question, have our hearts really changed? Take the opportunity today to place your trust in Christ for eternal life. If you have already done so, then evaluate your heart to ensure that your worship and your service for God are sincere and pure.