

Malachi: Meditating on Prophecy

Small Group Discussion Guide

August 23, 2026

Ice Breaker

What is one daily habit or routine you absolutely cannot start your day without, and why does it matter so much to you?

Key Verses

- Malachi 3:13-18
- Malachi 4:1-6
- Hosea 3:4-5
- Joshua 1:7-8
- Psalm 1:1-3
- Psalm 2:10-12
- Revelation 22:12

Questions

1. The pastor described two groups of believers in Malachi's time: those who were bitter and complained that serving God was pointless, and those who feared God and spoke encouragingly to one another about His promises. Which group do you find yourself relating to more right now, and why?
2. Malachi 3:16 says God was listening attentively to the conversations of those who feared Him, and a book of remembrance was being written. How does knowing that God is paying close attention to your faithfulness change the way you think about your daily choices?
3. The pastor compared looking only at the present to a new driver staring at the hood of the car instead of looking down the road. In what areas of your life do you find it hardest to keep your eyes focused on what Bible prophecy reveals about the future rather than what is right in front of you?
4. Social media and culture constantly push messages about what you should have, experience, or achieve right now. How do you think this constant pressure affects your spiritual life, and what practical steps can you take to counter it?
5. Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:2 both use the same idea of meditating on God's word about the future Messianic Kingdom day and night. What does that kind of deep, ongoing rumination actually look like in a practical, everyday sense for someone in your stage of life?
6. The sermon emphasized that the 12 Minor Prophets all pointed toward a coming Messiah, a future kingdom, and a resurrection and reward for the faithful. How does believing in a future resurrection and eternal reward change the way you approach suffering, sacrifice, or serving others today?
7. The pastor pointed out that God is preparing a "Day of the Lord" of justice when all evil will be removed, and the faithful will be rewarded. How does holding onto that future reality help you respond to the times when it seems like wicked or dishonest people are getting ahead while you are struggling?
8. Revelation 22:12 records Jesus saying, "I am coming quickly, and my reward is with me." The Apostle John's response was, "Come, Lord Jesus." What would it look like for your personal life and your participation in this group to reflect that same longing and expectation?

Digging Deeper: Theology Questions

These questions push further into the doctrine behind the sermon — use a few if your group has time and interest, or hold them in reserve as follow-up discussion next week.

1. Malachi 3:16-18 describes a "book of remembrance" kept for those who feared the Lord, and the takeaways frame this as God noting faithfulness for future reward. How do you square a reward that's tied to faithfulness with the New Testament teaching that salvation is by grace through faith, not works (Eph. 2:8-9)? Are salvation and reward two separate categories in Scripture — and if so, how would you explain that distinction to someone newer to the faith?
2. Malachi 4:5-6 promises an "Elijah" before the Day of the Lord. Jesus says John the Baptist came "in the spirit and power of Elijah" (Luke 1:17), yet the takeaways point to a still-future Elijah figure preparing Israel for the second coming. What's the biblical case for expecting a second, future fulfillment rather than treating John the Baptist as the complete one? Does this connect to the "two witnesses" of Revelation 11, and if so, how?
3. The "Day of the Lord" language shows up across the Minor Prophets, sometimes pointing to a near, historical judgment (like exile) and sometimes to a final, cosmic day. How do you tell which sense a given prophet intends — and why might one prophecy legitimately carry both a near and a far fulfillment at once?
4. The takeaways state that the Hebrew Bible was "intentionally arranged" so Malachi flows into Psalms 1-2. Worth noting: that's true of the traditional Christian Old Testament ordering, but the Hebrew Tanakh actually closes with 2 Chronicles, not Malachi. Does that change how you weigh the "intentional" link the sermon draws? Can a later canonical arrangement still carry real theological weight even if it wasn't the original Hebrew ordering?
5. Revelation 22:12 has Jesus saying He's coming to "give every man according as his work shall be." How would you distinguish eternal life (a gift) from eternal reward or inheritance (which seems tied to faithfulness)? Why might God structure eternity so that reward varies rather than making every believer's experience identical?
6. Malachi 3:16 singles out "those who feared the Lord" as the faithful remnant. How would you define the fear of the Lord theologically — dread, reverence, both? How does that fear sit alongside the intimacy of calling God "Abba, Father" (Rom. 8:15)?

Life Application

This week, choose one specific time each day, whether it is in the morning with your coffee, during a commute, or before bed, to spend at least five minutes meditating on a passage from the prophets or the book of Revelation that speaks about Christ's return and His coming kingdom. Write down one thing that passage stirs in your heart. At the end of the week, reflect on whether that daily focus changed how you responded to discouragement, comparison, or temptation. Come ready to share what you noticed with your group next time you meet.

Key Takeaways

- Bible prophecy is not optional trivia. It is a daily necessity that keeps believers from growing bitter, discouraged, and focused only on temporary things.
- God keeps a book of remembrance for those who fear Him and live faithfully for His coming kingdom, and He will reward them specifically and personally when Christ returns.
- The Hebrew Bible was intentionally arranged so that the close of the prophets in Malachi flows directly into Psalm 1 and 2, reinforcing the call to meditate day and night on the message that the Messiah is coming.
- The most faithful and productive Christians are those who constantly ruminate over the return of Jesus Christ, the establishment of His righteous kingdom, and the eternal rewards that await them.
- Just as John the Baptist came in the Spirit and power of Elijah to prepare people for Christ's first coming, God will raise up another prophet like Elijah in the end times to prepare the nation of Israel for Christ's second coming, confirming that His prophetic plan is still unfolding exactly as promised.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for this time together and for the reminder that you are coming quickly. Forgive us for the moments when we have looked only at the here and now and grown bitter or discouraged. Remind us this week that there is a book of remembrance, that you see every act of faithfulness, every sacrifice, and every moment we choose your kingdom over our

comfort. Help us to look down the road, to meditate on your promises, and to live with the kind of expectation that changes everything about how we treat one another and how we face our struggles. Come, Lord Jesus, come. We trust your plan, we trust your timing, and we trust your reward. In your name we pray, amen.