

## God's Wrath

Recently I was rereading Romans 5 in the Complete Jewish Bible and the word *wrath* seemed to take on a new dimension. It occurred to me that I had not looked at all of the nuances and differentiations of this very significant word. It is important to understand the biblical word *wrath*. Instead of thinking of *wrath* as a catch-all expression for God's anger, it must also be seen as an **event**. Yes, it does mean anger, but if a close contextual reading is done, *wrath* frequently means an unshakeable, unstoppable event by the hand of God. Thus, **wrath is a culmination of God's righteous justice that results in a notable action**. The outpourings of God's wrath **are** always based on his absolute justice and they do not occur without significant warnings. Because *wrath* is little understood, it is often misinterpreted.

Failure to see wrath as an event has some repercussions. Some well known Bible teachers fail to harmonize the Old Testament God of vengeance with the New Testament God of grace so:

- Scriptures that point to a pre-tribulation rapture are missed
- Various hyper-grace movements and kingdom-now/dominion theologies emerge
- Judgment becomes a dirty word. "I don't want to hear so much gloom and doom"
- End Times is considered irrelevant, so many churches opt not to teach about it.
- The biblical account of the final judgment is read as allegorical.

For some reason it has become chic not to study prophecy. There was a wave of interest in the seventies and eighties but it seems that interest has waned with the church more interested in culture and living. With dire events happening all over the Middle East and with the enemies of Israel positioned, there is a need to learn about biblical eschatology.

One third of the Bible is eschatology according to Jan Markell. To ignore prophecy is to ignore a gigantic swath of the Bible. The study of biblical prophecy prepares us against deception. We need to know the signs of the times. We also need to know how to pray. Not knowing prophecy may cause us to pray for something not destined to come to pass. Prophecy helps us to know the heart of God. The same God who pronounced judgments on the ancient world and on His chosen people is the same God we serve today. But we also need to know that we don't have to worry about the future.

It is not surprising to hear phrases like "God poured out 100% of his wrath on Jesus at the cross." Or to hear prophecies of a huge end time revival that wins the world to Christ, a staple of the kingdom and dominion theologies which have become so popular. Such sayings become so familiar to the ear that they are often mistaken for Scripture. Why? Because their proponents are all over TV. And, their teachings escape being flagged as unbiblical. Surely such a famous name wouldn't get the Bible wrong! Christians become viewers and note takers rather than Bible readers.

Other believers swing in the opposite direction fearing God's wrath on their personal behaviors. His wrath sends them into hell in many "gotcha" scenarios. Thinking God's wrath is personally directed to them, they become legalistic. Not being assured of the victory won for them at the cross, they fail to see the big picture and become ripe for deception.

Confusion would be clarified if God's wrath would be seen as premier events of divine judgment culminating in one final act of judgment to be poured out at the End of the Age. But many have been deceived into thinking judgment will not fall upon the world or upon their part of the world. The most eminent prophecy teacher was Jesus who warned four times in Matthew 24 against the deception that is a sign of the end. Deception is everywhere now heralding that final judgment which is closer than we think. But no need to fear if our trust is in Jesus; *Wrath* only falls upon the ungodly, those who have not chosen the biblical path of faith in Yeshua ha Meshiach.

In this this paper, I will comment on **five primary biblical judgments**. Four of these judgments have been fulfilled, the last is yet to come. The prophets warned of this final judgment which would come upon the whole earth. It is given several names, primarily using the word *day such as **The Day of the lord, the Day of God's wrath***. These warnings are so numerous, to delete them from the Bible would considerably reduce ink and pages.

Deception is hard at work to blind many to this Day of the Lord. We must bear in mind that Jesus Christ is the Spirit of Prophecy, so His warnings must not be contradicted, ignored, or spiritualized. If you hear teachers contradicting the plain sense of Scripture, they are not being led by the Holy Spirit who also came into the world to convict us of judgment (John 16.8).

The four major Old Testament wrath events are:

- 1) The Judgment upon Adam
- 2) The Judgment upon Noah's generation resulting in the flood.
- 3) The judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah
- 4) And, finally the judgments upon Israel that resulted in the Assyrian, Babylonian Captivities, and ultimately, the great Diaspora.

The judgment upon Adam has had such far reaching consequences and such complex causes that we will not understand all the ramifications until we see Him face to face-- causes perhaps hidden in the pre-Adamic age of Angels and the fall of the Lucifer. Interesting, but not profitable to go into here. But certainly Hell exists as a result of Lucifer's machinations and rebellion.

