

Christmas Hope

THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Stephen G. Tan | Malachi 4:1-6

MESSAGE

Watch the sermon. As you watch, use the outline to follow along or take notes on anything that stands out to you.

NOTES

The words to the song, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* contains the words "Sun of Righteousness" which is directly taken from the book of Malachi. This description of Jesus Christ reminds us this Christmas of four hopes He brings to a sinful world.

FOUR CHRISTMAS HOPES

1. **God rights all wrongs and brings justice to all (v. 1-3)**
 - God is a Holy God and will punish evil people and call to account all those who do unrighteous things.
 - Just like the sun which burns, the Sun of Righteousness will burn and destroy those who do evil things.
2. **God blesses those who live in obedience to Him (v. 2,4)**
 - Just as the sun brings warmth, light, and life to all on earth that depend on the life-giving rays of the sun, so does the Promised Messiah bless those who are righteous and live in obedience to Him.
3. **Jesus came as the Savior of the world (v.5).**
 - Christmas reminds us of prophecies fulfilled (Isaiah 9:6; 53:5-6)
 - Jesus came as the prophesied Perfect Gift to give all humanity what it was needing and looking for: a SAVIOR.

4. **Jesus came to transform hearts and change lives (v. 6)**

- It is the Lord who transforms hearts and changes lives, so that we don't get the curse of what we deserve, but instead receive what we do not deserve. This is called grace.

REFLECT and DISCUSS

1. Take a few minutes to talk about the message. What part of the teaching had the most impact on you?
2. Why would the fallen, sinful world in which we live can only find Hope in the person of Jesus Christ?
3. What are the blessings that a person can have in life when he or she recognizes Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, as his or her personal Savior?
4. What transformations happened when Jesus came into your life?

PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer.