

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ON THE WRATH OF GOD

(Wellsford Fellowship - 28/4/91 - EKB)

1. Very seldom do we hear Bible teaching on the subject of the **wrath of God**.
2. Rather than the **wrath of God**, we hear much more preaching on the **love of God**, and it is right that we do, because “God is love”, *1Jn 4:8*. However, it is possible to overemphasise the love of God. If we stress God’s love to such an extent that we eliminate the Bible teaching on God’s wrath and judgment, then we have an overemphasis on His love.
3. Truth is almost always a matter of balance between two apparently opposing poles of doctrine, both of which are taught in scripture, and both God requires us to know and believe.
Examples:

<p>a. <i>Gal 6:2</i> “Bear one another’s burdens</p> <p>b. <i>Mat 7:1</i> a warning against judging</p> <p>c. <i>Mk 11:24</i> pray once and believe</p>	<p>a. <i>Gal 6:5</i> “For each one shall bear his own load”</p> <p>b. <i>1Cor 2:15</i> the necessity of judging all things</p> <p>c. <i>Lk 11:5-8</i> pray and keep on asking and do not give up</p>
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4. In any situation the Holy Spirit shows us how to apply the truth of the Word, and to get the right balance between the two opposite poles of the truth. See No 77.
5. In Bible truth there is a balance between God’s love and God’s wrath and judgment.
6. The Word of God teaches both, not one. If we hold only one, we will be in error, unbalanced, untrue, holding an extreme position which is not Biblical. We must have the Bible view, and hold both in balance.
7. Firstly then, look at two passages mentioning God’s wrath.
Jn 3:36 “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”
Heb 3:7-11 “.....your fathers tested Me, proved Me, and saw My works forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their hearts, and they have not known My ways.’ So I swore in My wrath, ‘they shall not enter My rest.’ ”
8. In *Is 28:21-22* the anger, wrath and punishing judgment of God is called “His strange work” and “His strange act?” (KJV)
 “For the Lord will rise up as at Mount Perazim, He will be angry as in the Valley of Gibeon - that He may do His work, His strange work (KJV) and bring to pass His act, His strange act(KJV). Now therefore.....I have heard from the Lord God of Hosts, a destruction determined even upon the whole earth.” (NKJV) We read about Mt Perazim in *2Sam 5:20*. Mt Perazim means the Mount of the breakthrough, and like water bursting from a dam God destroyed David’s enemies. “Valley of Gibeon” is in *Josh 10:9-11*. Here the Lord rained massive hailstones on Joshua’s enemies and destroyed them.

God's "strange work" and "His strange act" is His anger, wrath, and sudden punishing judgment upon His enemies.

9. *Ps 103:8,9* In this passage the balance between God's loving mercy and His anger is revealed. "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy, He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever."
10. God's anger is not like the selfish anger of man, which lashes out at others in hatred, revenge, and retaliation. This is fleshly and sinful anger.
Jam 1:20 "the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."
Eph 4:31 "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger..... be put away from you."
Rom 12:19 "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath....."
1Tim 2:8 "I desire that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." (Prayer to God only works when we have loving attitudes to others and faith in God's Word.)
11. God's anger is just and righteous anger, *Rom 2:5*.
12. It is the expression of God's displeasure at deliberate and persistent sin, rebellion, wickedness, evil, lawlessness, violence and disobedience, in the lives of those who refuse to repent and believe the Gospel, *2Thes 1:7-9*.
13. However, even in man, anger can be just and righteous. It is just and right to be angry when we see children being abused, the elderly being ill treated, the poor, weak and defenceless being taken advantage of by wicked people. "Be angry and sin not," *Eph 4:26*. In cases like this it is a sin not to be angry.
 When Moses came down Mt Sinai with the two stone tablets of the ten commandments, and found the people of Israel worshipping the golden calf, "Moses anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain," *Ex 32:19*. In the synagogue, the Pharisees tried to prevent Jesus healing a man with a withered arm on the Sabbath day, and Jesus "looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts," *Mk 3:5*.
14. The second coming of Christ, at the end of the church age, is often called "the day of the Lord", and it is the time when the wrath of God will be expressed. God's anger will be followed by His judgment and His eternal punishment on all evildoers.
2 Thes 5:2,3 "...the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them....."
Rev 6:15-17 "and the kings of the earth,....and every slave hid themselves in the caves 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 is come...."
Rom 2:5 refers to this day as "the day of wrath."
Eph 2:3 says that outside of our salvation in Christ we are all, by nature, children of wrath. *Eph 5:5,6, Mat 13:40-42*.
15. Finally, it is time to remind those who have surrendered their lives to Christ as Lord, and who are living by faith in Him, that He has delivered us from the wrath to come, *1Thes 5:9, 1Thes 1:10*.