The judgment upon Adam and Eve is more than a fairy tale. Failure to understand the first events of human history is to throw the Bible into the dustbin of mythology. The existence of Adam, his unique creation and abilities, his marriage performed by God, and ultimately his disobedience have set into motion the most far reaching consequences in human history, consequences that are being visited upon the human race today. As Paul says, concerning Adam, **“with judgment came condemnation” (Romans 5.16)**. The Adamic race was born into that condemnation and became subject to sin.

Adam's fall has significant permanent results:

First, there was a change in Adam's nature: The nature in the Adamic race produced by the fall is called “the old man.” This nature is corrupt through the lusts of deceit (perverted desires). This nature is a product of Satan's lie.

Second, man became subject to death in three phases: Genesis 2.17 a) instant **Spiritual death**, separation from God. b) **physical death**, the separation of the soul from the body and c) Rev. 20.13-15, the **second death**, final, eternal banishment from God (Rev. 20.10).

Third, Satan usurped the realms of Adam's authority becoming the prince of power of the air (Eph. 6.12), the god of this world (John 8), and of all of the realms which God had placed Adam as ruler. Notice the correspondence between Gen. 1.26 and Eph. 2.2 Jesus acknowledged this realm of Satan's authority calling him the “prince of this world.”

Fourth, but not finally, the Adamic Race became identified with Satan in guilt and rebellion and therefore subject to God's judgment.\* So because of this identification and condemnation, the Adamic

race faces Hell. Hell now opens its mouth to include Adam's offspring, not only fallen angels.

It is because of the Fall that God had to put his **secret plan** into motion. This plan had to fight against fallen nature, unredeemed free wills, and spiritual deadness. But ultimately through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, a nation was born which produced the Messiah, the Son of God, who took away the sins of the world and delivered many from the consequences of the judgment upon Adam. And, from the “wrath to come”!!!!

Romans 5.16 explains the sequence very clearly: By one man [Adam] many died “. . . . for the **judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation. . . .**” . Again, “. . . . **therefore as through one man's offense judgment came to all men resulting in condemnation . . . .**” (18 CJB).

When a man dies without Christ, he suffers the punishment instituted long ago and inherited from Adam. The words of Jesus are very vivid. John 3.16-18

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved. 18. He who believes in Him is not condemned, but he who does **not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Jesus said “You must be born again”. When he went to the cross he made deliverance from death and condemnation possible by His own suffering, death and resurrection. “For He made Him who knew no sin to be made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5.21).

But a huge plus is in the offing. If we are born again, we are also saved from any further acts of judgment upon the earth! How good is that! Let's look closely at Romans 5.9.CJB.

“ Therefore, since we have now come to be considered righteous by means of his bloody sacrificial death, how much more will we be delivered through him from the anger of God's judgment.”

“Much more then, having **now** been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from **wrath** through Him” (Romans 5.9 NKJB).

This Scripture jumped out at me because I saw for the first time that the justification spoken of here was Jesus' solution for the condemnation inherited from Adam. But with it, in the same breath, came the promise of salvation from *Wrath*. If we are saved from Adam's condemnation, we must also be saved from this future event. Here unearthed is a pre-Tribulation rapture gem dusted off and sparkling.

Paul explains : “Therefore since we have now come to be considered righteous by means of his bloody sacrificial death [past event], how much more will be delivered through Him from the anger (wrath) of of God's judgment” [future].

If the believer has already been delivered from condemnation as Romans 5.9 points out, then “the wrath of God's judgment” must be seen as a corollary, to occur in the future, an event that will fall on the whole earth during the tribulation. The atoning death of Jesus saves believers from not only the judgment that fell upon Adam bringing forth condemnation, death, and hell, but also from the *Wrath*

that remains to be fulfilled. This future event is so often spoken of that a Word study becomes staggering in its weight of evidence. Again, names that identify this future outpouring of *wrath* are “the Tribulation, the Day, That Great and Terrible Day, the Day of the LORD, the Day of Wrath, the Day of Judgment.

Hyper Grace and Kingdom movements emerge because they do not see wrath as an event and cannot harmonize wrath and vengeance with Grace. God has never changed. He has always demonstrated his grace in the Old Covenant as well as in the New. However, the Dispensation of Grace is special because it is extended to all those who will be saved. But the curtain will fall and a time will come when He will make an end to evil and that will be a great mercy. Daniel says.

“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make conciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, (Daniel 9.24).

