

FRUITS OF RIGHT AND WRONG DOING

Lesson XII.

Malachi 3; 13—4: 6—Memory Verses, 16-18 December 17, 1899

13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, What have we spoken *so much* against thee?

14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts?

15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Ch. 4. 1 For, behold, the day cometh,

that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.

4 Remember ye the law of Mo'ses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Ho'reb for all Is'rael, with the statutes and judgments.

5 Behold, I will send you Eli'jah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The people listened to what Malachi had



said about giving to God, and God sent the rain and the fruits and the harvests again.

Then they said, "We will give Him larger presents still; for the more we give Him the more He will bless us."

But they soon found out that they could not buy anything from God. He did not prosper them. They grew angry and said, "It's no use to give gifts to God, or to try to please Him. Look at the people that don't try. They seem happy."

But God had still some true friends among them—some that remembered His goodness and feared His name.

These people knew one another well and they often talked about God and how good He was, and often when they were alone they would think of God's promises.

Because they really loved and honored Him, God kept all their names written a book to remember them by, and He sent them a beautiful message by Malachi—"They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels."

Malachi was told to write this promise on the last page of his book—the last book in the