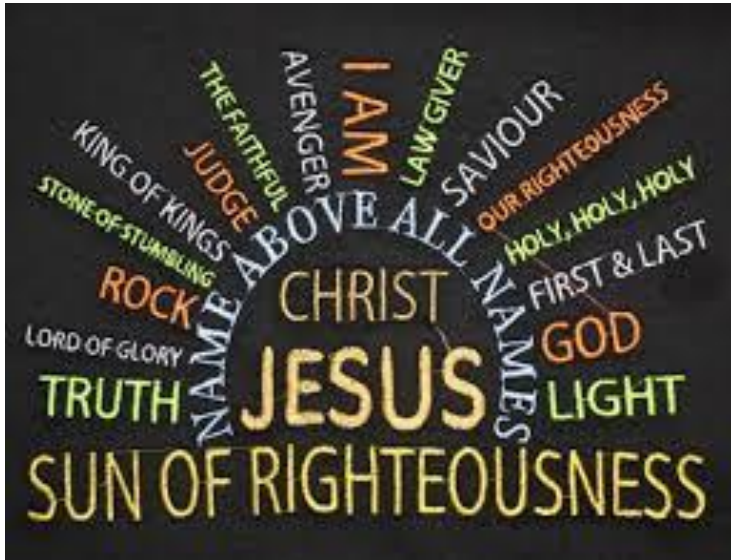


Malachi 4:2



But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

This verse is full of metaphors, in fact at first impression, mixed metaphors, there does not appear to be a particular theme.

- Fearing the name of God
- Sun of Righteousness
- A Sun which can heal
- A sun which has wings which heal
- Those healed will go forth like calves

What is this verse about, and how do all these ideas connect, what is this verse about?

The context

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Describes here a day of judgement, when the day is as hot as an oven, the burning heat of the judgment of God like the scorching rays of the summer sun withering the left over stubble from the harvest, a parched a cracked ground, where the rebellious survivors from violence and war of Armageddon, perish through the justice and severity of God. The enemies of God – are those today – who form the great majority, who scoff and sneer at the idea of the Bible being true. Who laugh out loud at the idea of God existing let alone be a Creator, who giggle that people actually believe in the Creation or in the World Wide Flood. Those people who have shut down true religion, and silenced the Truth – are in fact the vast majority – they include the Secular West, Catholics, Islam, National Churches, Atheists, Communists, Leftists, Liberals, Fascists... A list which effectively covers most people. Of course, in the great shake up of world order, many people will realize their stupidity in following the crowd, and will be converted by the preaching of the everlasting gospel. Yet still there will be those who live in denial, and cannot believe that their institutionalised way of thinking is so corrupt.

Malachi here in verse 1 sums up this category as “all the proud” and “those that do wickedly”, Destroyed root and branch – from the very grassroots the supporting populations, to the branches, the leaders boasting and flourishing their trendy ideology. The heat of the Day will find them out. Only those who have been exposed to the water of the Word will survive.

This is the immediate context. We have read in this verse of the theme of a hot sun bearing down on weedy remnants of chopped down plants.

This next verse immediately continues the same theme, but with a contrast.

- Verse 1 – “proud and those that do wickedly” burnt by the sun
- Verse 2 – those that fear name of God healed by the sun

- The sun then capable of being destructive or healing.

In Bible symbology the Sun represents a Universal Ruler. In nature, the sun rules the heavens. But that the sun is used as a symbol is clear, when Joseph had a dream and in his dream he saw the sun, moon and stars bowing down to him Genesis 37:9,10 – where Jacob understood the sun to represent him, and the moon his wife, and the stars his brothers. In the book of Ezekiel, the sun and moon disappearing is speaking of the ruling powers of the nation of Isarel – see Ezekiel 32:6-8. In the book of Revelation the Sun 6:12, the sun represents the rulers of pagan Rome, when it was eclipsed, and ceased to shine. The moon represented the state religion which became as blood, it was overthrown and greatly weakened.

So using these examples, we can see that the Sun referred to in Malachi is a symbolic Sun. It is described as the Sun of Righteousness.

Ultimately it is God who is Creator of the Universe, and so it ruler over it, He is higher than the heavens, so the Sun is a suitable symbol for Him see Psalm 84:11: *For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

But here in this passage in Malachi, it says the *Sun of Righteousness will arise...* Can we say that God has been hidden, or His power submerged? True He has withdrawn Himself from man, the warming rays of the truth and love of God have been withdrawn from man, because of his sin. In the same way the glory of the sun is often hidden by clouds, so the Light of the Almighty has been allowed to be eclipsed by the gross darkness of the people.

