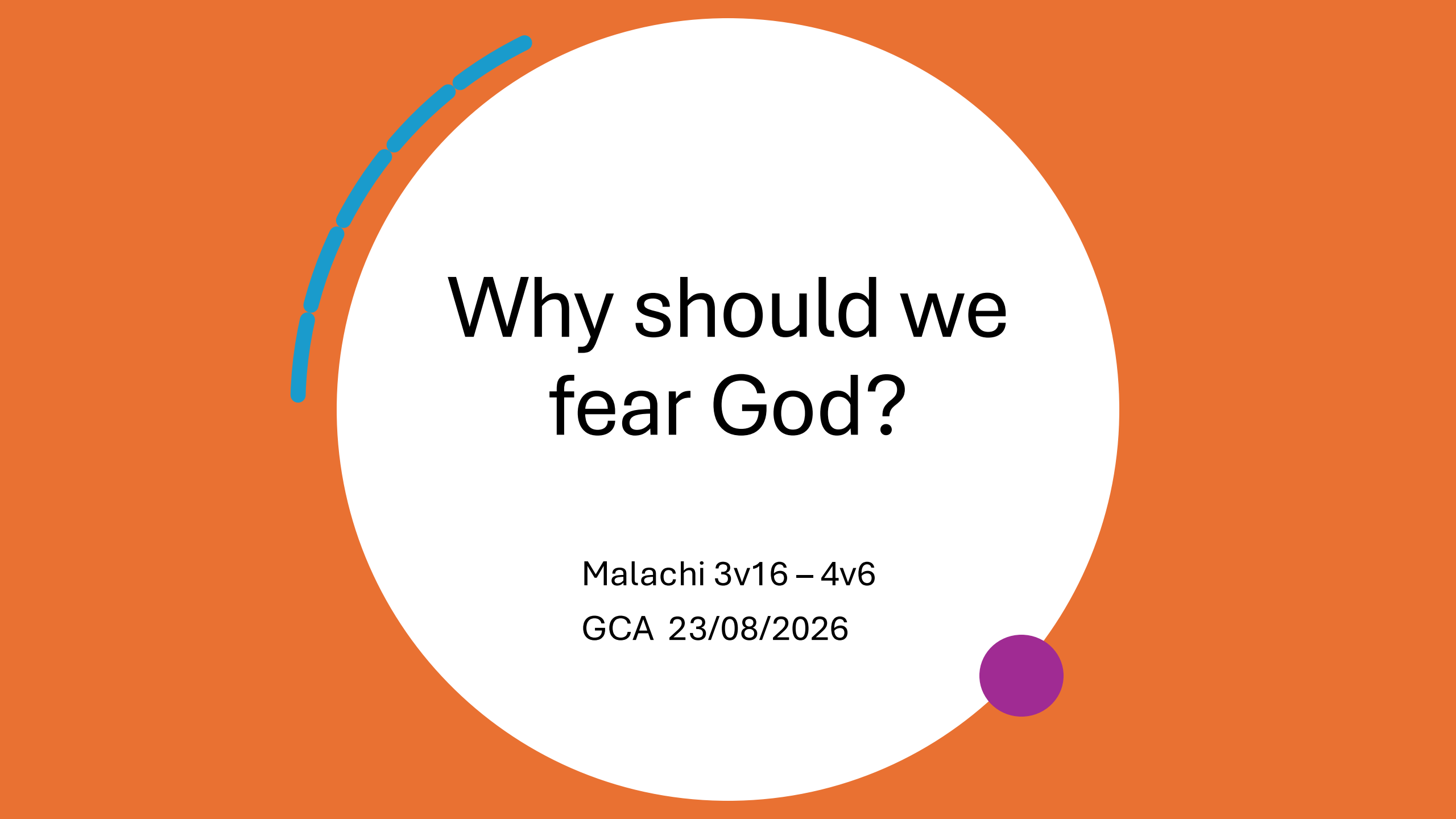
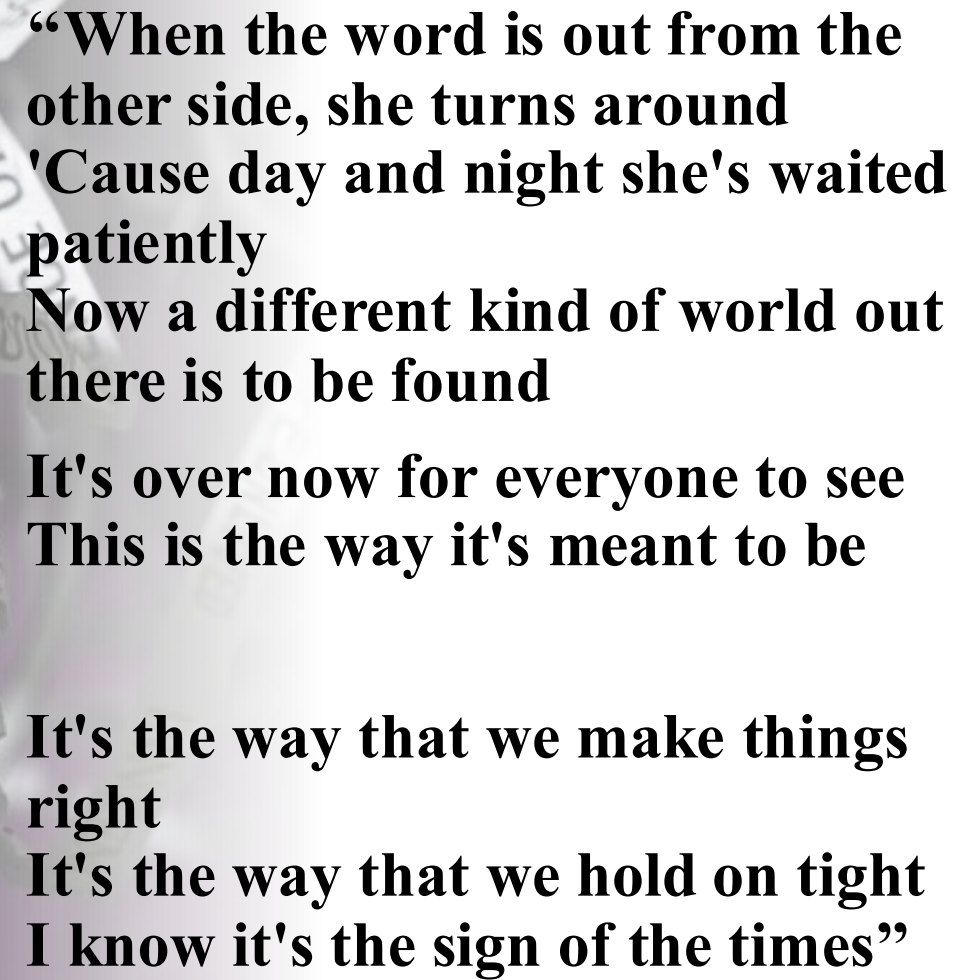




