

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28



“The Anger of God”

Lamentations 2:1-10

January 17, 2021

“God’s steady, unrelenting, unremitting, uncompromising antagonism to evil in all its forms and manifestations.”

- John Stott

God's Anger and Wrath

I. Why does anger even exist in God?

- Why does love or holiness or justice or anything exist in God?
- Because these are attributes within the person of God.
- These attributes tell us who God is and what He is like.
- And it is how we come to understand what is right and what is wrong, what is holy, what is just, and what is righteous.
- Anger help us understand all of His attributes.

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II. Anger in God is the result of the necessary reaction within His person when His holiness is violated.

- Sin is a violation of His holiness.
- Sin provokes His wrath into action.
- If there was no sin in the world, there would be no wrath in God.
- God's anger is his settled resolve that evil will not stand.

III. God's anger is not like our anger.

- We may lose our temper or fly into a rage. God does not do that.
- Our anger can often be unpredictable, petty, and disproportionate.
- God does not get tired and irritable, or ever sadistic. We do.
- God's wrath is the just and measured response of his holiness toward sin and evil.

"If we spoke less about God's love and more about His holiness, more about His judgment, we should say much more when we did speak of His love:"

- Emil Brunner

IV. God is slow to anger.

- Why is His anger slow? Why not wipe out sin and evil?
- If God was not graciously slow to manifest this anger fully, no sinner could live for even a second.

כַּאֲעֵי ka`ac

- to be provoked to wrath.

Deut 4:25-28

25 "When you become the father of children and children's children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an **idol** in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of the Lord your God so as to **provoke** Him to anger,

26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed.

27 "The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord drives you.

28 "There you will serve gods, the work of man's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.

1 Kings 16:13

13 for all the sins of Baasha and the sins of Elah his son, which they sinned and which they made Israel sin, **provoking** the Lord God of Israel to anger with their **idols**.

כָּעַס ka`ac - to be provoked to wrath.

אַף `aph - to flare the nostrils in anger. (1,3,6,21)

עָבַרָה `ebrah - to cross the line. (2,21)

זָעַם za`am - indignation. (6)

חֵמָה chemah - full fury and rage. (4)

IV. God is slow to anger.

- Why is His anger slow? Why not wipe out sin and evil?
- If God was not graciously slow to manifest this anger fully, no sinner could live for even a second.
- God is patiently holding open the door of grace for those to come in who will repent and believe.
- The day of God's wrath will come, but God is not in a hurry to bring it because then the door of grace will be closed.
- God however is revealing His wrath to the world by "giving sinners over" to their perversion, lusts, passions, reprobate minds, decadence, greed, envy, strife, deceit, violence and unbelief.

V. God's wrath is being stored up.

- God's Word points us to a day when God will deal with all sin and evil fully, finally, and forever.
- This will be the day of wrath, when God will punish evil and bring to judgment every sin.
- God will do this, exercising perfect justice. The punishment for every sin will match the crime. When the judgment is done, every mouth will be stopped because everyone will know that God judged in righteousness and justice.

John 3:36

36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Eph 2:3

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath,

Rom 2:5

5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

The storing of God's wrath is like a large dam
holding back the waters of judgment
which will one day burst
upon unrepentant sinners.

V. God's wrath is consistent in the Old and New Testaments.

Jer 30:23-24

23 Behold, the tempest of the Lord!

Wrath has gone forth,

A sweeping tempest;

It will burst on the head of the wicked.

24 The fierce anger of the Lord will not turn back

Until He has performed and until He has accomplished

The intent of His heart;

Nahum 1:2

A jealous and avenging God is the Lord;

The Lord is avenging and wrathful.

The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries,

And He reserves wrath for His enemies.

Rom 1:18

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rev 19:15

15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

VI. God removes His anger when one trusts Christ for the forgiveness and removal of their sin.

- The outpouring of God's wrath on Christ was the greatest act of love this world has ever seen.

“A god of less wrath than the God of the Bible
is necessarily a god of less love.
His anger is a product of His love.
If you never ever get angry about anything
you don't love anything. ”

- Tim Keller

“The wisdom of God devised a way for the
love of God
to deliver sinners from the
wrath of God
while not compromising the
righteousness of God.”

- John Piper

Lam 2:1-5

1 How the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion
With a cloud in His anger!
He has cast from heaven to earth
The glory of Israel,
And has not remembered His footstool
In the day of His anger.

2 The Lord has swallowed up; He has not spared
All the habitations of Jacob.
In His wrath He has thrown down
The strongholds of the daughter of Judah;
He has brought them down to the ground;
He has profaned the kingdom and its princes.

3 In fierce anger He has cut off
All the strength of Israel;
He has drawn back His right hand
From before the enemy.
And He has burned in Jacob like a flaming fire
Consuming round about.

1 How the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion

With a cloud in His anger!

