

THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS – Malachi 4:2

Intro: The reference here is to our Lord Jesus Christ. Notice that He's called the SUN not the SON of righteousness – Not a spelling error.

1. A contrast between vs. 1 and vs. 2. The same sun that burns the wicked brings healing to the righteous. The same sun that hardens the clay melts the wax.
2. A comparison between the SUN and the SON. Sunlight has 3 rays: heat, light, and actinic rays. We can feel sunlight, we can see sunlight, and there is a sunlight that is unseen that makes chloroform in the plant.
 - a. The heat rays are like God the Spirit – We can feel Him.
 - b. The light rays are like God the Son – We can see Him.
 - c. The actinic rays are like God the Father – We can neither see nor feel Him.
 - d. Jesus is likened unto the sun – Col. 2:9 “*For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*”
3. A comforting thought about Sun – Light travels over 185,000 mps. Einstein said that if a person traveled the speed of light, he would increase in weight and volume enough to fill the universe. God is omnipresent. “There is nowhere that I can go that He doesn't know the things that trouble me!”

I. REVOLVING AROUND THE SUN – Joshua 10:12,13 “*Then spake Joshua to the LORD...Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon... And the sun stood still...So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.*”

A. “Sun” Speaks of His Immutability (never changes)

1. Prayed for the sun to stand still – asked God for same thing and He did it for me too!
 - a. Joshua may not have understood what he needed but God did!
 - b. Rom 8:26 “*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us.*”
2. Sun never moves – Mal. 3:6 “*For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*”
 - a. Heb. 13:8 “*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever.*”
 - b. Man driving down road with wife – wife notices don't sit as close as used to – Husband “You're the one who moved, I'm where I always was” – If things changed – We've moved, not Him!
3. Sun never diminishes
 - a. Just because Sun is not visible does not mean it has quit shining!
 - b. If you're cold – not because He has moved

Revival begins when we acknowledge that He hasn't changed, we have.

B. “Sun” Speaks of His Importance

1. Sun is center of our solar system. Everything revolves around the SUN – only planets that do not revolve around the sun are in a different solar system!
2. Pilgrims built church and then built their homes around it.
3. Encampment of Israel – first thing set up was ark of covenant, then holy place, then outer court and coverings, then the tribes set up camp around that = #1 God, #2 Tabernacle, #3 Themselves.
4. Matt. 6:33 “*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*”

If we want Revival – Christ, church must be center, preeminent in our lives!

NOTE: Jer. 31:35 “*Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night”*

*Sun = Christ, Moon = OT Saints, Stars = NT Saints

With that thought in mind, let's think about the...

II. REFLECTING OF THE SUN – Ex. 34:29 “*And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.” People can tell when we have been with HIM! Acts 4:13 “*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”**

A. Old Testament – like the moon – Gen 1:16 “*And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light (moon) to rule the night*”

B. Lunar Calendar – Jews lived by it (360) – The accurate recording of the new moon as it arrived each month was important, because the moon governed the dates for other religious festivals.

C. The moon had no light in it – It depended on the its relation to the sun for light. OT saints – Spirit came and went depending on their relation to God.

1. I Sam. 11:6 “*And the Spirit of God came upon Saul.*”

2. I Sam. 16:14 “*But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul.*”

If revival comes people will know that we have been with Jesus!

III. THE RADIATING OF THE SUN

A. The Light of the World – John 8:12 “*Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world.*”

1. Sun radiates light intrinsically – It depends on no other body to produce its light.

2. The Lord Jesus Christ, according to John 1:9 *“was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”*

B. The Light of the World – Matt 5:14 *“Ye are the light of the world.”*

1. A distinction is made between the sun, moon and stars – I Cor. 15:41 *“There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars.”*
2. We are not under the Old Covenant – Col. 2:16,17 *“Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon.”*
 - a. We do not live by the lunar calendar – solar calendar!
 - b. We are not reflectors, we are radiators!
3. Gen. 1:16 *“he made the stars also.”* We are the stars – Rev. 1:20 *“The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches”* Dan. 12:3 *“They that turn many to righteousness (shall shine) as the stars for ever and ever.”*
 - a. Stars are really suns – He is the Son of God and we are sons of God!
 - b. Sun in view – stars are not – John 3:30 *“He must increase , but I must decrease.”* The more people see of Him the less they will see of you!
 - c. Stars used for direction – Wise men came from east to see Jesus – Old mariners used stars for direction in the night. We are to lead people to Christ!

Revival comes when we are out of view and He is in view!

IV. THE RISING OF THE SUN – Sunrise Service!!

A. The Incarnation – Luke 1:78 *“Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us”*

B. The Resurrection

1. Sun Set at Calvary – Luke 23:44 *“And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.”*
 - a. Can you imagine the dismay of his followers?
 - b. He disappears from their sight – For 3 days and 3 nights they cannot see Him – Just because we cannot see the sun does not mean it quit shining – His deity never diminished while he was in the grave!
2. The Sun Rose at the Tomb – Matt 28:5,6 *“And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”*
 - a. As sure as the Sun set it arose!
 - b. Sun rises in east and sets in west – Ps. 103:12 *“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”*

V. THE RETURN OF THE SUN – Mal. 4:2 *“The Sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings.”*

A. Darkness – Present – 2000 yrs. ago Sun set (at the right hand of the Father).

This world is under the power of darkness.

1. Our Job in this present age of darkness – Matt. 5:16 *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*
2. Our Joy in this present age of darkness – Ps. 30:5 *“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”*
 - a. We are living in a dark, cold world – BUT remember the darkest, coldest hour of the night is just before the SUN rises!
 - b. II Peter 1:19 *“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts”*

B. Dawning – Another day is getting ready to dawn –

1. When sun appears the stars will disappear
2. Romans 13:11 *“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”* Time to wake up is before the sun rises – night is almost over (better shine while we can).

C. Danger – Eclipse – II Cor 4:3,4 *“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ , who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”*

1. Danger of hiding our light under a bushel – What will happen to those left behind?
2. The only light they see is the light in you and me!

