

THE VENGEANCE OF OUR GOD (Part 3)

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Our message today is about tithing and the vengeance of God in the light of grace. So many times we thought that if we don't pay our tithes then vengeance of God will come upon us and we will be cursed because we haven't done what we are supposed to do and therefore the vengeance of God, which is to be cursed, comes upon us. We are going to look at what the Scripture says and what it really means.

I will recap on the last two messages on this series and just lay that foundation again. Many of you have not listened to my teaching on tithing, Jesus is the Tithe, where I explained that the meat that comes to the storehouse is the flesh of Jesus because Jesus said, "My flesh is meat indeed." There had to be meat, flesh, in the storehouse of God, that people could eat in the remembrance of God so that it could set them free and that tithing does not talk about money at all. Many have not heard that before. There are some of you who have not heard me teach on the Bible's view, God's view, on vengeance and just what vengeance is. So Now will I be able to connect these two if I don't explain a little bit about these two concepts.

I will first get into the meaning of vengeance first. You many ask why I am talking about the vengeance of God and why do you want to connect it to finances and all those kind of things. It's very simple. Any relationship is built on trust... any relationship. The relationship with my wife, with my children, with my friends, with the local church, with you, with the Web pastors, any relationship that there is., even the relationship between you and the bank, you and the government. Any relationship is built on trust. If you cannot trust somebody, there cannot be a healthy relationship and the full potential that can come from this relationship can never be reached if there is not trust.

If I come to you and I tell you that God, in a moment of anger, will just destroy you and fire is going to come from heaven and He is going to burn you to ashes and that is the vengeance of God, God takes vengeance against every person that commits a sin. If I tell you that, and you also know that you do commit some sins, you do some things that are wrong, you will serve God from the perspective of fear and you will not actually have a relationship with God because you trust Him.

If you think of paying the bank what you owe them, you don't think of not paying if you have the money because you know the vengeance of the bank. It will destroy you. It will take your life from you. So it's not that you have a good relationship with the bank, not because you love the bank, but because you don't want the vengeance of the bank on you and that's why you pay the bank. Many of you might go through a hard time financially and you will not want to pay but you will pay because you are too afraid of the consequences. That is not what we call a healthy relationship! That is not what we call a love relationship or a friendship relationship. That's what we call a business deal where you can profit and they can profit and you are not friends because you want to be friends. It's because of the situation you are in and maybe where you need money that you are actually at the bank and why you want the loan. That is not what God wants for us.

The life of God only starts to manifest in us as the result of the goodness of God believed. When we start to see how good God is, when His goodness takes over our hearts, when His goodness saturates every thought in our mind, what will happen to us is we will start to find God's fruit, God's life, start to manifest in us. That is what I want for you. That is what God wants for you and that is why we want to tackle this teaching on the vengeance of God because one of the greatest things that man fear is the vengeance of God. They think that God can just become angry and destroy your life if you are sinning.

Let's go to some of the verses that talk about the vengeance of God and let's see what this vengeance of God is. The first verse I want to go to is in Isaiah and let us read a prophecy that was fulfilled when Jesus was walking on the earth.

Isaiah 61

:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good news unto the poor ; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and the opening of the prison for them that are bound; (The semi-colon then explains what it means)

:2 To proclaim the acceptable year (or the year of Jubilee) of our Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; (What He says is, "The Spirit of God is upon Me for the purpose of declaring freedom to all those who are bound and explaining what it is: This declaration of freedom is called the Year of Jubilee and in declaring the Year of Jubilee, He is also declaring the year of the vengeance of God. You can see in verse 2 that there is a semi-colon explaining what this day of the vengeance of God is and what the purpose of this day is): ***To comfort all who mourn,*** (What he is saying is that God is going to pour out Jesus who has the Spirit of God, the spirit of love, the spirit of kindness, the spirit of mercy and tenderness upon Him and He is going to tell all those who are bound, "You are free now! This is the Year of Jubilee!" He will be declaring the vengeance of God to comfort all who suffer and all who mourn, who are crying because of the oppression they are under... to comfort them. So **the day of the vengeance of God will have comfort as a fruit.** Just think of that! That is not what I thought of for many years.