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1. God covers Jerusalem with a cloud so that men cannot see Him.
2. God hurls the glory of Israel to earth.
3. God destroys His footstool.
 - In the Ancient Near East, a king would typically be elevated on his throne above all his subjects, with perhaps a platform beneath him to raise him up. It would be improper for his feet to be dangling below, so there was usually a sort of footstool beneath him to rest his feet upon.
 - The mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant became known as God's footstool (1 Chron. 28:2).

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4. God swallows Israel like an earthquake. No one left.
5. God throws Israel down to the earth like a storm.
6. God tears down buildings, pillars, and any fortresses in Jerusalem. In His anger, one after another was destroyed as He walked through the city.
7. God has violated Jerusalem and its rulers.

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Consuming round about.

8. God cut off Israel's food supply and thus Israel's strength.

9. God no longer held the enemy back. At the precise time, the army of Babylon was unleashed upon Jerusalem.

10. God in His anger burned and consumed the city of Jerusalem.

4 He has bent His bow like an enemy;
He has set His right hand like an adversary
And slain all that were pleasant to the eye;
In the tent of the daughter of Zion
He has poured out His wrath like fire.

5 The Lord has become like an enemy.
He has swallowed up Israel;
He has swallowed up all its palaces,
He has destroyed its strongholds
And multiplied in the daughter of Judah
Mourning and moaning.

***4 He has bent His bow like an enemy;
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11. God not only removes His right hand of protection but with His right hand He picks up a bow and arrow and fires it at Jerusalem. All of a sudden God is not fighting ***for*** Israel but ***against*** Israel.

12. God in His wrath destroys the houses of Jerusalem with fire.

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13. God, like an earthquake, swallowed Israel, her palaces, and strongholds. He has destroyed all youth, beauty, and rank.

14. God pours it on - mourning and deep, heavy moaning.

אָנִיָּהּ 'aniyah

תָּאֲנִיָּהּ ta'aniyah

6 And He has violently treated His tabernacle like a garden booth;

He has destroyed His appointed meeting place.

The Lord has caused to be forgotten

The appointed feast and sabbath in Zion,

And He has despised king and priest In the indignation of His anger.

7 The Lord has rejected His altar, He has abandoned His sanctuary; He has delivered into the hand of the enemy The walls of her palaces. They have made a noise in the house of the Lord As in the day of an appointed feast.

8 The Lord determined to destroy The wall of the daughter of Zion. He has stretched out a line, He has not restrained His hand from destroying, And He has caused rampart and wall to lament; They have languished together.

9 Her gates have sunk into the ground, He has destroyed and broken her bars. Her king and her princes are among the nations; The law is no more. Also, her prophets find No vision from the Lord.

10 The elders of the daughter of Zion Sit on the ground, they are silent. They have thrown dust on their heads; They have girded themselves with sackcloth. The virgins of Jerusalem Have bowed their heads to the ground.

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He has destroyed His appointed meeting place.

The Lord has caused to be forgotten

The appointed feast and sabbath in Zion,

And He has despised king and priest

In the indignation of His anger.

15. God violently demolished the tabernacle, the place of assembly, the feasts, the Sabbath, the King, and priests - all have been despised and have fallen under His wrath.

6 And He has violently treated His tabernacle like a garden booth; He has destroyed His appointed meeting place. The Lord has caused to be forgotten the appointed feast and sabbath in Zion, and He has despised king and priest in the indignation of His anger.

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He has delivered into the hand of the enemy
The walls of her palaces.***

***They have made a noise in the house of the Lord
As in the day of an appointed feast.***

16. The Lord has discarded his own altar, despised his own sanctuary, given into enemy hands the palaces of Jerusalem.

17. God has allowed the shouts of praise to be replaced by the shouts of conquest by the enemy.

6 And He has violently treated His tabernacle like a garden booth; He has destroyed His appointed meeting place. The Lord has caused to be forgotten the appointed feast and sabbath in Zion, and He has despised king and priest in the indignation of His anger.

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18. God stretched out a plumb line of judgment and caused the walls of Jerusalem to totter and fall.

6 And He has violently treated His tabernacle like a garden booth; He has destroyed His appointed meeting place. The Lord has caused to be forgotten the appointed feast and sabbath in Zion, and He has despised king and priest in the indignation of His anger.

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19. God caused the gates of Jerusalem to sink into the ground, her bars of restraint to be broken by the enemy, the king and princes to be taken captive, God's Word has disappeared and is no longer taught, and Judah's prophets are given no revelation.

6 And He has violently treated His tabernacle like a garden booth; He has destroyed His appointed meeting place. The Lord has caused to be forgotten The appointed feast and sabbath in Zion, And He has despised king and priest In the indignation of His anger.

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The virgins of Jerusalem

Have bowed their heads to the ground.

20. God's anger has left Judah's elders, in grief, sitting silent on the ground, with dust on their heads and burlap on their lions; while her virgins hang their heads for shame.

“Only those who are aware of
God’s wrath
are amazed by
God’s grace.”