

### **A Messenger of Salvation (Part 1)**

(5) Meet the Parents: (Credentials as coming from 'Good Jewish stock')

(6a) 'righteous before God' – "God's Plan 4 Man's Place in His Presence."

**FAITH:** "Belief in Heard illuminated Word (Justification- OT Style) – Resolve to Trust & Obey"

**FAITH 4 Relationship (Position – Imputed Righteousness)**

**OBEDIENCE 4 Spiritual Fellowship (Condition –Kingdom In., Place/Pos., Blessing.)**

(7) This was a 'Big Problem' for the Prophecy that needed fulfilled (**Mal. 3:1**)

(8-9) There were specific instructions – steps – orders – divisions: for serving before God in this way. **[Incense – represents the prayers of the people]**

(10) The people were praying in the outside court:

- **Who were the people?...God's People - I \_\_\_\_\_**
- **What was the spiritual condition of God's people @ this time?**

400 years Prior to this (**condition probably became worse**) **Malachi Warns:**

#### **NKJV Introduction:**

**MALACHI**, a prophet in the days of Nehemiah, directs his message of judgment to a people plagued with corrupt priests, wicked practices, and a false sense of security in their privileged relationship with God. Sing the question-and-answer method, Malachi probes deeply into their problems of hypocrisy, infidelity, mixed marriages, divorce, false worship, and arrogance. **So sinful has the nation become that God's words to the people no longer have any impact.** For four hundred years after Malachi's ringing condemnations, God remains silent. Only with the coming of John the Baptist (prophesied in 3:1) does God again communicate to His people through a prophet's voice.

**"A multitude of the People...living in open sin...praying about what?"**

[Does a believer live however they want...

and remain in Spiritual Fellowship with God? Consequences?]

(11-12) **Why the troubled – fearful response?**

- Angels often meant 'Judgment': Exodus – Sodom/Gomorrah – David – Daniel

(13-14) This 50ish year old man was Praying as he represented Israel:

1. *Joy and gladness – many will rejoice at his birth (Anticipated Hope)*
2. *'great in the sight of the Lord' – no strong drink/wine: fully sanctified to God*
3. *'filled with Holy Spirit' – OT Style (Life @ Conception) – Mal. 3:1*
4. *'turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God' – [seeking/empty]*
5. *'go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah' –[att./boldness facing apostasy]*
6. *'turn the hearts of the fathers to the children' – Spiritually Reprobate Parents*
7. *'disobedient to the wisdom of the just' - disobedience means they 'KNOW'/Raised TO KNOW...will REPENT & RESPOND to God's TRUTH from the FAITHFUL.*
8. *'to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.'* –
  - **Who is the 'people'?** God's People....
  - **What does 'Prepared' mean?** [Praying outside the temple...while Themselves – their Families – Heritage live in open sin against God?]

A Messenger of Salvation had COME: **But it was to 'God's People' 1<sup>st</sup>**

They 'KNEW' & Ignored that **"Judgment Comes when the King Comes"**

**THIS HAS NEVER Changed...**

**Rev. 22:12** "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

**The Challenge this Christmas is this:**

"When all are gathered...(It's LOUD)...enjoying one another...Family Traditions...Meals...Activities...."

ASK yourself the Question:

**"Are we a people prepared for Coming of the Lord?"**

**I John 2:28** "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."

**You are either living in Spiritual Obedience or YOU ARE NOT.**

# Timeline of Jesus' Birth

Luke 2:11-12 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.  
And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

