

The Attributes of God: "The Wrath of God"

Fairview Memorial Missionary Baptist Church Winter Bible Study 2019

Thursday, January 17th, 2019 ~ Elder Ronald G. Spurgeon

I. Introduction: **Scripture Lesson: Romans 1:16 – 32. Text verse 18:** *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness"* The Wrath of God is perfectly infallible! My goal is to explain WHY God's Wrath is contrasted as a very important Attribute of God.

Key Points to Remember:

- **The Wrath of God is REAL!**
 - **The Wrath of God is Revealed!**
 - **The Wrath of God is Reserved!**
 - **The Wrath of God is a direct result of God's hatred of SIN!**
 - **The object of the Wrath of God is SIN... Not the sinner!**
 - **The Death of Jesus Christ (God's Only Begotten Son) is the ONLY appeasement from the Wrath of God!**
- Romans Chapter 5** plainly explains this in detail. Thank God for these verses 8 & 9, *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."*

Reference Systematic Theology by Dr. Wayne Grudem. Pages 206 – 207.

"Wrath. It may surprise us to find how frequently the Bible talks about the wrath of God. Yet if God loves all that is right and good, and all that conforms to His moral character, then it should not be surprising that He would hate everything that is opposed to His moral character. God's wrath directed against sin is therefore closely related to God's HOLINESS and JUSTICE. God's wrath means that He intensely hates all sin. Descriptions of God's wrath are found frequently in the narrative passage of Scripture: Exodus 32: 9 – 10. God sees the idolatry of the People of Israel and says to Moses, "I have seen this people...; now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them". Later Moses tells the people, "Remember and do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness... Even at Horeb you provoked the Lord to wrath, and the Lord was so angry with you that he was ready to destroy you." Duet. 9:7 – 8.

The doctrine of the Wrath of God [it is a Sound Doctrine] is not limited to the Old Testament, however, as some have falsely imagined. We read in John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Other Scripture References:

- **Romans 2:5 – 11:** *"But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God."*
- **Romans 9:22:** *"What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:"*
- **Colossians 3:6:** *"For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:"*
- **I Thessalonians 1:10:** *"And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."* **I Thessalonians 2:16:** *"Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost."* **I Thessalonians 5:9 – 13:** *"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."*
- **Hebrews 3:11:** *"So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)"*

- **Revelation 6:16 – 17:** “And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” **Revelation 19:15:** “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

As with the other attributes of God, this is an attribute for which we should thank and praise God. It may not immediately appear to us how this can be done, since wrath seems to be such a negative concept. Viewed alone, it would arouse only fear and dread. Yet it is helpful for us to ask what God would be like if He were a God that did not hate sin. He would then be a God who either delighted in sin, or at least was not troubled by it. Such a God would not be worthy of our worship, for sin is hateful and is worthy of being hated. Sin ought not to be. It is in fact a virtue to hate evil and sin (see Hebrews 1:9). “**Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.**” Zechariah 8:17 “And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD.”, and we rightly imitate this attribute of God when we feel hatred against great evil, injustice, and sin. NOTE: It is appropriate for us in the regard to “hate the sin but love the sinner,” as a popular slogan puts it.

II. Define Sin:

- **Read: I John 3:1 – 10.** “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” Verse 4. “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” Verse 8.
- **SIN**, noun [Noah Webster 1828 Dictionary]

1. The voluntary departure of a moral agent from a known rule of rectitude or duty, prescribed by God; any voluntary transgression of the divine law, or violation of a divine command; a wicked act; iniquity. *Sin* is either a positive act in which a known divine law is violated, or it is the voluntary neglect to obey a positive divine command, or a rule of duty clearly implied in such command. *Sin* comprehends not action only, but neglect of known duty, all evil thoughts, purposes, words and desires, whatever is contrary to God’s commands or law. **I John 3:4. Matthew 12:31. James 4:17.** A sinner neither enjoy the pleasures of nor the peace of piety (goodness, faithfulness, godliness, holiness).

