



ADVENT

he is coming



Malachi 3:1-7a, 4:1-3

3 “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. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

**6 “For I the LORD do not change;
therefore you, O children of Jacob, are
not consumed. 7 From the days of your
fathers you have turned aside from my
statutes and have not kept them.
Return to me, and I will return to you,
says the LORD of hosts.**

**4 “For behold, the day is coming,
burning like an oven, when all the**

arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

**³ And you shall tread down the wicked,
for they will be ashes under the soles of
your feet, on the day when I act, says
the LORD of hosts.**

Jesus comes to us as
Heaven's wonderful
solution to our
greatest needs.

“The Heavenly Messenger”

Malachi 3:1-7a, 4:1-3

The temple, which had been rebuilt and dedicated in 516 BC was standing, and the routine of sacrifice had long been in operation. Serious abuses had crept into Jewish life; the priests had become lax and degenerate, defective sacrifices were allowed to be offered upon the alter, the people were neglecting their tithes, divorce was common, Jehovah's

was forgotten, and the people had grown skeptical of his righteousness, questioning sincerely their adoption as the peculiar people of His choice. These we know were precisely the conditions which prevailed in Nehemiah's day.

George Robinson

I. Jesus, the Messenger of the Covenant (v. 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



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II. Jesus, the Purifying Refiner (3:2-7a)

² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.



Malachi connects the “refiner’s fire” with “fuller’s soap” referring to a second cleansing process. The fuller was the laundryman, who cleaned clothes by trampling on them until the dirt was removed. A strong soap was used in this process, a kind of lye or bleach. Shining clothes were a symbol of purity (rev 3:5) and on the mount of transfiguration, Christ’s garments were whiter than any launderer on earth can whiten them (MK 9:3)

Herbert Wolf

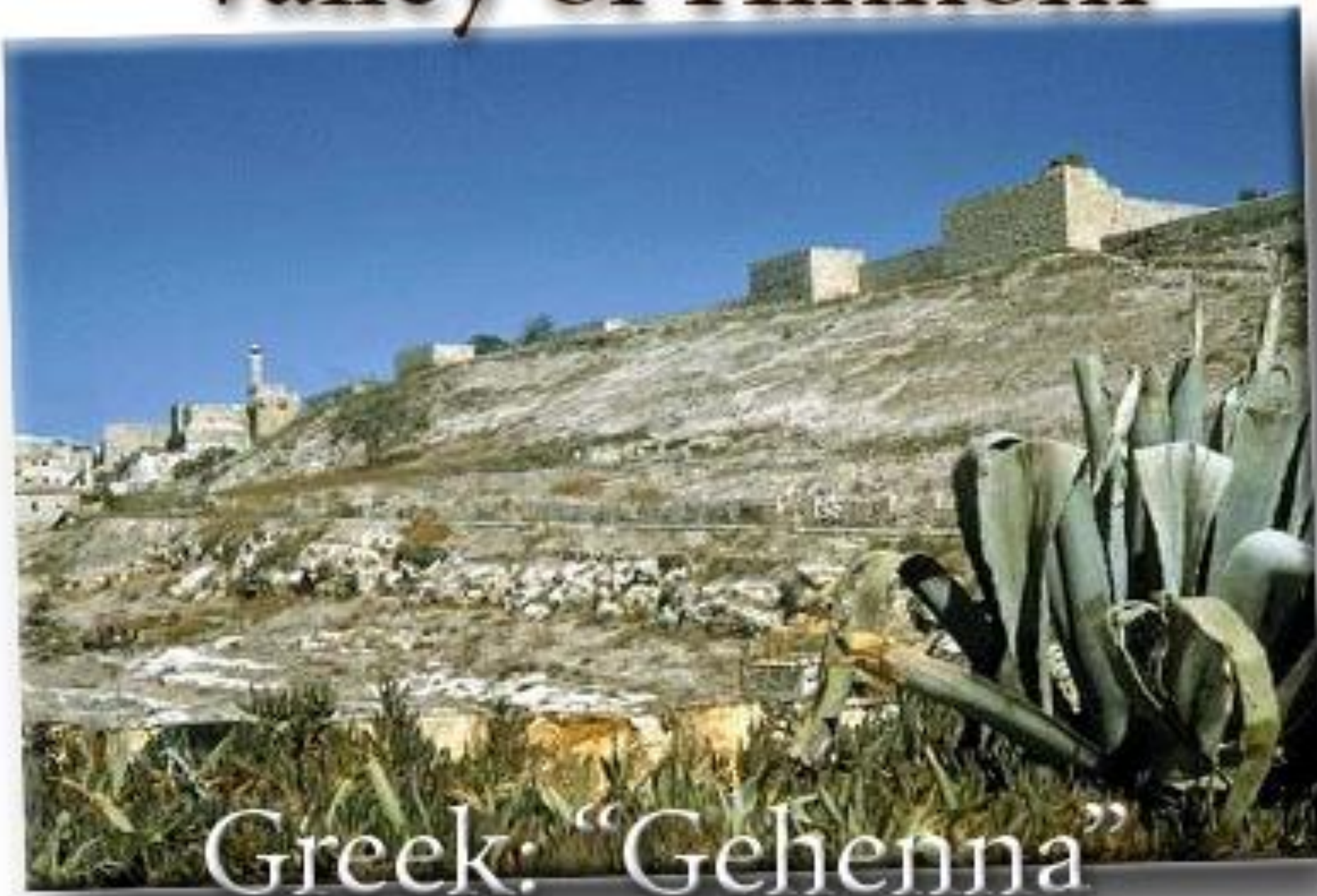
III. Jesus, the Righteous Healer

(4:1-3)

1 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. 3 And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.



Valley of Hinnom



Greek: "Gehenna"

