



Scriptural Background: Mal 3

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts." Mal 3:1

Both Testaments, the Old and the New, end with the promise of one who is coming (at least as arranged in English Bibles; see Mal 4:5 and Rev 22:20–21). Moreover, each arrival is accompanied by the promise of either a blessing or a curse (Mal 4:6; Rev 22:18–19, 21). When we turn the page from the Old Testament to the New, very soon we are met with the figure of John the Baptist. He is the great "messenger of the Lord" who prepared the way before Jesus (Mk 1:2, Mt 11:14). Following him, the Lord indeed came to His temple (John 1:14, 2:21; Mk 11:11; Mt 26:57, 27:51) and inaugurated the new covenant (Jer 31:31–34, Mt 26:28). Receiving or rejecting Him is the sole determining factor for whether one is under a blessing or under a curse. So, too, when He comes again—*and He is!*—one's receptivity to God's Word in Christ (Rev 19:13) will be the decisive and only litmus test for whether he will receive plagues or participation in the tree of life. Amen, come Lord Jesus! Thank You for Your grace.

Prayer:

LORD Jesus, we long for Your coming. We pray that this Lent You are tuning our hearts to seek Your return. Only in You can real blessing be found, for You are Life itself. Thank You for shedding Your blood to seal the new covenant with me. Give me grace to delight in You today. Amen.