

Glory in the Name (Malachi)

11/20/07

In the book of Malachi, the religious leaders and the people had a serious problem that exists today- their idea of God was so small- they were wearied by God- tired of giving Him their sacrifices. Instead of giving God their best, they gave Him sacrifices of animals that were maimed. Their God had become too small, and they complained that He didn't love them, because they were going through troubles. God wanted them to see His glory and through them He would be "**Magnified** beyond the border of Israel." (1:5) He cried out that a son honors his father, and a slave his master, but "Where is My **honor**? And if I am a Master, Where is My **reverence**?" (1:6) His longing was this: "For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My **name** shall be great among the Gentiles." (1:11) and "I am a Great King and My **name** is to be feared among the nations." (1:14) Israel had lost focus on their King- and they didn't proclaim His name among the nations- they were so absorbed in their own lives, that proclaiming His name lost all significance- they were concerned more with their own names. What about us? Will we only proclaim His name in worship songs at church? There is no other Name given among men by which we must be saved! Will we honor God by proclaiming the name of Jesus, which has become a stench to the world, making Him look great among the unbelievers? Will we dare proclaim His name in our class rooms, regardless of mocking and persecution? Will we proclaim His name in the work place? Unbelievers dare use His name in vain- will we dare proclaim His name and the salvation that comes through His name? If the Israelites didn't glorify God's name, God had something horrendous in store for them, "If you will not hear, and if you will not take it to heart, to give **glory** to My **name**," says the Lord of Hosts, 'I will send a curse upon you.' (2:2) Will we glorify the name of Jesus as Name above all names?

The priests didn't even honor God, "For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth; for he is the **messenger** of the Lord of hosts." (2:7) As believers in Christ, we are a royal priesthood to a lost world- we are the messengers of the gospel, bringing to the lost the only Name that can save them. How glorious is Jesus Christ, our Immanuel, God with us! He's coming back- Malachi wrote, "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**, even the **Messenger of the covenant**, in whom you delight. **Behold, He is coming**," says the Lord of hosts. But **who can endure the day of His coming?** And **who can stand when He appears?** For He is like a **refiner's fire** and like launderers' soap. He will sit as a **refiner** and a **purifier** of silver" (3:1-2) If people don't magnify His Name now, that same Name will stand in judgment of them on the Day of Judgment, "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," says the Lord of hosts... But to you who fear My **name the Sun of Righteousness** shall arise with healing in His wings" (4:1-2) Have you experienced a taste of that healing and the warmth of His righteousness in you?

At the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. We must proclaim His name! Boldly proclaim His name this holiday season- let friends and relatives know of the Name you give thanks for: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col 3:17)

"JESUS! JESUS! JESUS!
There's just something about that NAME!
Master! Savior! JESUS!
Like the fragrance after the rain!
"JESUS! JESUS! JESUS!
Let all heaven and earth proclaim!

**Kings and Kingdoms will all pass away
But there's something about that NAME!**