

THE WRATH OF GOD

Psalm 30:5 For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

How can a loving God have wrath?

- Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
- Proverbs 29:22 A man of wrath stirs up strife, and one given to anger causes much transgression.
- James 1:19-20 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.
- Proverbs 27:4 Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?
- Isaiah 13:9 Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.

A harmony of God's word reveals that man does not produce the righteousness of God. So, while man struggles tempering his anger and actions, our Holy God does not. When He pours out His wrath, it is not unrighteous.

When should one expect to experience God's wrath in the days before Jesus' arrival? What do we learn about His character?

Wrath in the OT:

- Exodus 22:21-24 Mistreatment of the helpless.
- Exodus 32:7-14 Turning to false gods.
- Leviticus 10:6 Not honoring Him when paying homage.
- Numbers 25:11 Perverting His people. He was jealous for His own.
- Deuteronomy 9:6-8 Lack of trust when God's faithfulness had been proven.
- Deuteronomy 29:18-29 Captivity to come because of God's wrath.
 - (This is a good summary of the whole narrative. God tried to help, but their evil deeds and idol worship would not cease. They were rebellious. So, eventually God reached a point when He had no pity and closed His ears. His wrath would not be quenched until it was poured out.) Yet, He always left a remnant, did He not?
 - Here's a good summary - Ezekiel 16:35-43. Also, Ezekiel 20:8 But they rebelled against me and were not willing to listen to me. None of them cast away the detestable things their eyes feasted on, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. "Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

Mercy in the OT:

- Exodus 34:5-9 God's character. Moses' plea on behalf of a stiff-necked people.
- Psalm 78:32-38 He restrained His anger often.
- Psalm 103:1-14 He remembered they were dust.
- Hosea 11 The inward struggle of God.

When should one expect to experience God's wrath now? What do we learn about His character?

Wrath in the NT:

- Luke 21:23 God's wrath against Jerusalem (in A.D. 70). Take with Matthew 23:37-38.
- John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.
- Romans 2:5-8 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.
- Romans 9:22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,
- Romans 12:19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."
- Romans 13:3-4 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.
- Colossians 3:5-8 "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth."
- 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 "This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed."

Mercy in the NT:

- Romans 5:9-10 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.

- 1 Timothy 2:3-4 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,