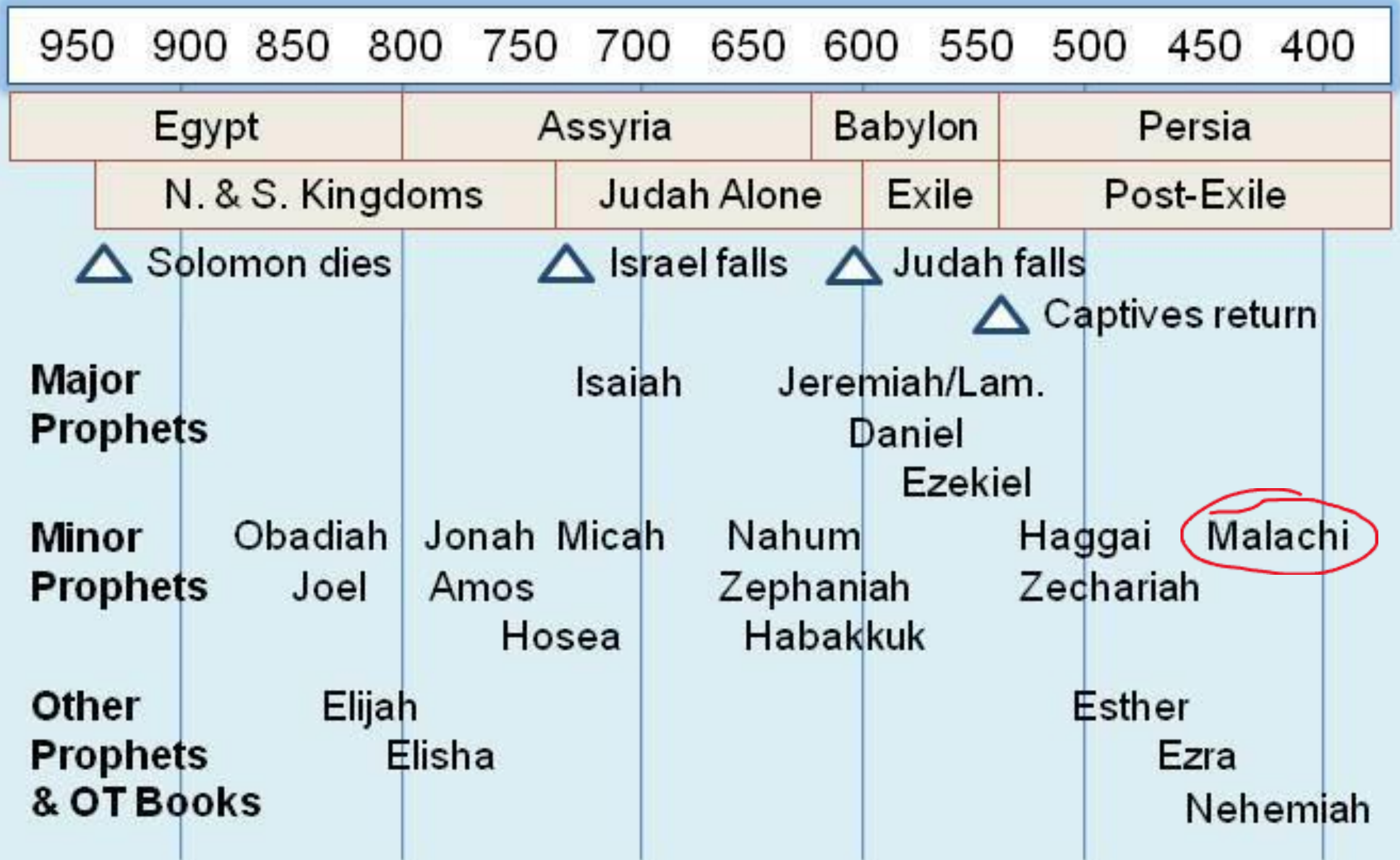
Why should we fear God?

