

The Wrath Of God

Understanding The Bible

Does God really get wrathful?

And if He does

Why?

EDITION ONE

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We have all heard the saying. "Gentle Jesus, meek and mild". This is a very true saying. This is an accurate description of our Lord. But it is incomplete. Consider the time Jesus went into the Synagogue and turned over the money changers tables. Recorded for us in Matthew 21:12-13.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Mat 21:12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.

Mat 21:13 "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

This Jesus was not meek and mild, He was angry at the way His Father's house was being treated. He would not have been quietly strolling through the temple and gently turning over these tables. No, He would have been fired up with zeal for the Temple and what it was designed for. He would have been angry at what was happening in what was supposed to be a holy temple.

Jesus was definitely full of love and compassion for everyone. But this never stopped Him from being angry when the occasion required it.

When Jesus was driving demons out of those possessed. Was He meek and mild? I doubt it. He would have had compassion for the person who was possessed. But He would have been angry at the evil spirit in the man. When speaking to him He would have done so with authority in His voice. The demon would not have seen a meek and mild Jesus. No, he saw a Jesus who meant business.

There are many passages in the Bible that speak of a mild mannered Lord. We can consider passages like the following to see the gentle side of Jesus.

Isa_42:3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

Mat_11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Mat_21:5 "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

Those who believe in a God of love only, will use verses like these to justify their beliefs. And as correct as these scriptures are, they are not the full picture. There is a great deal more to our Lord than a meek and mild saviour.

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Satan's Grand Deception

We know Satan as the enemy of God. A very clever and evil spiritual being who wants God's throne more than anything else. He does not advertise the fact that he is real. Indeed, he would rather have us believe he is just a figment of our imagination. Someone who does not exist cannot do us any harm, so he is happy for people to believe that lie. He can do us more harm if we are not resisting him.

Satan has convinced much of the world that God is just a softy and like a cuddly toy. Someone big and warm and full of infinite love, compassion and forgiveness. God would not harm a fly and could not possibly condemn, or ever harm any human who was created in His image.

Come judgement day, God will hug us all and overlook all of our sins. As wonderful as this type of image of God may be. It is still just a lie straight from Satan himself. It denies the fact that God can, and does get wrathful when the time requires it.

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Our God

We know and believe that God is patient, caring, loving and He forgives sin as is evident in Psalm 86:12-15.

Psa 86:12 I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

Psa 86:13 For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead.

Psa 86:14 Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God; ruthless people are trying to kill me— they have no regard for you.

Psa 86:15 But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

And then of course we have the ever popular verses in John 3:16 and 1John 4:8

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1Jn 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

In these verses we see a God of love and compassion, so the world thinks that this is how God is at all times. God most definitely has all of these characteristics, but most Christians will never see an angry God or a God of wrath. It simply does not suit their theology.

To understand why God can be wrathful, we must first see, and fully comprehend God as a holy God. This trait of His character never changes. He is holy when He is loving and kind. He is holy when He is anger and He is most definitely holy when He is wrathful. We can see His holiness in the following passages.

Lev 11:44 I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves along the ground.

Lev 11:45 I am the LORD, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.

1Pe 1:13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

1Pe 1:14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

1Pe 1:15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

1Pe 1:16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

In these verses we are instructed to be holy because God is holy. That would mean making some major changes to the way we live. Maybe even alienating ourselves from family and friends.

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Grace Or Wrath

And of course because God is holy, He cannot live with sin. Therefore He must deal with it in some way, and there are two ways He can do this. He can deal with sin by grace, or by wrath.

We read earlier the famous verse of John 3:16 that tells us of God's incredible love, But we must read further to verse 36 to see the result of sin. In this verse we see the two ways God deals with sin. In the first part of the verse He gives eternal life to those who accept Jesus as their Lord and King, but those who refuse to do this, suffer the second part of this verse. God's wrath.

Joh 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

Then in Eph 5:5-6 we can see the very strong terms that Paul uses to emphasize the results of sin.

Eph 5:5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

Now we can see that God is not always just loving and forgiving, but He can and does show wrath on unbelieving sinners. But as for us, we are under God's grace because we have accepted the sacrifice of Jesus as the only way to salvation.

Act 4:9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed,

Act 4:10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

Act 4:11 Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone."

