

# Worship in the Darkness

12-20-23

## Malachi 4

### I. Remember - Malachi 4:4

- A. Remember = Zikru - name, mention, remember; take to court, make known, profess, praise
- B. “We never need to despair when God seems silent, because what He has already said is rich enough - if we will only remember.”
  - 1. Hebrews 4:12 (AMP) - “For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]....”
    - a) 1 Kings 8:56 “...there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.”
    - b) Jeremiah 1:12 (AMP) - “...for I am [actively] watching over my word to fulfill it.”
    - c) Isaiah 55:11

### C. Hope

- 1. Yakhal - to wait for
  - a) Noah had to Yakhal for weeks on the ark
- 2. Qavah - to wait
  - a) The feeling of tension and expectation while you wait. Like a cord being pulled tight until it snaps and there is relief.
  - b) Advent comes from a latin word which means “coming”.
    - (1) Isaiah 40:31
    - (2) There is tension and eagerness to our waiting because we KNOW that He will be faithful to His word. This in turn gives us strength as we excitedly await the fulfillment of His promises.
      - (a) Like anticipating a new baby!
- 3. Biblical Hope is not based on the odds or the probability of something happening but rather based on God’s character and faithfulness that has proven itself over and over in the past.
  - a) We look back in order to move forward.

### II. Active Anticipation - Malachi 4:5

- A. In anticipation of the prophet Elijah’s coming, Jewish homes began setting a place at their table for Elijah during passover. This was in case he came that night to announce the Messiah’s arrival. They would leave an empty chair and full cup.
  - 1. This was a simple thing to do but it was something that served as a reminder and gave them an action to attach their faith to.
    - a) James 2:17-20

- (1) Even the devils know about God and live in constant torment of fear. We actually have a living and active relationship with Him because He has made us His children.

B. Do your best to live like what you believe is actually true!

1. We tend to get into a routine and forget why we are even doing what we do.
  - a) Don't forget why you worship, why you pray, why you go to church, why you serve, etc.
2. Anything that we do in this life that is not in response to God and our relationship with Him is hollow and will not bare good fruit.

C. Actively live in response to the reality of...

1. God's presence
  - a) Hebrews 13:5 - "...I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."
  - b) John 14:18 - "I will not leave you comfortless..."
  - c) Matt. 7:8 - "...he that seeks finds; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."
2. God's love
  - a) John 3:16
  - b) 1 John 4:8 - "...for God is love."