

Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD

11/30/12 - At The Door

RG AUDIO 113012

Malachi 2:17?3:12

Spiritual lethargy had infected Israel. Malachi, the final prophetic voice of the Old Testament, warns of a coming day of destruction that "will burn like a furnace" (4:1). Israel's spiritual decay had led them to doubt God's love. "Whatever! It doesn't make any difference," was their operative doctrine. The religion of "good enough" had replaced "giving God the best" in their sacrifices, in their worship, in their home life, in their tithes and offerings.

God's messenger was on the way. Like a herald he announces the coming of the Lord Almighty. His coming will be sudden. He will come as a "refiner and purifier of silver" (3:3). In the intense heat of his holy fire the dross, like the wheat chaff, will be burned away (Luke 3:17). Only the gold of true holiness and the silver of righteous obedience will remain.

Those who revere God's name, those who have not allowed the cold fear and drowning despair of this world to drown out their devotional fire, for them "the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays" (4:2).