Act 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

But if we reject Jesus then we can expect to come under His wrath as we saw in John 3:36. And there will be no-one to blame except ourselves. How can we live in this amazing

creation and not see the majestic work of our creator, or as Paul stated in;

Rom_1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

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The Unchangeable God

Another of Satan's lies is to try to convince us that the wrathful God is the God of the old testament, but the God of love is the God of the new testament. If this was the case, then God would have to have had a major personality change when the old covenant was done away with. He had to change from wrathful to loving overnight. But what does Malachi 3:6 say about this matter.

Mal 3:6 "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

Here God is speaking about Himself and the fact that He does not change. And then in the new testament in Heb 13:8.

Heb_13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Our God does not change like shifting winds, otherwise how could we possible know Him.

Jesus is always presented as the meek, mild and gentle saviour and this is who He is. But He still get angry, or shows wrath like when He was castigating the Pharisees and called them hypocrites, serpents, and a brood of vipers. Again these words would have been spoken with emotion and feeling and not softly spoken as someone who is timid.

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Types Of Wrath

Let us now consider the different ways that God can show His wrath against sinners.

Wrath from consequences — This is the old “you reap what you sow” type of wrath.

This is our personal sins that will bring upon ourselves the wrath we deserve because of our sins. If we choose to live a life of sin there will be consequences. If we bang our heads against a brick wall, we get a head ache, the consequences of our stupidity.

Cataclysmic Wrath — This would be best described as natural disasters such as fires, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes and volcanoes. And could also include such things as the 9/11 attack in America.

Forsaken Wrath — I believe this is the type of wrath that America and much of the western world are experiencing today. They have forsaken God. Therefore He has abandoned them and left them to their own self destruction.

End Time Wrath — This is the wrath God will release during the time of the great tribulation in the world. An horrific time for those who live through this terrifying last days.

Then there is the last type of wrath.

Eternal Wrath — The final and eternal punishment God will save for those who are consigned to hell.

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Forsaken Wrath

I think we should look closer at the third type of wrath. The forsaken wrath affecting America and other nations. This type of wrath can also fall onto an individual person and is not reserved only for nations.

The apostle Paul gives us the perfect example of how God deals with a nation that forgets their Lord. A nation like America today that allows all types of sin to multiply. In Rom 1:18-23 God tells us why He is directing His wrath against the nation, and why they are without excuse.

Rom 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Rom 1:19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

Now in verse 24 and 25 we see the first results of God removing His divine care and protection. Now evil begins to multiply rapidly. We have seen the sexual immorality really start to blossom in America during the 1960s.

Rom 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

Rom 1:25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

The nation refused to repent of these sins so God has removed even more of His care and protection. Now homosexuality is rampant and especially after the supreme court of America has done away with the sodomy laws that once made homosexuality a crime. Now it is accepted everywhere and the law now states it is a crime to speak against these acts. A full 180 degree turn from the former laws.

Rom 1:26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.

Rom 1:27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Still the nation has not repented, so God has now turned away and given the nation over to a depraved mind. This became obvious in 2015 when the supreme court allowed same sex marriage. And to add fuel to the fire, the President allowed the White House to be lit up with the emblem of this movement. The 6 colours of their rainbow flag.

Rom 1:28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.

God's protection will soon be removed completely (if that has not already happened) and the nations who refuse to keep God's laws will soon suffer the same consequences and even worse things will happen. Unfortunately that will include our beautiful Australia.

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End Time Wrath

And now let us go back and take another look at God's eschatological wrath. When we finally see our Lord return it will be to judge and wage war as we see in Rev 19:11;

Rev 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.

When Jesus first came to the earth, He was compassionate and caring and he shed tears for his holy city Jerusalem. At his second coming it will be in vengeance and his eyes would be like flames of fire. He will come to destroy the enemies of God.

Jud 1:14 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones

Jud 1:15 to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Jud 1:16 These people are grumblers and fault finders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

This sounds a lot like the world we live in today. And this will lead us into the time when the Presidents and Kings and Prime Ministers of all nations will be terrified and will be hiding among the rocks and crying out for the mountains to fall upon them. That is how great the terror of the land will be.

