

Observations in Relation to the Wrath of God, Pt. 1
Romans 1:18, 2017-01-29A, #50

Introduction: Many worship and serve a God that they have created in their own image and after their own likeness. The main two attributes of their God are love and grace. Listen to some people talk, and you will discover that the God they are describing is not the God of the Bible... This week let us check to see if the God we are worshiping is the God of the Bible... You should be able to find a verse in the Bible for every characteristic of your God... As we read through the Bible this year, get to know the God of the Bible...

My God is omnipotent (Genesis 1:1-3; Job 26:7; Hebrews 1:3; cf. Jeremiah 32:17). My God is omniscient (Psalm 139:1-4). My God is omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-12; Proverbs 15:3). My God is immutable (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17). My God is holy (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8). My God is just (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 145:17; cf. Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23). My God is love (1 John 4:8). My God is gracious (1 Peter 5:10). My God is merciful (Ezra 9:13; Psalm 103:10; 136:1-26). My God is sovereign, which means He does what He wills, when He wills, where He wills, how He wills, and with whom He wills (Daniel 4:35; Psalm 135:6; Isaiah 46:9-10; Proverbs 21:1).

There are times when God does not appear to be sovereign: Job... (Job 1 & 2). Joseph (Genesis 50:20)... The decree issued by Caesar Augustus (Luke 2:1-7; cf. Micah 5:2)... When Jesus was scourged in abused on Friday, God did not appear to be sovereign... (Acts 2:23; 4:27-28)...

My God is a God of wrath. Today we are going to begin a study on the wrath of God.

Two Greek nouns that are translated wrath are *orgē* (ὀργή) and *thumos* (θυμός). The Greek noun that is most often translated “wrath” is *orgē*, which is God’s constant displeasure against all forms of sin. *Thumos* is sudden but soon subsides.

Orgē occurs 36 times in the Greek New Testament and is translated by the AV: “Wrath” 31 times (Matthew 3:7; Luke 3:7; 21:23; John 3:36; Romans 1:18; 2:5, 8; 4:15; 5:9; 9:22; 12:19; 13:4, 5; Ephesians 2:3; 5:6; Colossians 3:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:16; 5:9; 1 Timothy 2:8; Hebrews 3:11; 4:3; James 1:19, 20; Revelation 6:16, 17; 11:18; 16:19; 19:15); “indignation” once (Revelation 14:10); “anger” 3 times (Mark 3:5; Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8); “vengeance” once (Romans 3:5).

Thumos occurs 18 times in the Greek New Testament and is translated by the AV: “Wrath” 15 times (Luke 4:28; Acts 19:28; 2 Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:20; Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8; Hebrews 11:27; Revelation 12:12; 14:8, 10, 19; 15:1, 7; 16:1; 18:3); “indignation” once (Romans 2:8); “fierceness” twice (Revelation 16:19; 19:15).

Divine wrath is not like human anger (James 1:20). God’s wrath is always righteous (cf. Psalm 72:2; 85:13; 96:13; 97:2; 111:3). God’s wrath is always just (Genesis 18:25; Psalm 51:4). God’s wrath is always under control.

Three things that cause Jesus to become angry: (1) Hardness of heart of the Pharisees (Mark 3:5). (2) Hindering children from coming to Him (Mark 10:13-14). (3) Abuse of the sacred things of God (John 2:13-17).

I. References to the Wrath of God in the Bible:

A. The current wrath (Romans 1:18):

1. Psalm 7:11, “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”

2. **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.”**
 - a. **“Believeth” translates the present, active Greek verb *pisteuō* (πιστεύω).**
 - 1) One of the characteristics of saving faith is continuation (1 John 2:19).
 - 2) Judas never was a true believer (John 6:64; 13:18; 17:12; cf. Psalm 41:9; Acts 1:16).
 - b. **“Hath” translates the present, active Greek verb *echō* (ἔχω).**
 - c. **“Everlasting” translates the Greek adjective *aiōnios* (αἰώνιος).**
 - 1) *Aiōnios* occurs 71 times in the Greek New Testament.
 - 2) The AV translates *aiōnios* “eternal” 42 times; “everlasting” 25 times (cf Matthew 25:46, *aiōnios* is translated “everlasting” and “eternal”).
 - 3) “Everlasting” or “eternal” life is a present possession, and it cannot be lost once it has been granted (John 5:24; 10:27-29).
 - 4) Eternal life is a quality of life not merely a quantity (John 10:10)...
 - 5) Everyone will live forever either in heaven or in hell (Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15).
 - d. **“Life” translates the Greek noun *zōē* (ζωή), which means spiritual life.**
 - e. **“Wrath” translates the Greek noun *orgē* (ὀργή).**
 - f. **“Abideth” translates the present, active Greek verb *menō* (μένω).**
3. **Revelation 6:12-17...**

B. The coming wrath (Matthew 3:7; Luke 3:7; 21:23; Romans 2:5; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 6:12-17; 11:18; 14:10; 16:19; 19:15).

II. Rescue from the Wrath of God:

- A. **God the Father took the initiative in rescuing believers from the current and the coming wrath (John 3:16-18; Romans 5:8-10; Ephesians 2:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9).**
 1. **“Propitiation” in Romans 3:25 means “a wrath removing sacrifice.”**
 2. **The wrath of God was poured out on Jesus on the Cross on Calvary all of our sins were placed upon Jesus (Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21).**
- B. **Jesus came to deliver or rescue us from the current and coming wrath of God (Matthew 1:21; John 3:14-18, 36; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Timothy 1:15).**
- C. **Today you can be delivered from the current and coming wrath by putting your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ if you have never done so (John 3:16, 36).**
- D. **There is a story of a father and a son trapped in a forest fire. The father started a fire and burned out an area. The father and his son moved into the burned out spot. The father said to his son, “We are now safe because the fire cannot burn where it has already been.” The fire of God’s wrath burn on Jesus on the cross. Those who are in Christ will not experience the current and coming wrath because the fire cannot burn where it has already been (Romans 8:1)...**