You know, Church, as we talk about these things, as we think about these things, it doesn't help if we just sit and listen to a theory. Let us be real with what is inside our hearts when we think of the vengeance of our God. In this scripture we clearly see that the fruit of vengeance will be comfort. Then we will find something very extraordinary: The bible says here that the Spirit of the Lord was on Jesus to eventually comfort people by declaring and bringing forth the vengeance of God.

So the Spirit of God will bring forth the vengeance of God and it will comfort people. That is why the Holy Spirit is called the Comforter. He will comfort you by showing you the love of God and the vengeance of our God.

Isaiah 60

:1 Arise, shine; for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

:2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and great darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon you, and his glory shall be seen upon you.

What we have done with the vengeance of God is we have seen the vengeance of God just as an outpouring of the anger of God, an outpouring of the fire of God.

It is almost like the mountain with Moses and the people that went up Mt. Siani and the people were afraid of the fire. They were saying, "Oh, no! This guy is on fire. The mountain is shaking. It's burning. There's fire. There's shaking. We're not going there!" But Moses went in to the fire and discovered that the fire is called mercy, graciousness, long suffering, kindness, goodness, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin that will by no means let anyone guilty pass by before the mercy of God without God being merciful to him. That's what Moses discovered that fire is but the others were afraid of that fire thinking it was a consuming fire.

What does **Isaiah 60:1** *Arise, shine; for your light is come*, really mean? Let's go to **Malachi 4**, we are now getting closer to Malachi 3, but let's look at this fire, this day of vengeance of our God. Remember when Jesus was on the earth, He declared that today is the day of the vengeance of God, a terrible day of destruction! That is what it was when Jesus was on the earth. What was destroyed? When Jesus was on earth, we don't see Him call down fire from heaven to burn people. The disciples even went, now this is beautiful, they went and they wanted to pass through some towns in Samaria and the people didn't want to allow Jesus through. Then James and John said, "Let us call fire from heaven like Elijah did and consume these people because they don't want to accept You, Jesus! They don't want to allow You to walk through this town." Jesus said, "You don't know what spirit you are of. I have not come to destroy man's lives but to save them!"

What they said was, "Let the vengeance of God come on these people and let them be burned!" Then Jesus said, "You don't know what spirit you are of!" The spirit of God is the spirit that will manifest the vengeance of God but it will not be in the form of a fire coming from heaven and God destroying everybody because He is angry! That is not the spirit we are of. The spirit we are of in the New Testament, the spirit we are of in the message of Grace, the spirit of God is the spirit of kindness, the spirit of goodness, the spirit of love, which will not call forth and bring forth a fire from heaven to consume people. That's amazing! It will call down a fire that will comfort people who are in distress.

The people of Samaria needed comfort. They didn't need destruction, they needed comfort. There was something that was causing them not to want Jesus to walk through their town. Do you know what that was? That was racism! It was the Law system that declared the Jews the people of God and declared these people not the people of God. Inside that spirit of division, they wouldn't allow Jesus to go in there and the disciples said, "Let's call down the vengeance of God and let these people be destroyed." Then Jesus said, "You don't know what spirit you are of. We are of the spirit that wants to destroy the very thing and burn up the system that causes these people to not to want the Jew to walk through their place. .. which was the Law. That might sound very technical but there is a great reason to stand up, pause the video, run around the chair five times and then pick up the coffee that you spilled in the meantime and then sit down and press PLAY again. Glory to God!

Malachi 4

:1 For, behold, the day comes, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yes, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that comes shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

:2 But unto you that fear my name the Sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings; and you shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

:3 And you shall tread down the wicked; and they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.

:4 Remember you the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

He is saying that a great and dreadful day of the Lord when all that do wickedly, all the unrighteous, shall be called stubble. In this day there will come a fire from God and it will consume all of this stubble. It will neither leave, any root or branch to those who are called stubble, .

