

## 106.5 Making a Comeback 3: Look Up!

**Benjamin Franklin**, the oldest delegate at the 1787 **Constitutional Convention**, remarked that all summer, he had wondered if the decorative gilded sun carved on George Washington's chair was rising or setting. At the end of the Convention, Benjamin Franklin reportedly commented, "I have often looked at that [chair] behind the president without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting. But now I... know that it is a rising... sun."

God not only diagnosed the Jews' problem in Malachi, He determined their ultimate solution. His Son would come with a new covenant in which He would reveal the Father, heal the people, and reunite the family of God. The people would need to *look up* to Him. **Malachi 4:1-6** (NKJV, emphasis added):

**"For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.**

**<sup>2</sup> But to you who fear My name, The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.**

**<sup>3</sup> You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do *this*," Says the LORD of hosts.**

**<sup>4</sup> "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments.**

**<sup>5</sup> Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.**

**<sup>6</sup> And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."**

The phrase "**Sun of Righteousness**" was a reference to the Messiah. The word for "wings" is "*kanafim*," and can also be translated as "corners." The Jews wore an outer garment (possibly a prayer shawl or "tallit") with tassels in the four corners or wings of their clothing based on **Numbers 15:37-41**. Jesus wore such a garment.

You will remember Dr. Luke's account of the woman with the twelve-year issue of blood in **Luke 8:43-48**. That blood flow caused her to be ceremonially unclean and isolated. Usually, she would not have been in a crowd, but that day she risked discovery and touched the "fringe or hem of Jesus' garment." In other words, the woman walked behind Jesus, touched His tassels, and was instantly healed.

How did the woman know to do that? She knew that the "Sun of Righteousness," the Messiah, had healing power in the corners of His clothes and believed Jesus was the Coming One for whom they had waited. Her faith in Jesus healed her where twelve years of expensive medical procedures could not.

The woman no doubt felt relief from her infirmity and a sense of awe toward the Messiah as she anticipated a harsh rebuke from Him. Usually, when someone or something unclean touched the clean, it became unclean. In this case, the clean cleansed the unclean.

This is the same kind of faith God rewards today in which we look up to Him for our needs, especially when there are no other options. If we trust Messiah Jesus, we may have physical healing, but more importantly, He can heal our land. **2 Chronicles 7:14** (NKJV) parallels **Malachi 4** in some ways. It reads:

**if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**

The Sun of Righteousness brings healing to families and communities as He turns fathers' hearts to their children and children to their fathers (v. 6). We desperately need God's healing for our families as so many are in chaos. I recently heard that as few as 25% of our nation has a traditional family. When we focus on God and follow His will, He blesses us as He promises.

Shortly after the Jews returned to Israel after seventy years of captivity, they drifted away from God. Americans did the same thing after we broke the bonds of English tyranny. Enthusiasm has a way of dying out and needing to be reignited.

While God loves His chosen people, He has a special place in His heart for the "choosing people." That is, people who are not compelled but choose to follow Him. Listen to His description of them in **Isaiah 56:5** (NKJV):

**Even to them I will give in My house And within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off.**

As chosen and choosing people, we are responsible for looking up to God and letting His Spirit and Word direct our steps. The Christian walk is all-encompassing, not merely going through the motions of worship and service to God. This is why the Founding Fathers insisted on teaching the Bible in our public schools.

**Fisher Ames** (author of the First Amendment):

We have a dangerous trend beginning to take place in our education. . . . We've become accustomed of late to putting little books into the hands of our children containing fables and moral lessons .... We are spending less time in the classroom on the Bible, which should be the principle text of our schools... The Bible states these great moral lessons better than any other manmade book.

**Dr. Benjamin Rush:**

By removing the Bible from schools, we would be wasting so much time and money in punishing criminals and so little pains to prevent crime. Take the Bible out of our schools, and there would be an explosion in crime.

Don't you wonder what they would say if they could see us now? (Maybe they do).

A compromised foundation will damage the whole structure of a building. Ruthless individuals consciously or unconsciously serving Satan have eroded America's foundations of the Bible and God Himself. Our firm reliance on Providence begins with fully-committed lives founded on the word of God. Changing political leaders won't change our dilemma. Only changing our hearts can. It is not an easy fix, but our hope is in the Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings. Look up to Him!

Keep The light of *Looking Up to Jesus* Burning!