



Pastor Luke's Weekly Blog

October 15, 2026

Behold, the Messenger of the Lord

Malachi 3:1

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.



Malachi is the last voice of the Old Testament prophetic canon. After him, four hundred years of prophetic silence would descend on Israel. His prophecy looks forward to what will break that silence: the arrival of a messenger, and then of the Lord Himself.

The prophecy contains the forerunner-messenger, the one who prepares the way, and the LORD Himself, the **Messenger of the covenant**, the One for whom the way is being prepared.

All four Gospels cite this verse or its parallel in Isaiah 40:3 in connection with John the Baptist. ***Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You – John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins*** (Mark 1:2-4).

The last of the prophets in the spirit of Elijah (Malachi 4:5; Luke 1:17) emerged from the wilderness dressed in camel hair, eating locusts and wild honey. He called Israel to repentance, baptized at the Jordan, and then directed his disciples away from himself toward the One coming after: ***Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*** (John 1:29).

John is the last representative of the old covenant, and the first herald of the new. His greatness is precisely in his role as a pointer, a forerunner, a voice crying in the wilderness. He was not the light but came to bear witness to the Light (John 1:8).

BEHOLD, THE MESSENGER OF THE LORD

Continued

The Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple. The Hebrew for Lord here is not the divine name YHWH, but the term for master or sovereign ruler. This Lord will come to His temple. Jesus entered the temple with sovereign authority, driving out the merchants, healing the sick, teaching with a power that astonished all who heard (Matthew 21:12-16). He enters as the owner; as the Lord of the house, not a pilgrim.

Jesus is the Messenger of the covenant. The new covenant, promised in Jeremiah 31:31-34, was sealed in His blood: ***This cup is the new covenant in My blood*** (Luke 22:20). He is the covenant itself, the one in whom God and humanity are permanently reconciled. He is ***the Mediator of the new covenant*** (Hebrews 12:24), established on better promises than the Mosaic law.

Malachi 3:2: ***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.*** The arrival of the LORD is purifying, cleansing, refining. John the Baptist says, ***His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire*** (Matthew 3:12).

Malachi 3:1 was written to a people who had grown complacent, who were going through religious motions without heart, who questioned whether serving God was worthwhile (Malachi 3:14). The prophecy is a wake-up call: behold, He is coming! The LORD of the temple is on His way. Prepare the way. Repent. Receive the messenger's call to realignment before the Master arrives.

We live between the first coming of the Lord and His second coming in glory. We are called to be preparers of the way, voices crying in the wilderness of our culture, pointing away from ourselves to the Lamb of God.

ASK GOD TO:

1. Prepare our hearts anew to receive Jesus Christ personally, today.
2. Raise voices in our generation like John the Baptist, fearless, humble, single-minded in their pointing to Jesus.
3. Let the expectation of the coming Lord make us alert, fervent, and spiritually alive.



Soli Deo Gloria – to God alone be the glory!
Rev. Luke Haisa