

“The Righteous Wrath and Judgment of God”

The Ministry of the Prophets

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The God of the Bible is defined as the singular, supreme, infinite, and eternal spiritual being who created and sustains all things, existing as a Trinity of three distinct persons—Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit—who are unified in essence and being. Key attributes include omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscience, perfect holiness, justice, goodness, patience, mercy and truth. God is both transcendent (separate from creation) and immanent (involved within it), and is portrayed as a personal God who possesses intelligence, will, and emotions, desiring a relationship with humanity. Yet because of humanity’s sinfulness and the holiness of God, that relationship has been severed. The prophetic writings bring to us a clear understanding of the righteous judgment of God and the unrighteous rebellion of humanity.

Genesis 18:25 *Shall not the judge of all the earth do what is just?*

Holy...Righteous...Wrath

The Mosaic legislation (the law) is given as from a God who is himself a just judge and will not hesitate to inflict penalties by direct providential action if his people break his law. The prophets take up this theme; indeed, the greater part of their recorded teaching consists of exposition and application of the law, and threats of judgment against the lawless and impenitent. They spend a good deal more space preaching judgment than they do predicting the Messiah and his kingdom.

J.I. Packer, Knowing God, page 140

Nahum 1:2-3,6-8 *The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.³ The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty.⁶ Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him. The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him. But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness.*

- **Over 600 times the Bible references the wrath of God. Hundreds of times more than it references the love of God.**

No One Escapes His Righteous Justice

The Proud and the Wicked Will Not Escape

Isaiah 2:12 *For the Lord of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up and it shall be brought low.*

The Hypocrite Will Not Escape

Amos 5: 21-24 *“I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*

The Idol Worshiper Will Not Escape

Ezekiel 20:30-31 *Thus says the Lord God: Will you defile yourselves after the manner of your fathers and go whoring after their detestable things?³¹ When you present your gifts and offer up your children in fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols to this day. And shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, declares the Lord God, I will not be inquired of by you.*

No One Will Escape

Isaiah 24:19-20 *The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth is violently shaken.²⁰ The earth staggers like a drunken man; it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again.*

What Can This God Not Do?...Several Things Actually

➤ **All powerful does not mean the ability to do anything.**

God Cannot Lie

Numbers 23:19 *God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?*

God Cannot Change

Malachi 3:6 *“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷ From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.*

God Cannot Dwell with evil

Psalm 5:4 *For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.*

Other Inabilities of God: He cannot sin or approve it; compromise his character in any way.

Hurray For The God of the New Testament??

“Why is the God of the Old Testament so wrathful and judgmental and the God of the New Testament So Kind and Gracious? Why So Different?

NEWSFLASH: HE IS NOT!

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 6:23a *For the wages of sin is death...*

Revelation 6:15-17 *Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”*

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.*

“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” or “The Enlightened in the Hands of an Angry, Intolerant, Holy Roller, Narrow Minded, Unenlightened Preacher”

The wrath of God is like great waters that are dammed for the present; they increase more and more, and rise higher and higher, till an outlet is given; and the longer the stream is stopped, the more rapid and mighty is its course, when once it is let loose. 'Tis true, that judgment against your evil work has not been executed hitherto; the floods of God's vengeance have been withheld; but your guilt in the meantime is constantly increasing, and you are every day treasuring up more wrath; the waters are continually rising, and waxing more and more mighty; and there is nothing but the mere pleasure of God that holds the waters back, that are unwilling to be stopped, and press hard to go forward. If God should only withdraw his hand from the floodgate, it would immediately fly open, and the fiery floods of the fierceness and wrath of God would rush forth with inconceivable fury, and would come upon you with omnipotent power; and if your strength were ten thousand times greater than it is, yea, ten thousand times greater than the strength of the stoutest, sturdiest devil in hell, it would be nothing to withstand or endure it.

Jonathan Edwards sermon, Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God; Enfield, Conn., July 8, 1741

Just How Big and Frightening Is This God?

The God who is transcendent in his majesty is the omnipotent Lord. He brings good things, and He brings bad things. Job understood that when he said, "The Lord gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. This is the God with whom we have to deal-whether we like Him or not. He is God, He alone. That is what he said to (King) Cyrus: "I am the LORD." You might prefer a different god. You might even try to fashion one. But there is no other. R.C. Sproul, Holy, Holy, Holy, page 11

"Treat God like He's small and irrelevant and (to you) He will be." Pastor Keith Collins

*"The world appears very little to a soul that contemplates the greatness of God."
Brother Lawrence, Carmelite Friar, The Practice of the Presence of God*

On the other hand, the world appears very large to a soul that rarely if ever contemplates the greatness of God.

Unfortunately, we think too little of the holy, righteous judgment and wrath of God because we think too much of the unholy judgments of the people and the world around us. We more fear being "canceled" by unholy people who have no power or right to, than we fear being "eternally canceled" by a Holy God who has every right and all power to.

How and where can this Holy and Righteous God pour out His wrath and it not rightly land on us?

John 3:17 ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Ezekiel 18:23 Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?