

Their final word...



"for"



"bye"



"Amen"

The final word of Malachi (of the Old Testament) is D_____

The context for Destruction...

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; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts."

4:1 - "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be humbled. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch."

Why the word "destruction"?

Destruction is indeed a negative word - but as we see written in this final OT thought - the utter destruction that the OT conclusively warns of - is a destruction every person may & must choose to avoid.

Truths about destruction in Malachi 4:6...

1. We read of destruction throughout the O__ T_____

2. This destruction in Malachi 4:6 is d_____ by God

→ Rom 6:23 - *"For the wages of sin is death"*

3. This decree of destruction will be c_____ o_____ by God

> at His "coming" (v.6)

> when He "strikes the land" (v.6)

4. It is a decree of "u_____ destruction"

> 5 Hebrew words...

Lest // I Come // And Strike // The Land // With A Decree of Utter Destruction

With A Curse (NIV)

Two choices:

1. Finite creatures dictate to the Infinite what is good and right behavior.

2. Finite creatures stand in awe and reverent fear of the Infinite - worshipping and praising God.

Q. which choice seems most rationale?

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Prov 9:10)

5. This decree will be accomplished on the D_____ of the L_____

For those who fear/respect/reverence/obey God (Mal 4:2-3)

But for those in rebellion against God - (4:5)

6. But before the day of the Lord arrives - God will send a m_____ to Judah in the person of Elijah

This is the good news of the Gospel - *"But the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord"* - Romans 6:23b

What did the person of Elijah do when he came to Israel?

Mt 17:10-13 identifies him as John the Baptist who came preaching repentance and preparing the way for Jesus Christ.