

The End Of Another Chapter

“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” (Malachi 4:2).

My long time friend, Evangelist Tom Gilliam, recently told me of some changes that had taken place in his life and ministry. His wholesome attitude about those changes served as an encouragement to me. Reflecting upon his life as a book with many different chapters, he explained, “I’m just looking at the circumstances as though I have come to the end of another chapter in the book of my life.”

As we come to the end of another year, I want to use this year, with its days, weeks and months, as another chapter in our lives. The story has been filled with the usual and the normal, with the unique and the dramatic. Through the ups and downs, the bright moments and the dark experiences, we have now come to the final page of the chapter.

The text is not only found in the last chapter of the book of Malachi, but in the last prophecy in the Minor Prophets, and in the last book of the Old Testament. Between this final chapter of the Old Testament and the opening chapter in the New Testament, there were four hundred silent years, or the inter-Testament time period, in which no prophetic word was spoken. The message Malachi heralds, then, is a special word in a strategic hour.

The end of the chapter is not the end of the book! The prophetic word in the text, “the Sun of righteousness” shall “arise with healing His wings,” points to another day, another era. The advent of Christ is in the prophet’s mind as he concludes his message. Similarly, as we come to the end of the year, we must realize this is not the end of our lives. There is another day, another chapter in which Christ can display Himself through us.

The end of the chapter is not the end of the battles! Just because the battles of the last chapter are behind us, we cannot expect to be exempt from future conflicts. In the prophet’s declaration, for the “Sun” to rise and bring healing, the circumstances that precede the revelation must be times of darkness and sorrow. We will not think it strange, then, when other trials and difficulties come our way.

The end of the chapter is not the end of the blessings! In spite of the dark night ahead, the “Sun” will rise again. And, not only will light come breaking through, but there will be healing and growth. “And ye shall go forth and grow up as calves of the stall.” As we anticipate these blessings, may we be conscious that they only issue from the Lord Jesus, Who is “the Sun of righteousness.”