He says that just before that day takes place there will come a guy, called Elijah, and he will come and he will manifest just before this takes place *:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:*

After the beheading of John the Baptist, Jesus went to them and said to them, “John the Baptist is Elijah.” That means that when John the Baptist came, he preached Matthew 3:14, saying, “God is about to burn up the chaff. He's about to destroy everything and the day of the Lord is here. The day of the vengeance of our God is here. John the Baptist was declaring all of this. Then when Jesus came, this dreadful day, the day of destruction, took place.

So this verse in **Malachi 4** is not talking about a futuristic event when God is just going to destroy people. When Malachi wrote this, it is talking about something that was in the future, when Malachi wrote this, but it was fulfilled in Jesus. He comes and He says to the Jews, “You think you have Abraham as your father and you think you are righteous, and you are holy and blameless because you have Abraham as father. Let Me tell you something: Look at the fruit in your life. The fact that Abraham is your father and that you are a Jew cannot even set you free from bitterness, hatred and stealing and all those kind of things.” Then He went on and He said, “This tree from where you found your identity that you are a Jew is going to be burned up by Jesus. It's going to be destroyed. It is called stubble because the unrighteousness was to say, “I'm a child of Abraham therefore I am righteous.

John the Baptist said, “God can make children of Abraham from stones. What you need is a change in life so God is going to come and burn away this tree.” When the bible talks about trees, it doesn't just talk about physical trees. We have the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which we know is the Law, the belief system that I don't have to trust God to get things for free but I can get it through my own works. There is the tree of life which is God Himself and Jesus. Then we are called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord.

So when he says He is going to burn up a tree, it means that He is going to burn up every system that is inadequate to produce love, and peace and joy and comfort in your life. That is the great and dreadful day of the Lord because what did Jesus come and destroy? What did He burn up in His coming? He ended the temple system. He ended the Ten Commandment system by which you have life. He ended the separation between Jew and Gentile. He burned that up. He completely destroyed the Pharisee's way of doing.

He went and fellowshiped with sinners. Jesus was called a drunkard, a friend of sinners. He went and made effort to go and visit tax collectors. What He was doing is He was bringing forth the real truth. Like I said last Sunday, when we had the old tape system, the Cd system ended the old tape system because the Cd system came in with a vengeance. Are you hearing what I am saying? When Cds came in, they came in with a vengeance and completely burned up and destroyed the tape system. The other day we were cleaning up the place and I found a box full of tapes. The first thing I was thinking is where I was going to find a tape player. It burns up the system so much that you don't even buy tape players anymore. You can't find them anymore. It's completely consumed and this fire that the bible talks about is called an unquenchable fire. That means if this building I am in would catch fire and it's unquenchable, it doesn't mean that the fire will never die. It means the fire cannot be put out until it has fully consumed every material that can be burned. That means if the fire brigade get here and they try to quench this fire and they cannot do it because of extreme heat, that is called unquenchable.

In the very same way, the fire of God's love, the fire by which He ends the law system, is unquenchable. It cannot be quenched. I want to tell you that if you are still stuck in the old tithing teaching, if you are still stuck in sowing and reaping, if you are still stuck in you must fast in order to get a breakthrough, or any of those kind of things, you are material that fuels the fire! Your system is going to be destroyed! It will be burned up in the vengeance of our God because God has come and He has taken vengeance on whatsoever is binding His people. He takes vengeance on ignorance about His goodness. He takes vengeance on the system that says, "God is a murderer."

How does God take vengeance on the system that says, "God hates sinners!" He comes, He becomes a man. He lives among sinners, He sits at a party with them, and heals all their sick! I tell you, that in the presence of that, if comes and manifests himself like that, guess what? That burns up every Pharisee's latest revelation that can be confirmed with five scriptures because here is Jesus, now, and He is actually showing forth the light or the fire of God.

