

Malachi 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Analysis

"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name." Amid widespread apostasy (3:13-15), a faithful remnant emerges. "They that feared the LORD" describes those who revere God despite surrounding skepticism. "Spake often one to another" (nidbar) indicates mutual encouragement—believers strengthening each other's faith. "The LORD hearkened" (hiqshiv) and "heard" (shama) emphasizes God's attentive response. "A book of remembrance" (sepher zikkaron) records their faithfulness—like Esther 6:1-2, God remembers and rewards. "That thought upon his name" (choshvei shemo) describes meditation on God's character and worship.

Historical Context

In Malachi's time, many questioned God's justice and complained that serving Him was unprofitable (3:14-15). Yet a remnant maintained faith, encouraging each other through conversation and mutual support. This models the church as covenant community where believers "exhort one another daily" (Hebrews 3:13) and don't forsake assembling together (Hebrews 10:25). The "book of remembrance" assures that though the wicked prosper temporarily, God keeps

perfect records and will vindicate the faithful at the final judgment (Revelation 20:12).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does mutual encouragement among believers strengthen faith during times of spiritual decline?
2. What does God's "book of remembrance" teach about His attentiveness to our faithfulness?
3. How do you "think upon [God's] name" in daily meditation and worship?

Interlinear Text

רְאֵתָהוּ	אֶל	אֶשְׁתָּוּ	אֶל	רְאֵתָהוּ	אֶל	אֶשְׁתָּוּ
spake often	Then they that feared	and the LORD	one	to another		
H227	H1696	H3373	H3068	H854	H7453	
הָעָשָׂה	וְיָמָן	וְיָמָן	וְיָמָן	וְיָמָן	וְיָמָן	וְיָמָן
hearkened	and the LORD	and heard	was written	it and a book	of remembrance	
H7181	H3068	H8085	H3789	H5612	H2146	
לְפָנָיו	לְפָנָיו	לְפָנָיו	לְפָנָיו	לְפָנָיו	לְפָנָיו	לְפָנָיו
before	H3372	and the LORD	and that thought	upon his name		
H6440		H3068	H2803	H8034		

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 20:12 (Parallel theme): And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is

the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Psalms 56:8 (Parallel theme): Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?

Revelation 15:4 (References Lord): Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Malachi 4:2 (Parallel theme): 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.

Hebrews 10:24 (Parallel theme): And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (Parallel theme): Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Malachi 3:5 (References Lord): And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 26:3 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Acts 9:31 (References Lord): Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Acts 10:2 (Parallel theme): A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.