

Sermon Notes

November 11 & 12, 2006

Rev. Ray Cortese

Dawn Breaks

Luke 1:1-20, 24-25

I. DAWN BREAKING IS THE RESULT OF GOD'S LONG-AWAITED INTERVENTION.

(Malachi 4:1,2,5) "For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall." ... "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD." (Luke 1:78) Because of the tender mercy of our God, with which the Sunrise from on high will visit us....

II. DAWN BREAKING IS THE RESULT OF GOD'S UPSIDE-DOWN VALUES.

(Luke 1:7,20) But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years. ... "And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time." (1 Corinthians 1:26-28) For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are.

III. DAWN BREAKING IS THE RESULT OF GOD'S HEART-TURNING POWER.

(Luke 1:16,17) "And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Ezekiel 36:25-27) "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."