Let's just read about that fire again in *Malachi 4*

:1 For, behold, the day comes, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yes, (The proud were the Jews. They were taking pride in the fact that they are Jews and they are saved by the works of the law. We find the very same thing today. I'm not nailing the Jews. What was happening here is God came to consume the system where you find pride in your works.)

and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that comes shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

:2 But unto you that fear my name (Fear my name means to have respect for the name of God. What is the name of God? It says that you shall call His name Jesus for HE is the Savior of His people. Those who have respect for the fact that God is the Savior and that we don't have to save ourselves, what will happen to them?) **the Sun** (Sun... he says the day, it's talking about a day, the dawning of a day. How does a day dawn? There comes the sun. It's rising. You start to feel the heat of the sun. In Malmesbury we have had about 40C for a week now. My goodness, you see that sun. It comes up in the morning. For you that are in the U.S., we average about 105F. It's so extremely warm. The sun rises.

If we look at that extreme heat that is talked about here, it will burn away all of the Law system. It will destroy all of that, but unto us, who are awaiting salvation, this sun, which is the sun of righteousness, shall be done to My people. It's unrighteous that My people are bound. It is unrighteousness that My people are blinded by thinking I am an angry God, by thinking I am a judgmental God, by thinking that I want to destroy people's lives. It is unrighteous for people to think that God is the bad shepherd. It's unrighteous for people to think they are slaves of God and not the children of God.

So here the sun of righteousness that will see that righteousness is done to His people shall arise and we who expect to be saved free from our works, that fire means healing to us. So **the vengeance of God is God healing His people**. Isn't that good news! That is extremely good news and that is why **Isaiah 61** says,

:1 Arise, shine; for your light (your sun) is come, and the glory of the Lord (which is the sun of righteousness, which is the manifestation of the vengeance of God) **has risen upon you**.

When the bible says, "Arise and shine" what it says is. "Let God be your Healer! Let God be the One who exercises His righteous action towards you by blessing you, free from your good works but by blessing you with His quality of life resulting in His attributes manifesting in you.

What does that have to do with tithing? When we look at Malachi 3 and we look at the tithe of Malachi 3, it refers to Deuteronomy 14, especially the last verses. It talks about the tithe of the third year. Let me explain that. In the old Bible times, this is how tithing was done. You would come and you would take a tenth of the produce of your field or a tenth of your oxen, or whatever, which would represent the all. You would take it to a certain place and then you would eat it there in remembrance of God. That's what you would do with the tithe. But every third year you were not allowed to eat the tithe. The tithe was to be given, was to be put inside your gates, or in the little village that you lived. in the third year. In the third year, the widow, the orphan, the stranger and the Levite and all who couldn't, by their own works, live, could come and eat that tithe in the third year.

The typology behind that is very simple. In the third year of Jesus' ministry, He died and provided food, or something to eat, in remembrance of God, to everybody who could not by his own work provide for himself, which represents mankind. What happened here was the people didn't do that in the third year. They just used it for themselves. They didn't follow that custom. So what was happening is the poor and the widow and the orphan and all those, who by their own works could not provide for themselves, didn't have food. God was looking at His people in a state of being hungry. What does all of that talk about?

For all of those who have never heard this, let me explain this in Malachi..

Malachi 3

1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: (John the Baptist is the messenger that will prepare the way before Jesus. Do you see the repeat here? It's just talking about John again.) ***and the Lord, whom you seek*** (This is now Jesus), ***shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom you delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. 2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appears? for he is like a refiner's fire,***

Do you see the setting of Malachi 3 here? It is the same context as Malachi 4. It's just a repeat. Malachi 4 is just a repeat of Malachi 3 and here he comes and he just tries to communicate in a language that they understood. This is what he said: There will come a guy who will prepare the way for the messenger of the covenant. That's John the Baptist. When the messenger of the covenant comes, which is Jesus, He will be like a refiner's fire and who will be able to stand in His day? What is this day? It is the day of the vengeance of God.