God is of purer eyes than to behold evil – see Habakkuk 1:13. But just because the Light is not easy to see, it does not mean to say the power is not there. Everyday the world enjoys the warmth from God,

as the world's inhabitants benefit from His Mercies which are new every morning.

But the time will come when the Sun will arise – it will be a Dawn – a New Beginning. The promise was made to David, how God would send His son, to be the Light of the World, and how his Appearing to the world would be a new Day: 2 Samuel 23:4: *And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun rises, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.*

Healing

Just as a new morning when everything is fresh and not many people are about, and the birds singing, and the shadows flee away, so it will be the Day the Lord Jesus returns to the earth. It will be a time of refreshing, and regeneration. First the warmth of the Holy Spirit will raise the dead. The heat of the sun will judge the righteous from the unrighteous. The Faithful will be infused with the power of that Sun, and given eternal Life, and will become part of the Light.

The soft morning colours, the gentle warmth from that sun, as it rises above the treeline, and the faithful will bask in its glory. The words of Jesus will be fulfilled: Matthew 13:43: *Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

The Faithful who are given immortal life will reflect the glory of the Rising Sun. They will have been healed of their mortality.

Wings

This is the reference in Malachi 4:2 *shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings;*

Why wings? The Hebrew word is *kanaph* which means an edge or extremity, it mostly is a word which is used as in a wing of a bird or an army, but it refers to an overspreading, like the protection of a

wing, (Isaiah 18:1) and can refer to a flap of a garment or bed clothing. So in Hebrew it is a suitable word, as it is how we can feel in a cold morning, bit of a wind, but no clouds, as the night shadows race away, there is a chill in the air. But stepping into the rays of the sun, that beam of Light has a wonderful effect, it seems to warm our very bones, there is no burning sensation, but that feeling of stimulating and restoration, ahhhh lovely! Maybe it is how the chicks feel when mother hen cuddles down over them with her wings. (Matthew 23:37) Well, it is how God makes us feel, when we place our trust in His Word, and imagine how we will feel, when that Morning Without Clouds, finds us receiving the infusion of Eternal Life? Ecstasy! The epitome of Happiness!

Calves

and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

The NET has it *and you will skip about like calves released from the stall...*

This is a helpful translation. Now we have thought about how we feel about receiving Life Eternal. Some of us may have watched as young cows or bullocks, calves are first released out in the meadow from their dirty pens, where they have been kept all winter. In Africa, the idea is not understood, as cattle are left out all year round. But not so in Israel, and more northern climates. When young cattle are released out for the first time, they are big animals, but they literally skip, and bounce around, kicking their legs up, and dancing around, it is funny and joyful to watch.

So will the Almighty, and the Lord Jesus and the angels watch with big smiles, as the mortals who have been judged righteous, and have been healed of the Sickness, realise they are immortal, and have the Holy Spirit without measure given to them. Containing the joy in an unrestrained way will be difficult for even the most sensible person.

The Sun Continues the Journey

The Sun will not stay still in the sky... just yet.

As the sun arises toward midday, the Power of God will be manifest to the nations:

James 1:11: *For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withers the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perishes: so also shall the rich man fade away in his*

ways. As The Sun of Righteousness makes His way across the sky – the political heavens of the world, and every eye shall see him, the rays will become hotter. Then will the Righteous become part of the Sun Light – and the Judgement of the Nations will follow see

Revelation 10:1: *And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:* This symbolic Messenger is speaking of the Righteous going out into all the earth, preaching the Word of God, and sending His healing wings, the rays of Light into every dark corner.

This will be the fulfilment of Malachi 4:1: *For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up.*

The same heat will not touch the Faithful, and those who Fear – Respect the Name of God see Isaiah 49:10: *They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.*

The same Sun – so searching, so burning, so relentless and terrible to some will be so wonderful and glorious, so healing to others: see Isaiah 30:26...*the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of*

seven days, in the day that the Lord binds up the breach of his people, and heals the stroke of their wound.

This passage can be understood by thinking about the words of Paul the Apostle in Romans 11:22

Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

Brother Terry

PS..

Another thought... Brightness of the Sun, Wings, Calves ... Cherubim see Ezekiel 1:4-7.