**RIGHTING AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD**

Malachi 2:17-3:5

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**INTRODUCTION**

Every generation thinks wisdom begins with them. Every generation seems to discover some new understanding of what life should truly be. Thus, each generation finds its own way to turn God’s world upside down. In our generation, we have people who think they are the first to find the “wisdom” to throw off God’s rule and follow their own debased way of life. Each generation has its fools who think they are turning the world upright by getting rid of religious restrictions and religious morality. Anyone who holds to such religious beliefs is bigoted and narrow-minded. They are duly ridiculed into silence. Such is our world today, but this is nothing new. It is simply more of the same. Malachi writes about such people in his day. Let us see what we can learn from this ancient prophet.

1. **IN THE UPSIDE DOWN WORLD NOW, PEOPLE WEARY GOD!**
2. God gets **tired** of such intelligentsia.
3. God is wearied by enlightened folk who claim that those who do **evil** are **good**.
4. God is frustrated by those wise people who believe such actions are **pleasing**.
5. Such people **promote** their insight by asking: “Where is the God of justice?”

*They espouse their brilliance by implying that, if there was a God, He would do something to prove His existence and that they are wrong. Some go so far as to challenge God to do strike them dead if they are wrong. College professors do this quite often!*

1. **IN RIGHTING THE UPSIDE DOWN WORLD THEN, THE LORD WILL COME!**
2. The Lord will come **unexpectedly** (“suddenly”) (3:1).
3. Who can endure?
4. Who can stand?
5. The Lord will **purify** (“like a refiner’s fire”) the world and His people (3:2).
6. The Lord will **clean** (“like a launderer’s soap”) the world and His people (3:2).
7. The Lord will come near to us in order to judge the **rebellious** (3:5).
8. People mentioned *then*: sorcerers, adulterers, perjurers, those who defraud laborers of wages, those who oppress the widows or fatherless, those who deprive aliens of justice but do not fear God
9. People we can mention *now*: same list plus many more who spit in God’s face and encourage others to follow their example

**CONCLUSION**

People who think God does not exist or that God is not aware of their actions will be surprised when Jesus comes again. He will come to turn upright an upside down world. Who will be able to stand when He appears? None of these rebellious intelligentsia or their disciples! Then, too, no one will be able to endure when He brings judgment against sin and the sinner. They will cry for the rocks and the mountains to cover them, to hide them from the brilliance of the Lord, at His appearing; but they will be unable to escape Him. His eyes will penetrate every hiding place and bring them to justice. Then, God’s people will be vindicated for their beliefs and faithfulness under extreme duress. Yes, Jesus is coming again; and He will set things aright!

*“Coming again! (2X) Maybe morning, maybe noon, maybe evening and maybe soon!*

*Coming again! (2X) Oh what a wonderful day that will be. Jesus is coming again!”*

*“Lift up your heads; redemption draweth nigh!”*