Among divines, *sin* is original or actual. Actual *sin* above defined, is the act of a moral agent in violating a known rule of duty. Original *sin* as generally understood, is native depravity of heart to the divine will, that corruption of nature of deterioration of the moral character of man, which is supposed to be the effect of Adam’s apostasy; and which manifests itself in moral agents by positive act of disobedience to the divine will, or by the voluntary neglect to comply with the express commands of God, which require that we should love God with all the heart and soul and strength and mind, and our neighbor as ourselves. This native depravity or alienation of affections from God and his law, is supposed to be what the apostle calls the carnal mind or mindedness, which is enmity against God, and is therefore denominated *sin* or sinfulness.

Unpardonable *sin* or blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, is supposed to be a malicious and obstinate rejection of Christ and the gospel plan of salvation, or a contemptuous resistance made to the influences and convictions of the Holy Spirit. **Matthew 12:31:** “Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.” [Note: Very dangerous territory, and will be most evident by The Wrath of God. Rgs]

2. A sin-offering; an offering made to atone for *sin*. “He hath made him to be *sin* for us, who knew no *sin*; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” **II Corinthians 5:21.**

SIN, verb intransitive

1. To depart voluntarily from the path of duty prescribed by God to man; to violate the divine law in any particular, by actual transgression or by the neglect or non-observance of its injunctions; to violate any known rule of duty. “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” **Romans 3:9.** “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned” **Psalms 51:2.**

III. **When Did Sin Begin?** There is evidence that a very beautiful angel engaged in prideful behavior not becoming of an angelic being, prior to the creation of the universe and human beings. Note: “Now the serpent was more

subtil (*crafty*) than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Genesis 3:1. Keep in mind, the devil has had the ability to transform into other crafty creatures, as Paul states: II Corinthians 11:14, "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

- "The Sin of Satan: Like Eve, Satan had sinned prior to Adam. His sin was pride in his beauty (Ezekiel 28:12 – 18 – King Tyrus) while in a perfect heaven (Isaiah 14:12), and he was cast out when imperfection was found in him (Isaiah 14:12; Revelation 12:9; Ezekiel 28:15). Then we found him in Garden of Eden (Ezekiel 28:13; Genesis 3). Unlike Adam, Satan was not created in the image of God and was never given dominion over the world (Genesis 1:28). So, his sin did not affect the creation (**DIRCTLY, but indirectly... for although Eve Said to The Lord God: "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." Genesis 3:13 rgs**), but merely his own person. This is likely why Satan went immediately for those who were given dominion. Being an enemy of God (and, thus, those who bear His image), he apparently wanted to do the most damage, so it was likely that his deception happened quickly." [<https://answersingenesis.org/sin/who-sinned-first/>]
- **There is absolutely no doubt the curse from SIN on the human race occurred at the very point when Adam ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil!** Genesis 3:6 – 13: "*And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.*"
- The sin of the devil, and Eve (see Genesis 3:14 – 19) was a designed conspiracy by (satan) to set sin in motion for the entire human race created in the image of the Lord God. The word *enmity* in verse 15 is in the Holy Bible 8 times (meaning: both OT & NT hatred. Hebrew *ebah* 3 x's; Greek *echthra* 5 x's). In reality, the sentencings by God for these 3 individuals are all punishable curses of death. For Satan he will be bound in a bottomless pit, but cast into the lake of fire! For Adam & Eve – Spiritual Separation unless, "And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to now good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:" (Genesis 3:22).
- Elder Billy Moran: "We now begin what is questionably, one of the most difficult to understand chapters in the Bible. {Revelation 20} In our "Introductory Lesson," page one, paragraph four, I said, "There are different interpretations of the book of Revelation." "Let me remind you again, that the book was written to comfort and encourage the saints, "Churches," in the time of great trial – not to create strife among them." He also said, "Which brings another point, whatever the teachings of the book may be, we need to remember that Cardinal Doctrines (principle teachings) must not be founded upon visions and symbols. And for that matter, not on parables neither." At the Great White Throne Judgement, the last enemy vanquished will be, "... death and hell, and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." See Revelation 20:10 – 15. **Does this mean the wrath of God is finally appeased?**

IV. **Define Wrath**, as in biblical since. Greek *orge*: means anger, wrath. Noah Webster 1828: **WRATH**, noun [Latin]

1. Violent anger; vehement exasperation; indignation; as the *wrath* of Achilles. (Omitted 2.)

3. The just punishment of an offense or crime. **Romans 8:1**. Gods *wrath* in Scripture, is his holy and just indignation against sin. **Romans 1:18**. NOTE: God is completely JUSTIFIED in His wrath (anger) toward sin, ungodliness, wickedness, evil, darkness, and ALL deceptive devices of Satan.

