



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – November 18, 2023

The Lord be with you.

You might not make the front page news today. You might not get on any of the cable news channels. But I want you to see how you can make God's scrapbook of very special people to God and how you can do something today that will last forever.

I'm looking at the Old Testament prophet Malachi who was writing at a time. Well, it's not, it's not so unlike our time. A quick look at your Bible and, and you'll see that there in the prophecy of Malachi. It's the last book of The Old Testament written about 430 years before Christ as Malachi is writing at a time when moral rot has undermined and weakened the nation.

I mean check it out. It's all there. Malachi chapter three verses 14 and 15. It says it said that there are people who are actually saying they're, they're saying that it doesn't pay to serve God. They're saying that it's, well, it's the evil people who prosper and who are happy in life. They sound a little bit like how I hear some people talking and thinking today as, as there are people who are, think that life. Well, it's about making money. It's about seeking pleasure. It's about living the good life. Why in their way of thinking It's, you know, it's, it's worthless to serve God. In fact, in fact, they're saying that people who serve the Lord, that they're just narrow minded, bigoted, ignorant people.

Ok. All of that brings us now to Malachi chapter three verse 16 where there are some people who are actually standing against the culture, they're standing against all of that godlessness. I read here in Malachi 3:16. It, it says that those who revered the Lord spoke with one another. You can, I can, I can imagine them getting together for a Bible study, getting together for coffee and talking about the Lord and praying about living the faithful life. And I don't know, maybe they're even doing zoom conversations where they, where they talk about God and living the life of faith.

It says that those who revered, the Lord spoke with one another and the Lord took note and listened and a book of remembrance was brought before the Lord of those who revered the Lord and thought of his name. They shall be mine says the Lord of host, my special possession on the day when I act.

So Malachi tells us that at this time of the moral collapse of a nation that there are people who stand out, they are people who stand out and they revere the Lord and they get together and they talk about the Lord and they encourage one another to be faithful. Now you look at the Bible, you, you look at history and you will see that always in the darkest times that there has been that remnant, that faithful band of people who take their stand for God. And Malachi says that God is watching. God is paying attention. Malachi says here he says, the Lord took note and listened and a book of remembrance was brought before the Lord of those who revered the Lord and thought of his name. You see, God loves it when people get together with others to talk about him. It makes God smile when you get together and you talk to other people about about God



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when you talk about what it means to be faithful to him. And Malachi says that the Lord noted, he listened and a book of remembrance was brought before the Lord of those who revered the Lord and thought on his name.

Malachi here is probably alluding to the practice of kings in his day who would have a royal scribe, a recorder with them in order to take the names, taking names of people who serve the Lord faithfully. And a book of remembrance was made of those people and what they did for the king so that the king could reward his friends. Malachi says that not only is the Lord listening in as you talk to other people about him, but it says that God is recording your words because they're precious to him and He wants to reward you.

I think here of the Book of Revelation where it says that on the last day, the books are open. And they shall be mine says the Lord of hosts my special possession. On the day when I act. You claim the Lord today and he'll claim you then. There is future reward for what you do for him today as the day counts forever.

I was raised on the King James Bible and I just have to say that I'm kind of partial to how the King James translates this verse as it says, they shall be mine says the Lord of host on that day when I make up my jewels. I like that. That those today who take their stand for God, they are God's treasure, possession his jewels as they are precious and beautiful to God.

You and I are living in a time a lot like that of Malachi. And Malachi shows us the way to being faithful, revering the Lord talking to others about him, encourage one another to hang in there. When the fire in the fireplace burns low, you know that you need to bring the coals together. So let's keep on getting together to serve the Lord talking to one and others about the Lord, whether it's on the phone or through email or through Zoom or through podcast, getting together and talking about God and how to be faithful to Him. Well, you know, early Christians even found a way to do that in the catacombs. And I want to thank you today for letting me talk with you about the Lord because I like to do that and I think that it makes God smile.

I'm Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.