Some emergent Protestant doctrines say the Kingdom is Now. For years the Catholic Church has declared itself the Kingdom of God on earth even while it goes deeper into heresy and evil. If some declare the Kingdom is Now, we just need to apply Daniel's criteria. Is there an “end of sins”? Has “righteousness become everlasting”? No!

Now let's look at some past judgments which argue by analogy that if they were actual events, why would the final judgment be an allegory and why would powerful TV preachers go to great lengths to tell us that grace has nothing to do with sin and judgment?

Remember the powerful words of Jesus in John 16.7 (NKJB).

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8. And when He has come, He will convict the world of *sin*, and of *righteousness*, and of *judgment*”.

A popular TV preacher said “The Holy Spirit never convicts you of your sins. I challenge you to find any verse in the Bible that tells you that the Holy Spirit has come to convict you of your sins.” Would you be surprised if I named this speaker? Joseph Prince. \*\* I have just quoted such a Scripture. I can't tell you how many times the Holy Spirit has pressed me to make amends, gentle but insistent. He convicts not only of sin but of judgment.

It is not my purpose to go into specific judgments upon Israel but I will cite a few Scriptures that show God's heart and his reasoning for such judgments. We also need to be warned. As Paul said, the Old Scriptures were for admonition (1 Cor.10.11). Israel ignored God's prophetic warnings and the result was their capture by enemies and ultimately their diaspora into many hostile regions. They did not honor God, nor respect his covenants.

Deut. 29.25-26 “Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD GOD of their Fathers, which he made with them . . . for they went out and served other gods and worshiped them, gods they did not know. Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against the land.”

2 Kings 23.26 “Nevertheless the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah . . . **And the LORD said, 'I will also remove Judah from my**

**sight, as I have removed Israel, and will carry them away.”** Israel is a time table and a picture of how God deals with His people.

Many other similar Scriptures may be found; these are just a few examples of God's wrath culminating in judgment: the destruction of the world by flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the conquering of Israel and Judah and the dispersing of the Jews. Ultimately, God's last cup of wrath will be poured out upon all nations, tongues and creeds which, in my view, will take all seven years of the tribulation (Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week) to accomplish. (Daniel 9.24).

The powerful judgments against Noah and Lot mirror what is to come. God's heart has not changed; in Him there is no shadow of turning. If past judgments were terrible and final actions, why would the future judgment be any different? Why is there a propensity to spiritualize these Scriptures? There is no need to make up a new gospel when the one preached by the Fathers is the one the Spirit taught, the one which gives us complete victory and safety from God's punishment upon the ungodly.

For background, study Genesis 19. It seems clear that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were judged for homosexuality, for desiring “strange flesh.” similar to that of the trans-humans during the times of Noah. Perhaps sex as a religious sacrament practiced among the pagans is also judged here. **And**, God didn't like it: “Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD.” Genesis 13.13

When Jesus compares the judgment at the end of the age to that of Sodom and Gomorrah. We have to infer that the coming judgment cannot be seen as an allegory. Jesus would not lie.

"It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be **just the same** on the day that the Son of Man is revealed” ( [Luke 17:28-30](#)). The comparison is pretty obvious. Jesus cites Sodom and Gomorrah to warn us about what's to come. Also clear, God's heart has not changed regarding homosexuality.

Peter says “. . . and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men . . . then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the Day of Judgment” ( [2 Peter 2:6-9](#) ).

Likewise, Peter speaks of God's wrath against Sodom and Gomorrah to warn of a future day of judgment. (Also read a similar account in Jude). And, Peter says that the “godly” will escape *temptation*. Godly men are those who have been washed, made righteous through the triumph of Jesus Christ. We are not made Godly from our own efforts. I believe this Scripture to be another pre-Tribulation rapture treasure.

Peter uses an interesting word, *temptation*. The same word Jesus uses in the Lords Prayer. What is the Lord's prayer actually talking about ?”(Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil). Since God tempts no man (James 1.13) . Could the Lord's prayer be asking us to pray to be delivered from the evil that is yet to come?

Also striking are the Words of Jesus regarding the judgment on Noah's world:

“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark, And did not know until the flood came and **took them all away** (the bad guys were killed, taken away), so also will the coming of the Son of Man be . . . “ Matthew 24. 37-42.

Jesus is referring to a past judgment that came upon the whole earth resulting in the death of the population and the salvation of the Ark. He compares it to His parousia, His coming and remaining, known as the Second Coming, an event that completes the final judgment and brings the millennial Kingdom.

