

## The Wrath of God - Saved From

September 8, 2020  
Jerry E. Smith, Ed.D.

Comments from Jerry: During the Bible Study, there seemed to be quite a bit of controversy or misunderstanding regarding the lesson. We have been studying end of the age scriptures and the Lord's sequence of events prophesied for the time near the second advent of Jesus (which will terminate this age of grace in which we are living).

**The goal of this lesson was to communicate when He (God) will actually begin manifesting His wrath against sin and sinful humanity.** Some people believe it is happening right now (today). For example, some believe the coronavirus is a result or manifestation of God's wrath. Some see horrific weather and other devastating events as expressions of God's wrath being poured out on sinful man.

However, based on scriptural study, I do not believe God is presently manifesting His wrath against sin and sinful society. God does, and always has, had wrath toward sin and those who embrace it (*Romans 1:18 below*). He is the holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty. On the other hand, God is love and He, because of His great love for every person, is presently offering the grace of salvation and deliverance from His wrath to whosoever will receive it.

However, as we near the return of Christ, God will begin to personally manifest His wrath toward those who have refused His offer of salvation from it. The object of this lesson is to teach you when that will happen. This lesson is not about life after death, the rapture (catching away) of the church, or bodily resurrection. This lesson is about when those mortal people living on earth will begin to experience the wrath of God, when He personally will begin to express (manifest) his wrath. If you read to the end, you will find the answer. Just go with the flow as they say!

Let's begin by defining wrath. Below are the biblical definitions from both Testaments:

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Wrath – OT (Strong's 639/599) – rage/anger breathed out hard from the face (nostrils), be enraged, be angry, passionate ire

Wrath – NT (Strong's 3709) - violent passion, justifiable abhorrence, (retributory) punishment, strong vengeful anger, indignation, vengeance; divine chastisement

Now, let's consider the story of mankind who refused God and obedience to Him.

Gen 6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Rom 1:18-32 (NLT) **God shows his wrath (anger) from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who push the truth away from themselves.** For the truth about God is known to them instinctively. God has put this knowledge in their hearts. From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature. So, they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God.

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Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. The result was that their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they became utter fools instead. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people, or birds and animals and snakes.

So, God let them go ahead and do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. Instead of believing what they knew was the truth about God, they deliberately chose to believe lies. So, they worshiped the things God made but not the Creator himself, who is to be praised forever. Amen.

That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relationships with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men and, as a result, suffered within themselves the penalty they so richly deserved.

*1 Cor 6:18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.*

*1 Cor 6:18 (NLT) Run away from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does.*

When they refused to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their evil minds and let them do things that should never be done. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, fighting, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip.

They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent (*display a rude arrogant lack of respect*), proud, and boastful. They are forever inventing new ways of sinning and are disobedient to their parents. They refuse to understand, break their promises, and are heartless and unforgiving. They are fully aware of God's death penalty for those who do these things, yet they go right ahead and do them anyway. And, worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

Do you see any of the preceding being manifest in current U.S. society?

Rom 2:5-10 (NIV) Because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God will give to each person according to what he has done. To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow

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evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Please remember the phrase **“the day of God’s wrath”** in the preceding passage.

Eph 5:3-7 (NIV) Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore, do not be partners with them.

**From the preceding passages, what may we absolutely conclude regarding people who reject God/Christ and obedience to Him? They will experience God’s wrath.**

The Book of Revelation reveals increasingly severe wrathful judgments being released upon the earth and sinful humanity during the years immediately prior to the return of Christ to the earth (Israel). Wrath is released in the form of seven Seal Judgments (Rev 6:1), seven Trumpet Judgments (Rev 8:6), and seven Bowl (Vial) Judgments (Rev 16:1).

However, the first mention of God, specifically, being identified as the source of that wrath is in the following passage:

Rev 6:12-17 He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

**When may we conclude that God is personally manifesting His wrath toward sinful man and society? It happens when the sixth seal judgment is released. Therefore, it happens after the beginning of the seven-year period of time just preceding the return of Christ.**

Additionally, we learn from Revelation 6:1-11 that it happens:

After the Antichrist is revealed

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After there is war and slaughter everywhere

After major financial upheaval and severe inflation

After Death and the Grave have brought famine and death to one-fourth of the earth

After multitudes have begun to be martyred for their faith in God/Jesus

**In view of the preceding information, is God Himself, presently, manifesting His wrath on sinful man and society? I believe He is not.**

The wrathful events presently being seen and experienced in human society and nature are not the manifestations of God's wrath. They are what Jesus referred to as birth pains which precede, and reveal the nearness of, the Day of God's Wrath (Matt 24:8).

Obviously, every Christian wants to know whether he/she will experience the Day of God's Wrath. Even though we may not be able to define the extent of the birth pains the Christian may endure, the following passages should bring peace, joy, and gratitude to every believer regarding the wrath of God.

Rom 5:8-9 God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, **we shall be saved from wrath through Him.**

1 Thes 1:9-10 You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even **Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**

1 Thes 5:9 **God did not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

You, born-again believer in Jesus, are not appointed to experience the wrath of God. Through faith in Jesus, you have been delivered from the wrath to come! For that to be true, you must have been caught up to be with the Lord (raptured) prior to the outpouring of His wrath.

The gospel message is this: Jesus suffered the wrath of God toward sin in your behalf, in behalf of every person. His crucifixion was His taking upon Himself the wrath of God due you. He bore the wrath of God toward your sin/sinfulness that you, through faith in what He has done, might be redeemed from it. That's the essential good news of the gospel.

Isaiah said it well (53:5-6 (Amp)). He was wounded for your transgressions, He was bruised for your guilt and iniquities; the chastisement needful to obtain peace and well-

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being for you was upon Him, and with the stripes that wounded Him you are healed and made whole. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has made to light upon Him the guilt and iniquity of us all (also 1 Peter 2:24).

In conclusion:

What's the situation regarding the believer and the wrath of God?

What's the situation regarding the unbeliever (sinner) and the wrath of God?

Write your answer and make it plain!

The Sevens of the Book of Revelation: Seven churches, Seven spirits, Seven candlesticks, Seven stars, Seven lamps, Seven seals, Seven horns, Seven eyes, Seven angels, Seven trumpets, Seven thunders, Seven heads, Seven crowns, Seven plagues, Seven bowls (vials), Seven mountains, Seven kings