Malachi 3v16 – 4v6

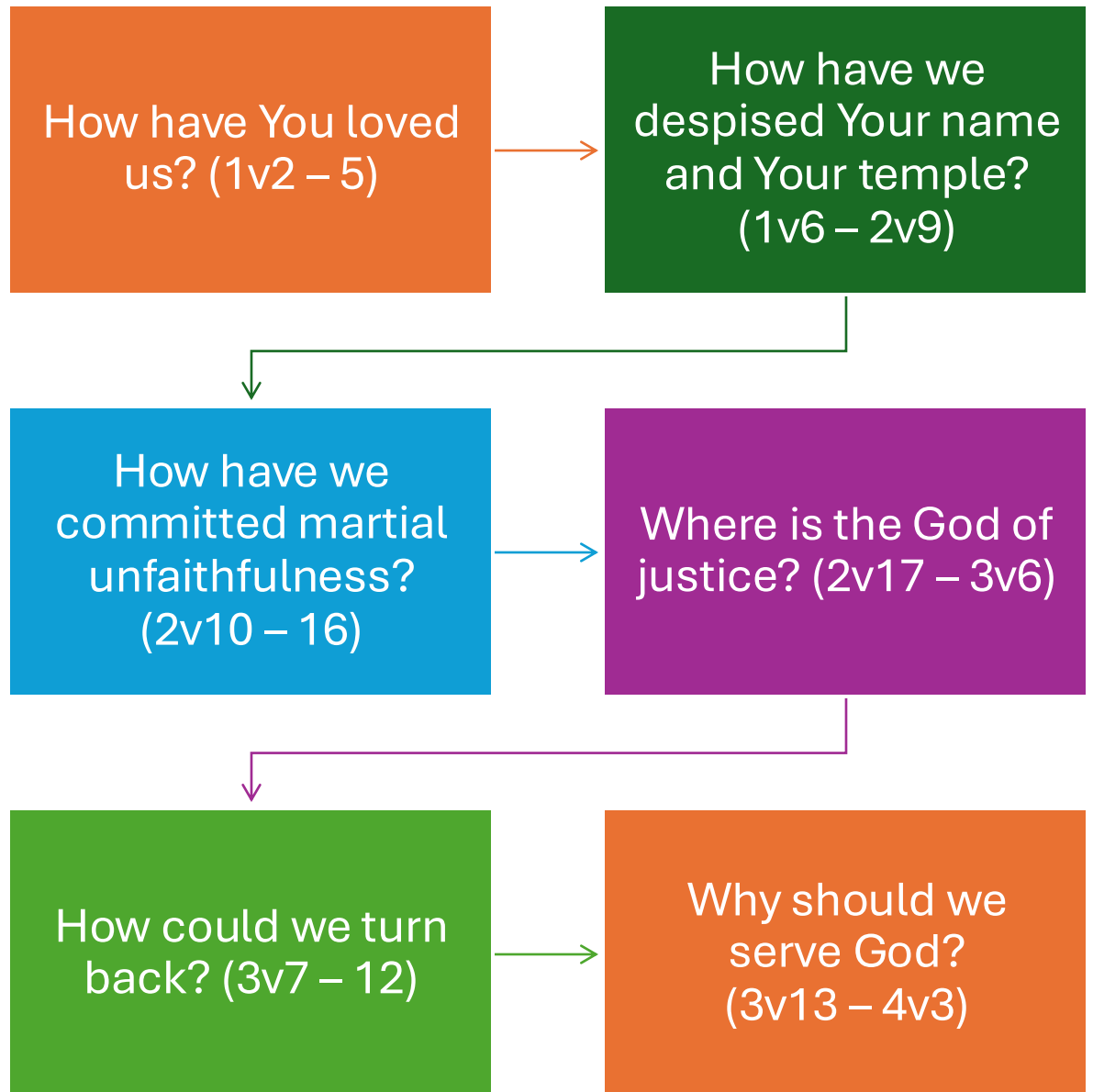
GCA 23/08/2026



**It's the way that we hold on tight
I know it's the sign of the times"**



Six disputes of Malachi



Malachi 3 v 13 – 4v6 (ESV)

¹³ “Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ ¹⁴ You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the Lord of hosts?’ ¹⁵ And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

