

**HEALING IN HIS WINGS**

# Malachi 4

- A man scoffingly asked, "What advantage has a religious man over any one like myself?. Does not the sun shine on me as on him, this fine day?"
- "Yes," replied his companion, a pious laborer, **"but the religious man has two suns shining on him at once — one on his body, the other on his soul." — The Biblical Treasury**

- In the last few statements of the Old Testament, a few powerful prophecies are given about Jesus Christ.
- The prophet *Malachi* writing 450 years before Jesus predicts in **Malachi 2:17 through 4:6** (the end of the book) a formula that **promises destruction for evildoers and deliverance and healing for those who reverence His name when the Lord appears in the end time as judge**
- *Malachi, says about* the Messiah's coming in **3:1**, "The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight; behold he is coming says the Lord of hosts."
- **And in verse 3:2, But who can endure the day of His coming? Who can stand when He appears? For He will be like a refiner's fire "He is like a refiner's fire."**
- The sun and its elementary constituent, fire, are a mixed blessing to humanity. The sun and fire both burn and warm. God Himself uses this metaphor in describing His appearance to Israel.
- Let us say at the outset that these prophecies about Jesus Christ were partially fulfilled during the first advent of our glorious Lord and that a far larger fulfillment awaits at his second coming.

- **Having warned that those who proudly resist God that they will be consumed with fire on the coming day of judgment, Malachi then has a different word to say to those who fear the Lord. For them the future holds something vastly more wonderful.**
- It is certainly true that the one grand distinction among men is truly "him that serveth God, and him that serveth him not." See last verse of previous chapter.

Fearing God is the mark which distinguishes man from man far more than wealth, rank, or nationality.

The coming of Christ is a calamity or a blessing to men according to their character.

What a change of figures! **To the wicked, "an oven"! (see verse 1). To God fearing men, a "Sun"!**

- **Fulfillment of Malachi's prophesy in [Malachi 3:1](#) is clearly seen when**
- **1 he came as a little babe to the expectant gaze of Simeon and Anna - [Luke 2:25-32](#)**
- **2 he was seen with the rabbis at age 12 - [Luke 2:41-47](#)**
- **3 He came to overturn the tables of the money-changers.**
- **4 He comes to the temple of our hearts. His coming is as purifying fire.**
  
- **It was the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ ('the Lord and Messenger of the covenant' - [Malachi 3:1](#) b) that has saved the world from God's curse.**
- **With the patience of the Refiner of silver He sits till He sees His own image reflected in the molten metal. And when He takes up His abode in our hearts He is a "swift Witness there against sin." Our Lord calls Himself "the faithful and true Witness."**
- **if you see the coming of Jesus the way the prophets saw it, you would see its relevance for your life, and you wouldn't be indifferent anymore.**

- The fire metaphor resumes in Chapter 4:
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- *"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble and that day that is coming will set them on fire." Mal. 4:1a.*
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- The contrast to consuming fire and judgment - a benign sun and healing - then appear in Mal. 4:2.
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- *"But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in his wings."*
- We note that the blessing in this prophecy is promised to those who fear the Lord and are ready for His return, but who are referred to in the phrase **"You that fear my name"**?
- These are the persons mentioned in the sixteenth verse of the preceding chapter, **ye that look for redemption through the Messiah.**

- **What /who is the "sun" to which/whom Malachi refers?**
- **The Sun of righteousness is of course The Lord Jesus, the promised Messiah; the Hope of Israel.**
- **We can deduce it is a metaphorical sun, a personification, because he or it has "righteousness", a quality of character not capable of possession by inanimate objects.**
- **"The sun of righteousness" is a title of our Lord Jesus Christ and is found in Jeremiah 23:5-6: "'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness.'"**
- **The One described as the "sun of righteousness" can be no other than Jesus Christ Himself.**
- **The Lord is called "the LORD your righteousness" in [Jeremiah 33:16](#). And the coming of the Messiah is pictured as a sunrise in several passages. "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you" ([Isaiah 60:1](#)). See also [2 Samuel 23:4](#); [Habakkuk 3:4](#); and [Luke 1:78-79](#).**

- “Sun of righteousness” can also be translated “son of vindication.”
- The context concerns the [Day of the Lord](#), the time when God vindicates His people and judges sin.
- This vindication will be clear to all, like the bright light of the sunrise.