What happened in this day and what was the vengeance of God revealed in Malachi 3? This is the vengeance: He said, "I have something against you! You have not given the tithe.(which is not money.)

If you are hear me talking about giving money to this Fellowship or to any church in the form of tithing to the church in order for God to bless you, you are not hearing what I am saying. I am actually against that! I don't believe in that. "But Bertie, how can you say that? How will you survive?" Listen, everything we have and the way we live, the studio we built and everything we've done doesn't come from trying to get people to tithe money! It just comes from a, merciful, gracious God who loves people and wants His Gospel to be preached.. That's it! He is a God who loves my wife and me and our children. And that same God is your God! That's it! That's all you need to know so please get this thing of tithing as money out of your mind. Tithing has never been money! Jesus is the tithe! Tithing is food. That's what the Bible says.

"I've got this against you that you didn't bring the tithe. You didn't bring the food to the storehouse."

In those days that was cattle and wine and all those kind of things and the people who could not produce food by their own works, that they could eat for free. He said, "I want meat in My house!" God was calling His house His people who were suffering. He said, "Those people are My house. I want them to eat." Then Malachi, a prophet, prophesies towards Jesus and he says to Jesus, "Jesus, if You can bring meat to the storehouse, if you can bring the true tithe to the storehouse, something that people can eat that would set them free from the curse." We know today that Jesus said, "My flesh is meat indeed!"

What Malachi is saying here is, "The vengeance of God, the day of God, will purify the belief of man. Who will be able to stand?" If you come with your belief in front of what God believes, will what God believes completely consume what you believe? That's what it is talking about.

2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appears? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, (The sons of Levi were those who ministered a message that wasn't pure and He said, "I will purify the Gospel. I will purify the message. I will purify the priesthood by bringing a priest that can actually provide food for people so the curse can be broken off their backs.)

When we look at Malachi 3, we will read it because maybe many have not heard this before.

:9 You are cursed with a curse: for you have robbed me, even this whole nation. (Now remember that this is prophetic towards Jesus. Jesus was reading Malachi 3, sometime in His life, and when He read Malachi 3, this is what Jesus read. He read the Father say to Him:

:10 Bring you all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, (Jesus thought, "Father, what is meat in your house?" Father said, "My Son, Your flesh is meat indeed.") **and prove me now herewith, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you (Jesus) the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.**

:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sake, (Do you see the vengeance of God? God coming in the finished work of Jesus and rebuking what devours people. What was devouring us was the hunger we had under the law system for the law system cannot provide meat for the people of God! The Law doesn't provide. The Law system and works righteousness does not provide a body that we can eat in remembrance of His finished work by where we can be righteous for free!)

So the tithe is Jesus! It is the manifestation of the vengeance of God. When the tithe comes to the storehouse it is the day wherein the priesthood is cleaned and purified where the soap comes and washes, where there is a refining, where there is refining of the silver, where there is a heat of righteousness that burns and destroys all of the messages of unrighteousness which declares you as unrighteous and unholy and not good enough for God.

I want to tell you Jesus is the tithe, is the manifestation of the very vengeance of God. When the tithe came it was something that came that provided food for the people. It is called the sun of righteousness. The sun of unrighteousness was burning over the people and they could not eat. There was no meat in the house of God and God said, "Let Me provide the meat. Let Me provide the body and the blood, the Communion, that people can eat and be satisfied and the curse can be broken. I know that God cannot be sick and tired but let me put it this way: He said, "I am sick and tired, fed up with a system where My people must live and not have righteousness done towards them where they cannot have justification, what's just towards them!" What's just toward mankind is that we function along original design which is God living in us and manifesting His life in us on account of His goodness towards us. Glory to God!

PRAYER: Father, thank You so much for the honor of having this message broadcasted all over the world. Thank You for this wonderful Web Church. Thank You for the love we can experience in this church and the great truth that You reveal. Thank You, Lord, that we can be free on account of Your goodness and Your love, in Jesus' mighty name. We honor You. Amen and amen.