¹⁶ Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. ¹⁷ “They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸ Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

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.

⁴ “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Outline

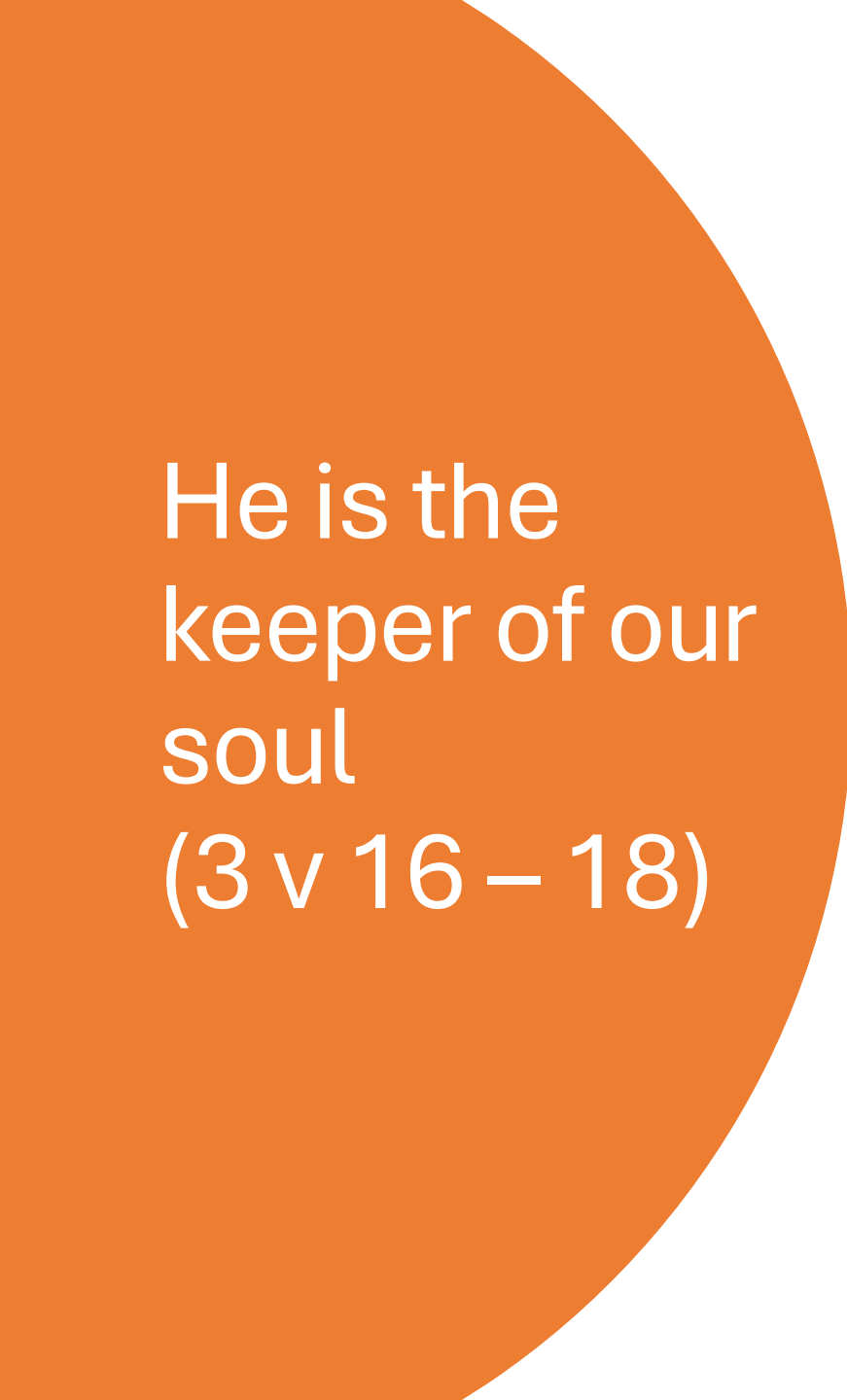
What does it mean to fear God?