- **And He will have "healing in his wings." The term for "healing" means "to heal wounds by outward application, and binding or sewing."**
- **This, then, is the bringing together of two sides of an open, gaping wound.**
- **And this is a reference to salvation; for Christ reconciled mankind to God through the Cross.**

- A healing effect will infuse the earth during this time, removing the negative impact of past sins ([Isaiah 30:26](#); [53:5](#)). **When Christ returns, God's righteousness and peace will flood the earth ([Isaiah 11:9](#); [Habakkuk 2:14](#)).**

**God's desire has always been to provide righteousness to those who trust Him (e.g., [Genesis 15:6](#)).** On some occasions, God's people were said to be "clothed in righteousness" ([Job 29:14](#); [Psalm 132:9](#); [Isaiah 61:10](#)), and here in [Malachi 4:2](#) **God's people will see the Sun of Righteousness Himself rising over the world.**

- **It's a picture of the future [millennial reign](#) of Jesus Christ. The darkness of the Antichrist's reign will vanish, and the light of God will take its place. It's a new day dawning; God's people will revel in their freedom like gamboling calves leaping from their stalls ([Isaiah 65:17-25](#); [Hosea 14:4-7](#); [Amos 9:13-15](#); [Zephaniah 3:19-20](#)**

- **The next logical questions are**
- **what are the "wings" Malachi was talking about in Malachi 4:2,**
- **and exactly how on earth do wings heal?**
- **Maybe this alternative translation will help:**
- **But the sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in the fringes or tassels [of his garment].**
- **Still confused?**
- **Well the Hebrew word Malachi uses in 4:2 "kanaph" or "kanaf" has two meanings and could be translated wings, or fringes.**

- The Hebrew word **kanaf**, translated "wings" in this passage is a word that specifically means the fringe-like feathers or edges of a bird's wing, not the whole wing. All of us have seen these fringe-like feathers in birds circling in the sky.
- It is interesting that all through the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for wings in most passages when referring to God is **kanaf**.
- **kanaf** is often translated "wings" but according to Strong's concordance, recognizes a broader meaning:
  - Kanaph (kaw-nawf); Noun Feminine, Strong #: 3671
  - **Wing, extremity, edge, winged, border, corner, shirt**
  - **Extremity skirt, corner (of garment)**
- Thus, Malachi 4:2 standing alone and in the fuller context of Malachi 3-4, may safely be translated:
  - ***"But for you who fear my name the sun of righteousness will arise with healing in the fringes of his robe."***
- Support for this interpretation comes from several passages

- **The word translated, wings, is actually referring to the fringes, or tassels which were required to be on the four corners of all clothing of Jewish men, in accordance with God's instruction in Num. 15:37-41a thus:**
- **The Lord said to Moses, 'Speak to the Israelites and say to them: Throughout the generations to come, you are to make tassels on the corners of one's garments, with a blue cord on each tassel.**
- **You will have these tassels to look at and so will remember all the commands of the Lord, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes. Then you will remember to obey all My commands, and will be consecrated to your God. I am the Lord your God.'**"

- In ancient Israel, men wore four-cornered outer tunics with tassels, or tzitziyot, tied to the four corners. This outer garment became known as a tallit, and eventually evolved into the more formal prayer shawl.
- These tassels were to remind each Jewish man of his responsibility to fulfill God's commandments.
- In fact, these tassels are tied into 613 knots to constantly remind them of the 613 laws of Moses, of which there are 365 prohibitions (The "thou shalt not" laws), and 248 affirmations (the "thou shall" laws). The knots also correspond with the ineffable name of God, the unspoken Yahweh.

**Because they were hanging on the four corners of one's garment, in full view of everyone, they would be a constant reminder to walk according to God's Laws.**

- The Hebrew word we translate as Law, is halacha, and it literally means "walk." You see, following God's law is a daily walk, and to stay on His path of righteousness, we all need constant reminding.

**Wearing these tassels would be comparable to us wearing a large Bible on a rope around our necks.**

- How would we behave in public, how would we speak to others, where would we go? **God intended them to be a constant reminder of His Word when he told the Israelites to wear these fringes**

- **Today, Jewish keep this law by wearing a four-cornered garment as an undershirt. Yet, they bring the tassels out over their belt so that they can be seen. We also find the tzitziyot on the corners of the beautiful prayer shawls worn by Jewish men as an outer garment when they pray.**
- **When deep in prayer, Jewish men will put these prayer shawls over their heads to shut out the world and be in the presence of God. This can be seen in the synagogue or at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.**
- **The prayer shawls are white, representing the heavens, or the dwelling place of the Lord. And, the color blue represents the Holy Spirit of God. Therefore, praying under the tallit, or prayer shawl, is covering yourself with the presence of God.**
- **From biblical times, this custom was like a prayer closet, and it is likely this is what Jesus was referring to in Matthew 6:6, when He told us to get into our closet, apart from the people around, and pray in secret to the Lord.**
- **The purpose of the four fringes on a garment was, and is, and still will be to proclaim the Word of the Lord, so as to remember them and perform them.**
- **These tassels also came to be associated with a person's authority.**

- In the case of King Saul, we find that David humiliated him by sneaking up to him in a cave at the Spring of Ein Gedi **and cut off Saul's tassels, a symbol of his authority.** David's men said:  
  