At this time *the bad guys* will be removed as the parable of the wheat and the tares explains (Matthew 13). The Angels at the end of the Age will remove the evil people, leaving the godly to live in the Kingdom with the King. Remember the words in second Kings, “He removed Judah and *carried them away*”( 2 Kings 23.21) . The population of Noah's and Lot's generation were “*taken*”. So it will be at the End of the Age. “Then two men will be in the field:, one will be *taken* and another left” (40). “Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be *taken* and the other left (Matt.24.41).

Many similar Scriptures may be found. But these are just a few examples of God's wrath culminating in the destruction of the world by flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the carrying away of Israel and Judah and the dispersing of the Jews. God's people the Jews are returned to the land and become a nation in 1948 in another great fulfillment of prophecy .

What Scriptures are still to be fulfilled?

Job.21.30 “They shall be brought forth to the Day of Wrath

Prov. 11.4 Riches profit nothing in the Day of Wrath

#### [Isaiah 24:21-22](#)

So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth. They will be gathered together Like prisoners in the dungeon, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished.

#### [Zephaniah 1:14-18](#)

Near is the great day of the LORD, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of trumpet and battle cry Against the fortified cities And the high corner tower.

I will bring distress on men So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the LORD; And their blood will be poured out like dust And their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the LORD'S wrath; And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.

#### [Isaiah 13:9-11](#)

#### [The Final Days Of Time](#)

Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light. Thus I will punish the world for its evil And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless.

#### [Jeremiah 46:10](#)

For that day belongs to the Lord GOD of hosts, A day of vengeance, so as to avenge Himself on His foes; And the sword will devour and be satiated And drink its fill of their blood; For there will be a slaughter for the Lord GOD of hosts, In the land of the north by the river Euphrates.

#### [Job 20:28-29](#)

"The increase of his house will depart; His possessions will flow away in the day of His anger. "This is the wicked man's portion from God, Even the heritage decreed to him by God."

#### [Isaiah 13:4-6](#)

A sound of tumult on the mountains, Like that of many people! A sound of the uproar of kingdoms, Of nations gathered together! The LORD of hosts is mustering the army for battle. They are coming from a far country, From the farthest horizons, The LORD and His instruments of indignation, To destroy the whole land. Wail, for the day of the LORD is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

#### [Isaiah 19:16-17](#)

In that day the Egyptians will become like women, and they will tremble and be in dread because of the waving of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which He is going to wave over them. The land of Judah will become a terror to Egypt; everyone to whom it is mentioned will be in dread of it, because of the purpose of the LORD of hosts which He is purposing against them.

#### [Ezekiel 30:3-4](#)

"For the day is near, Even the day of the LORD is near; It will be a day of clouds, A time of doom for the nations. "A sword will come upon Egypt, And anguish will be in Ethiopia; When the slain fall in Egypt, They take away her wealth, And her foundations are torn down. In that day the LORD will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, With His fierce and great and mighty sword, Even Leviathan the twisted serpent; And He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea.

#### [Joel 3:12-14](#)

Let the nations be aroused And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, For there I will sit to judge All the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe Come, tread, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

#### [Zephaniah](#)

"Therefore wait for Me," declares the LORD, "For the day when I rise up as a witness Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.

#### [Romans 2:16](#)

“on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.”

### Revelation 6:15-1

Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

### Amos 5:18-20

Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, For what purpose will the day of the LORD be to you? It will be darkness and not light; As when a man flees from a lion And a bear meets him, Or goes home, leans his hand against the wall And a snake bites him. Will not the day of the LORD be darkness instead of light, Even gloom with no brightness in it?

**Now the believer does not need to invent a new doctrine and pretend wrath does not exist. He is saved from the wrath as promised by the following verses.**

First Thessalonians 4.16-17:

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words”.

1 Thess. 5.9 “For God has not appointed us to wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus.”

Now knowing the importance of wrath as event, does not this verse seem to have new promise?

Titus: “Looking for **the blessed hope** and glorious appearing of our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ. (2.13).

John 14.3 “ And if I go and prepare a place for you,I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am you may be also.”

1 Corinthians 15.51-58: “Behold I tell you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed —In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ' Death is swallowed up in victory'.”

So we believers have the victory. The same Jesus who saved us from Adam's condemnation will save us from the wrath to come. How wonderful and merciful are the judgments of God who loves us so much that He knows “perfect mercy cannot be effective toward man until justice has done its work” (AW Tozer, The knowledge of the Holy).

- \*Derek Prince.“The Results of the Fall.” The Rebellion of Lucifer. 1972. Audio Cassette.
- \*\*Joseph Prince. Destined to Reign. Chapter 11. p. 135-135.

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**Edited and Revised October 21, 2015**

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