2 reasons to fear God

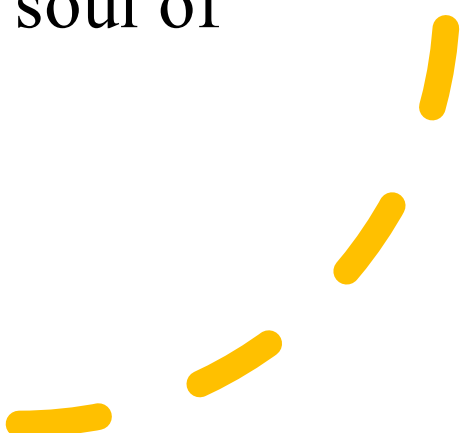
How can we learn to fear God?

Fearing God – a definition

- ‘For the unbeliever who is living in rebellion against God, who is not reconciled through Christ, for him to fear the Lord is to fear that aspect of His holiness and righteousness that manifests itself in wrath’ – Paul Washer
- We ought to have an estimation of God that places Him in a total other category than us; He is infinity separate.
- For the believer, they ought to have a filial fear, like a child's respectful awe of a loving but powerful parent, rather than a servile fear of punishment

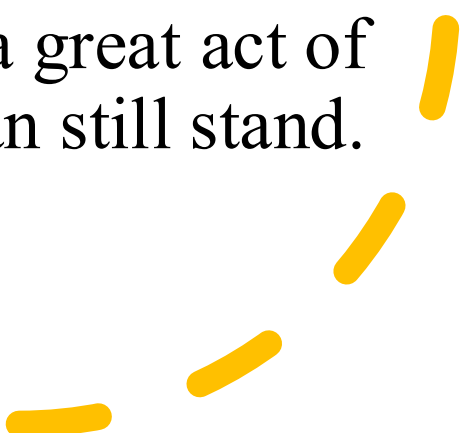


He is the
keeper of our
soul
(3 v 16 – 18)

- ⁴ “I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell.” – Luke 12 v 4 – 5 (ESV)
 - The believer ought have, not a cowering fear, but a profound respect for God's ultimate power and divine justice over the soul of man.
- 



He is returning (4 v 1 – 6)

- ‘While God is thundering, the ungodly go on securely in their sinful courses; but the godly tremble at a word, and would be altogether cast down, were not God to apply a remedy’
– John Calvin
 - God’s delayed judgment is truly a great act of grace, for it is the only reason man still stand.
- 

How can we learn to fear God?

1

Learn about Him

2

Learn to love Him

3

Learn to fear Him