"This is the day the Lord spoke of when He said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish'..."
- Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of Saul's robe. He said to his men, 'The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the Lord'" (1 Sam. 24:4-6).
- Why was David upset with himself? **Because he understood that to steal someone's tassel was to steal his authority.**
- Even though David did this to prove to Saul that he was not trying to kill him, **the symbol of taking the corner fringe would be humiliation to Saul. This bothered David. David immediately went out of the cave and prostrated himself in humility before Saul to prove to Saul that he was not trying to kill him.**

- **David said:**  
"Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you?' This day have you seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the Lord's anointed.'  
**See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe, but did not kill you.** Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life..." (I Sam. 24:8-11).
- Everyone, including Saul, knew that David had been anointed by Samuel to be the next king, which is why Saul feared David. At Ein Gedi, **David had literally taken Saul's authority and at that point, he probably could have taken the throne from Saul.**
- But, he didn't; rather, he let God choose the time for him to receive the throne. This act convinced Saul that David was telling the truth. **David's act of giving back Saul's authority** also reconciled the two men. Saul said: "May the Lord reward you well for the way you treated me today. I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands" (I Sam. 24:19b-20).

- **Another example of the authority represented in the tassel is found in a passage in Ruth Chapter three, when Ruth went to Boaz to receive his blessing that would help her out of her difficult situation. She went to the threshing floor and slept at his feet.**

**"In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet. 'Who are you?' he asked. 'I am your servant, Ruth,' she said. 'Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman redeemer'" (Ruth 3:8-9).**

**He immediately understood and said to her: "Don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character" (Ruth 3:11). He proceeded to make every arrangement to help her, and eventually, he married her.**

- **What Ruth did in asking Boaz to spread the corner of his garment over her was a symbolic way of saying she was placing herself under Boaz's authority.**

- **In Mk. 6:53-56**, when Jesus arrived at the town of Genessaret, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, the men of the town recognized Him and sent word out so that many people brought all their sick to Him and begged Him to let the sick just touch the fringe of His garment. The Bible simply reports, "all who touched Him were healed" (Mk. 6:53-56).
- **These people were not healed simply by touching the fringes of Jesus' garment in a crowd.**
- **They were healed when their faith touched the power of God and the One who could heal their infirmities. It was their point of contact to release their faith to receive a touch from the Lord.**
- **Surely, the place of refuge is under the kanaf of the Lord, i.e., under His Word and His authority!**

- Additional support for this interpretation comes through the account of the woman on the shores of the Sea of Galilee recorded in **Matthew 9:20-22, Mark 5:30-31 & Luke 8:43-48**, who came to Jesus for healing because she apparently had a gynaecological problem for many years.
- **According to Levitical law (Lev. 15:25)**, her illness rendered her unclean and it was forbidden for her to be out in public with her condition. Nor was she permitted to touch others and, therefore, make them unclean.
- She was a desperate woman, at the end of her rope, who had spent all of her money on doctors for cures that did not work. But one day she heard that Jesus was passing by, so she exhibited great faith in her familiarity with Malachi's messianic prophecy of Malachi 4:2 that "the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in His wings".

- She recognized Jesus as that Jesus was the Messiah who would heal and she anxiously sought Him out. She had nothing to lose. So she pushed through the crowd and came up behind him but she was not content to just pat Jesus on the back. She reached out and touched the fringes of his robe (garment) and immediately her bleeding stopped.
- **This woman touched the "border of his garment". It is believed that she touched the "wings" of his Tallit, in faith that if he was the Messiah as spoken of by the prophet Malachi, he would then have "healing in his wings".**
- Lets review why she wanted to touch the hem of His garment - the tassels of His tallit?

These tassels were a point of contact she needed to help her release her faith to receive a miracle in her life.

- **What did they represent?**
- **First, they represented the Word of God, which is always the place where we can find healing for all the needs in our life.**
- **Second, the fringes also represented the authority of Jesus.** She had heard that many people were healed by Jesus, that He taught with authority, and when He spoke, people were healed.
- The woman had heard Jesus was the Messiah, and she probably remembered this messianic promise from the scroll of Malachi and thought, if I am to be healed, then will it be found in His wings... His tassels ...the fringes of his garment? By faith, she reached out and touched the fringes of his garment, and was healed.
- She had heard
- She took the bold step to exhibit faith

- Her faith and understanding of the prophecy was so powerful, that it even amazed Jesus!
- "Who touched me?" he says! He says he felt "virtue" go out of him into who touched him.
- The word "virtue" is defined as "moral excellence; goodness; righteousness" and "effective force; power or potency".
- Jesus says: "Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace".
- Healing power emanated from Jesus when she touched the fringes of his garment.
- When a paper napkin touches water, it draws the liquid into itself. In much the same way, **this woman, thirsty for God's healing flow, absorbed "living water" when she touched the fringes of his cloak.**
- **Jesus truly is the fulfillment of all prophecies about the Messiah. And now, in our present day, the prophecies that he gave us about the end times are being fulfilled as truth**

