

Malachi 3:1-4 New Revised Standard Version

3 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. **2** But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; **3** he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. **4** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Philippians 1:3-11 New Revised Standard Version

3 I thank my God every time I remember you, **4** constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, **5** because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. **6** I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. **7** It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. **8** For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. **9** And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight **10** to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, **11** having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Luke 1:1-4 New Revised Standard Version

1 Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, **2** just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, **3** I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, **4** so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.