Luk_23:30 Then "they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"

Rev_6:16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

It is amazing how the old and new testaments tell the story for us. We can see in the new testament God's judgement being carried out. But it is also recorded in the old testament in places like Zep 1:14-18

Zep 1:14 The great day of the LORD is near-- near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry.

Zep 1:15 That day will be a day of wrath-- a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness--

Zep 1:16 a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.

Zep 1:17 "I will bring such distress on all people that they will grope about like those who are blind, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung.

Zep 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath." In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth.

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The Meaning Of Wrath

Wrath (Anger)

rath, rôth, rath (ῥα, 'aph, from ῥα, 'ānaph, "to snort," "to be angry"; ὀργή, orgé, θυμός, thumós, ὀργίζομαι, orgízomai): Designates various degrees of feeling, such as sadness ([Psa 85:4](#)), a frown or turning away of the face in grief or anger ([2Ch 26:19](#); [Jer 3:12](#)), indignation ([Psa 38:3](#)), bitterness ([Jdg 18:25](#)), fury ([Est 1:12](#)), full of anger ([Gen 4:5](#); [Joh 7:23](#)), snorting mad ([Gen 27:45](#); [Mat 2:16](#)).

I must confess the last one "snorting mad" really got my attention.

1. Divine Wrath:

Wrath is used with reference to both God and man. When used of God it is to be understood that there is the complete absence of that caprice and unethical quality so prominent in the anger attributed to the gods of the heathen and to man. The divine wrath is to be regarded as the natural expression of the divine nature, which is absolute holiness, manifesting itself against the willful, high-handed, deliberate, inexcusable sin and iniquity of mankind. God's wrath is always regarded in the Scripture as the just, proper, and natural expression of His holiness and righteousness which must always, under all circumstances, and at all costs be maintained. It is therefore a righteous indignation and compatible with the holy and righteous nature of God.

That is a very fitting and accurate description of God's wrath compared to the wrath of man. It is very different to the wrath of man. In Nahum chapter 1 and verses 2-7 we see more of this side of our God. He is a jealous God who loves all people He has created, and therefore He hates anything that will cause us to sin.

Nah 1:2 The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and vents his wrath against his enemies.

Nah 1:3 The LORD is slow to anger but great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet.

Nah 1:4 He rebukes the sea and dries it up; he makes all the rivers run dry. Bashan and Carmel wither and the blossoms of Lebanon fade.

Nah 1:5 The mountains quake before him and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at his presence, the world and all who live in it.

Nah 1:6 Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him.

Nah 1:7 The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him,

If you think God is never a God of wrath. Then read all of Deut 28. Here are 68 verses that should convince anyone that God can get angry, full of wrath and get "snorting mad" when it comes to sin. Please also remember that God never changes. This God in the old testament is the same God in the new.

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Wrath And The Redeemed

It is very unfortunate that many Christians today do not care about Bible prophecy.

Many think of prophecy as just being full bad news and is just too hard to understand, so they do not even try to understand.

In the last book of the old Testament, the book of Malachi, and in just the first two verses we can see the reward of both evildoers and the righteous saints of God

Mal 4:1 "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them.

Mal 4:2 But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves.

There is absolutely no reason for any of God's people to fear the wrath of God. Because we have been justified by the blood of Christ as we see in Romans 5:9.

Rom 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

And then Paul tells the Thessalonians that the redeemed will be delivered from the wrath to come in 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11.

1Th 5:8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

1Th 5:9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Th 5:10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

1Th 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Those who accept Jesus as their Lord and King have nothing to fear from God's wrath.

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Your Choice

Now is the time for everyone to make the biggest decision of their lives. Will they

look for grace or wrath in their future. Jesus is returning very soon and when He does come, will He be our blessed hope, or our holy terror. Lets hope everyone chooses grace so they can be counted with those mentioned in Isa 35:10 below.

Isa 35:10 and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

I hope you, the readers of this message, want to follow “The Way” and experience God’s grace. Rather than His wrath. So let us always remember the above verse and strive to be counted worthy. Always remembering 1 Th 5:11

1Th 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Words of wise council. Thank you for reading this booklet. I hope you have seen a different God to the meek and mild God mostly portrayed by modern churches. And can see God as full of wrath when His beloved children are threatened.

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