

TOUGH LOVE FOR THE HALF-HEARTED

Wait For It...
Malachi 3:16 – 4:6

The Need for One Another (Malachi 3:16)

“Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard.”

Malachi 3:16

To know the fullness of life in Christ, we need _____.

The Hope of One Day... (Malachi 3:17-4:3)

The Day of the Lord will be _____ for those who reject God, but _____ for those who revere God.

The Longing for One to Come (Malachi 4:4-6, also 3:1)

“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes...”

Malachi 4:5

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come.”

Malachi 3:1

The expectations of one preparing the way for the Lord were fulfilled (in part) in _____.

See the Connection...

Mark 1:1-4

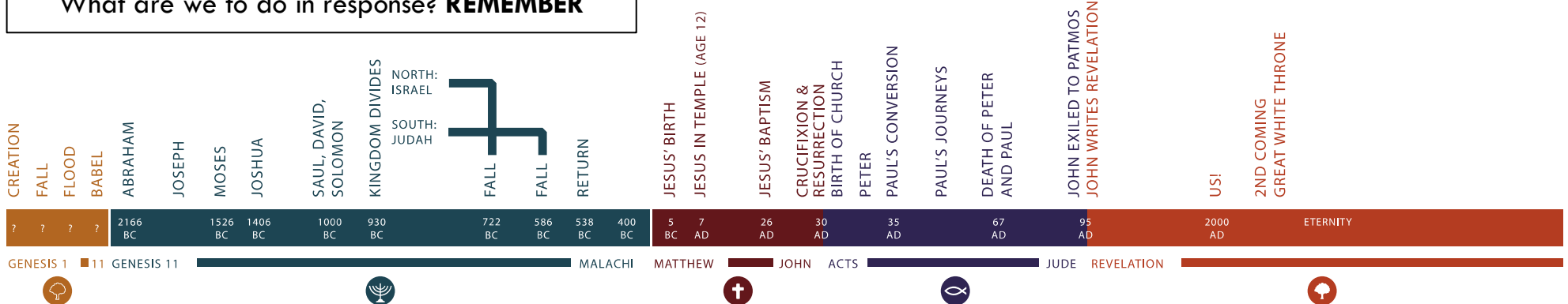
Matthew 11:7-10

Luke 1:17

The One to come is _____... but distinct from _____.

September 11, 2022 | Phil Fuller, Lead Pastor
Rancho Murieta Community Church

What are we to do in response? **REMEMBER**



“We exist to glorify God by guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.”

GROWTH GROUPS

Wait for It... - Malachi 3:16-4:6
Sermon on September 11, 2022

Getting to Know Me

1. What do you remember most about your childhood?
2. What is something you have waited for with great expectation?

Digging Deeper

3. If you journeyed together with us through the Old Testament of *The Story*, what do you remember being most impactful? What are you looking forward to as we enter the New Testament?
4. Read Malachi 3:16 and 17 together. What do you learn about our need for relationship with each other and God's compassion on us as his remembered, treasured possession?
5. Notice that Malachi 3:16 states that God "listened and heard." Recall how it feels when you know you were really listened to and heard. What does it mean to you to know that God listens and hears us?
6. Read and compare Malachi 4:5-6 with Luke 1:17, and Malachi 3:1 with Matthew 11:7-10 and Mark 1:1-4. What similarities do you find in these writings? How does knowing these were written more than 400 years apart increase your trust in God's Word?

7. Read Luke 3:15-16. The people waited expectantly... What are you waiting on God for?
8. We've seen over and over again in our journey through *The Story* that "all of scripture whispers Jesus' name." Where did you find Jesus in the book of Malachi?

Where Do I Go from Here?

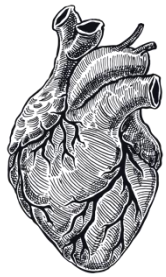
The word "remember" in the Old and New Testament is followed by action either on the part of God or on the part of his followers. As we reflect on this, what are some practical ways we can remember God's character and commands?

9. How could the knowledge that God hears everything we say change our daily conversations with each other (Malachi 3:16)?
10. When was a time where you have seen God's faithfulness in your past? How can remembering this change your future?
11. Pastor Phil mentioned that we can "flip a few pages" and read the rest of the story. What are you hoping God will reveal a few pages from now in your story?

Prayer

As we enter prayer, we recognize that God loves us as his "treasured possession." He is faithful and sent his messenger to prepare a way for us to be reunited with him for all eternity through Jesus. Spend time prayerfully thanking God for his goodness and mercy towards us. Recognize the hope we have in Jesus. May we continue to draw others near to Jesus with a grateful heart and continue to wait in expectation for his glorious return.

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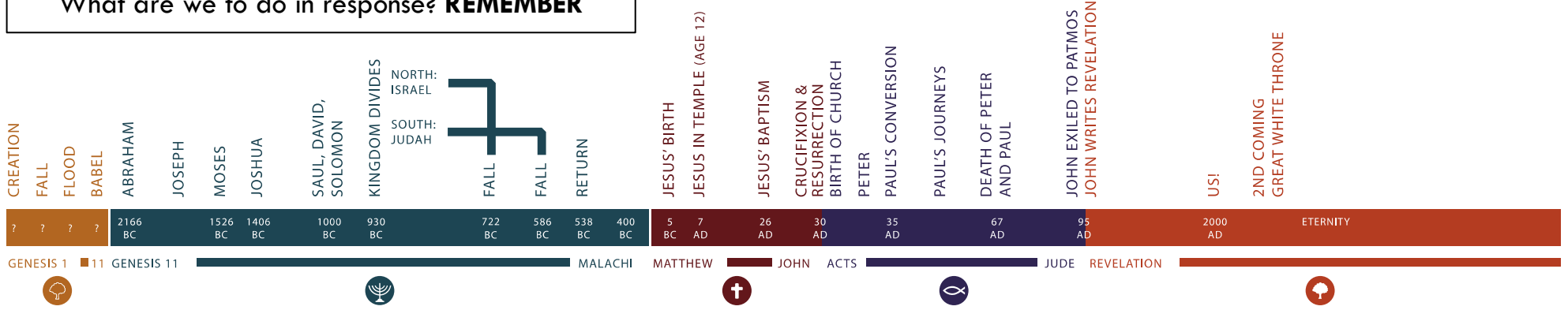
The expectations of one preparing the way for the Lord were fulfilled (in part) in John the Baptist.

See the Connection...
Mark 1:1-4
Matthew 11:7-10
Luke 1:17

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