- It is very important to remember the first 4 of the 10 Commandments the Lord God gave to Moses (the Lord God's Wrath is Justifiable):

1. *Thou Shall Have NO Other gods before me.*
2. *Thou Shall NOT have ANY graven image, likeness of any thin that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*
3. *Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation for them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*
4. *Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

V. **The Seven Vials (Greek: *phiale* meaning vial, bowl, or basin) of the Wrath of God have been filling to the brim, before the Creation of the World, and Human Beings.** The Wrath of God is measured by the total Hatred He has toward SIN! Praise The Lord God He is longsuffering, and for His other nine attributes discussed in these series of lessons! (Review the other 9 lesson titles)

- Six examples of God's Wrath as displayed in the History of The Holy Bible.

1. When it was ONLY Satan and His Angels. Genesis 3:1 – 24.
2. Creation to Moses: The Great Flood Account – Noah's Ark (Genesis 6:5 – 8); The Destroying of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:23 – 28); Moses Chosen to lead Israel out of Egypt. Book of Exodus. The 10 plagues of Egypt. Who do you think did ALL these plagues?: Plague 1 — water turned into blood; fish died. Plague 2 — frogs. Plagues 3 and 4 — biting insects and wild animals. Plagues 5 and 6 — livestock disease and boils. Plague 7 — fiery hail. Plague 8 — locusts. Plague 9 — darkness. Plague 10 — death of the firstborn.
3. The Chosen People of God (Israel's Rejection), yet protection and mercy extended to the Faithful.
4. The Bitter Wrath of God Executed by God toward the Supreme Sacrifice (Jesus Christ the ONLY Begotten Son of God): THE CUP (see Matthew 26: 36 – 42); for which He willingly drank to appease The Heavenly Father. Verse 39. "{He went forward a little} It is as if he could not fight the battle in their immediate presence. {This cup} The figure can mean only the approaching death. The Master is about to taste the bitter dregs in the cup of death for the sin of the world. He was not afraid that he would die before the Cross, though he instinctively shrank from the cup. He instantly surrendered his will to the Father's will and drank the cup to the full." AT Robertson Word Pictures of the NT. The scene at and on the Cross of Calvary is more than meets the eyes. **I Peter 2:21 -24:** "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." **John 19:30:** "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." It would appear from this point, God's Wrath has been temporarily appeased (by the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of His Son), until He Ends the Earth, as we know it now). Why? **To allow time for Lost Sinners to get right with God.**
5. Sealing the Final Fate of the Devil, His Angels, and the Wicked (including those who Forget God see): **"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."** Psalms 9:17.
6. Is God's Wrath EVER Completed? **Will He truly seal the fate of all whom reject The Holy Father, His Only Begotten Son, and the Holy Spirit? YES!** Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye

repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3 & 5. "Perdition, in Christian theology, means a state of eternal punishment and damnation into which a sinful and impenitent person passes after death." [Adult Sunday School Quarterly Vol. 41, Number 4, Issued 12/1/2018 Winter Quarter page 21]

• **The Vials of Wrath: Read Revelation 16: 1 - 21.**

Revelation Chapter 16 (From Elder Billy Moran Revelation Meditation Lessons)

"We begin the details of the pouring out of the bowls of wrath. The imagery of these last plagues that was to fall upon the last head of the 7 headed beast, the one which had not yet come, and is the 7th head of the Anti-Christ system, is taken from Exodus chapters 7-15, which is a history of the plagues that fell on the 1st head of the system (EGYPT). These vials of wrath are called the 7 last plagues. They are filled up with wrath. "Justifiable punishment" undiluted wrath! There will be ... No mercy, and no grace, just wrath. Poured on the earth.

The First vial: Boils. effected those who had identified themselves with the beast. The anti-God system. The Beast built a great image, and caused men to worship the image. Their life built around it. Social and economic life depended on their relationship to the beast. Buy-Sell.

The Second vial: Poured out blood in sea. - on sea, became as a dead man's blood.

The Third vial: Poured out blood in rivers and fountains. - on fountains and streams, to blood.

The Fourth vial: Scorching Hot Sun. - on the sun and men were scorched with heat.

The Fifth vial: Darkness & Extreme Pain. - on the seat of the beast. Rome - 7 hills where the woman sitteth.

The Effect of These Plagues - Verses 9 and 11 clearly show the reaction of these wicked men. It also shows that it is the goodness of God that leadeth men to repentance. For they did not repent at the wrath of God, rather they blasphemed the name of God.

Vs 12. **The Sixth vial: Poured upon the great river Euphrates.** - an allusion is made to the fall of the city of Babylon. When Cyrus diverted the Euphrates River and the waters were dried up, the armies came into the city through the riverbed and captured it. Even so, God has a plan to destroy in his wrath.

Vs 13. Three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, (Satan) out of the mouth of the Beast, (Pagan Rome) and out of the mouth of the false prophet (Papal Rome). Remember Chapter 13 - both of these beasts received their power and authority from the dragon. Vs 14. The spirits of devils (demons) working miracles, and go forth unto the kings (rulers) whole earth. Paganism; Catholicism; and Protestantism??? Spirit - Greek - Pneuma - breath, current of air. Also, "mental disposition," "attitude," or "mind set." Demon spirits - super natural, but of a bad nature. Working miracles - super natural things. (These demon spirits have had an influence in the whole earth.) To gather them to the battle of the Great Day of God Almighty.

He gathered them to a place called, in Hebrew, Armageddon. What is Armageddon? It is the battle of the Great Day of God Almighty. Is it not the final struggle between the true church and the counterfeit church? The woman of light against the mother of harlots, that has deceived the whole world. Chapters 16-18 will reveal that the purpose of the battle is to destroy totally and completely mystery Babylon and deservedly so.

Now, I can't identify the meaning of every symbol in this chapter! But I believe we can safely say that these 7 last bowls of wrath will end the reign of the 7 - headed beast, known as anti-Christ. The beast is a system with 7 heads, which has succeeded from one to another until in its final form is known as the Holy Roman Empire, with its papal head.

Verse 16. "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

Verse 17. **The Seventh vial: The 7th Angel** poured out the last vial of the wrath of God being pureed out into the air (atmospheric changes bring on thunder, lightings, and hail) and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne saying, ... **"It is done!"** **The fall of evil powers, firing hail falls from the skies.**

Read verses 18 - 21: "And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great." "The blood and carnage are symbols of the spiritual results in the battle of light against darkness; truth against error; the true gospel against doctrine."

Final Thoughts: Romans 3:23 – 26, sums it up well: “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”

- *We should feel no fear of God's wrath as Christians, for although “we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind (see Ephesians 2:3), but we are now saved by Grace and sealed by The Holy Spirit of promise until the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 2:8 & 4:30).*
- *If we have trusted in Jesus, “who delivers us from the wrath to come” (I Thess. 1:10). Romans 5:10, “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”*
- *When we meditate on the Wrath of God, we will be amazed to think that our Lord Jesus Christ bore the wrath of God that was due to our sin, in order that we might be saved.*
- **In thinking about God's wrath we must also bear in mind His patience. Both patience and wrath are mentioned together in Psalms 103: “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.”**
- **The delay of God's Wrath is a BLESSING!** The delay of the execution of God's Wrath upon evil is allowing TIME for the Gospel to be preached, and the TRULY SAVED to point Lost Souls to Calvary to SEEK Jesus, with repentance and Faith in The Lord Jesus Christ!
- **Peter gave GREAT Advice to us:** “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” **II Peter 3:9 - 12.**

Sited sources:

- *King James Version Bible*
- *Young's analytical concordance to the Bible*
- *Systematic Theology by An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine by Dr. Wayne Grudem*
- *A.T. Robertson Word Pictures of the NT*
- *Sunday School Quarterly by Bob K. Vanderpool*
- *Meditation Revelation by Elder Billy Moran*