

The Wrath of God: His now wrath, His satisfied wrath, His on-
hold wrath, and His future wrath.

Romans 1:18-32; 1 John 2:1-2

What an opportune time for this lost and dark world to hear some good news. What an opportune time for this lost and dark world to see the light. What an opportune time for this lost and dark world to realize that there will be justice meted out on all of us, not just cops who abuse and murder citizens, but on everyone. That's bad news for some, great news for those who are in the Light, Jesus Christ.

Doesn't all this mess with the riots and destruction and violence breaking out all across the good ol' USA make you so angry you could explode? Well, if it does, know this, you ain't seen nothin' yet. The Bible warns us clearly that times are going to get much worse than what we are witnessing right now in our cities.

Here's what came to my mind while watching the news covering the carnage that we're seeing that began when a racist white cop murdered an unarmed black man in Minneapolis, ⁵ *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

⁶ *The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*

⁷ *The LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them."*

(Gen. 6:5-7 NAU)

Whoa! God was sorry that He made them? Seriously? Yes, that's what the word of God says and that's what I believe. God was genuinely sorry to see how wicked the descendants of Adam and Eve had turned out. And because the earth's population at that time was caught up in doing whatever they felt like doing, God said, "That's enough." But what I want us to take away from those verses is that the word says God was grieved in His heart.

Our God was grieved in His heart. That's another eye-opener in this passage, the first being that God was sorry. For those who have felt

that God was detached from emotions that we experience, know this, He isn't. But for God to be sorry and grieved in His heart means that all that God is, love and mercy and holy and righteous and just, was grieved at the wickedness of His creatures. God was grieved not only because He is so other than His wicked creatures but also because He now had to rid Himself of these wicked and vile people. It had come to that. We haven't a clue as to what was going on with these people. We just know that it was so bad that God wouldn't put up with it. It gave God no sadistic kind of pleasure whatsoever. It came down to God having to reluctantly decide to kill the whole bunch, except for 8. And later we'll see that God wasn't through with these reprobates after He wiped the earth clean of them (¹⁸ *For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,* ¹⁹ *in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,*

²⁰ *who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.*

(*1 Pet. 3:18-20 NAU*) This was a one-time event, never repeated again. So don't believe it when ministers say all will get a "second chance" after they die. The word of God says otherwise. ²⁷ *And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,* (*Heb. 9:27 NAU*)

God's justice and love and holiness cannot overlook the utter and willfulness and sinfulness of fallen and rebellious man. And that's why God couldn't be satisfied by merely dismissing man's wickedness, but had to have His wrath satisfied by a Man standing in the place of all men, taking God's wrath upon Himself for them.

The unbelieving world has somehow gotten the idea that the Creator of all that is, is constantly angry. And it's no mystery how they got that idea. Thousands of pastors/preachers/evangelists and your everyday Christians have sent that message to the world. We preach a twisted kind of gospel, "good news," that tells 'em "God is going to zap

you if you don't believe in Jesus right now." The Biblical truth is God is not as much angry as He is grieved. He doesn't live in a perpetual state of grief but His grief and His wrath have both been assuaged by the blood of His Son. We can, however, grieve the Spirit by our behavior (Eph. 4:30).

To be sure God gets angry with the wickedness and cruelty of His fallen creatures like those we have been seeing after the murder of George Floyd by a police officer. But for all of humanity God has extended His hand of mercy and grace and love in the Person of His Son, Jesus of Nazareth. And because of the finished work of redemption and forgiveness and reconciliation that Christ brought to this corrupt world through His life, suffering, death, resurrection and ascension, God's anger and wrath are more or less on hold. But there's more.

There are four expressions of God's wrath, His now wrath, His satisfiend wrath, His on-hold wrath, and His future wrath.

So, first, lets look at **God's now wrath.**

Every time one of our American cities sponsors and promotes a gay pride parade featuring men and women doing things too vile to show on a news report, they are fleshing out the results of God pouring out His wrath on them.

¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed, (or, "is being revealed") from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,*

¹⁹ *because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.*

(Rom. 1:18-19 NAU)

And this, ²⁶ *For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,*

²⁷ *and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men*

committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. (Rom. 1:26-27 NAU)

And lest one think that God's wrath is being revealed even as we speak just on homosexuals, listen to the rest of Romans chapter one.

²⁸ *And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,*

²⁹ *being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,*

³⁰ *slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,*

³¹ *without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;*

(Rom. 1:28-31 NAU)

Now that could fit billions of lost souls on planet earth. That is God's now wrath.

Second, God's satisfied wrath.

You remember when the Lord Jesus said from the cross, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani. "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" That was Jesus taking on the sins of the world and the wrath of His Father on our behalf. And then He said, "It is finished." Beloved, that means the entire work of redeeming and reconciling the world to God was finished. It meant that the justice and demands of God for a Man to pay for the sins of the world were satisfied by the death of Christ. It meant that Jesus' work on our behalf was finished and all our sins are forgiven. **1 John 2:1** *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins ("should sin," and who doesn't? 1:6-10), we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;*

² *and **He Himself** is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. (1 Jn. 2:1-2 NAU)*

Your version of the Scripture might have “expiation” instead of propitiation, if it does know that propitiation is the correct word because it deals with the wrath of God being absolutely satisfied by the sacrifice of His Son. And God’s wrath toward the world is satisfied for the time being, which explains why God hasn’t come back yet and destroyed the earth. Which brings me to my next observation:

Third, God’s on-hold wrath.

I like that. God’s final wrath is on hold. It’s kind of annoying when I call some office and while we’re talking they ask me to hold one second. Right. Like it’s going to be one second. And what I really dislike is those annoying robocalls where the robot has the nerve to ask me to hold as soon as I answer. “Will you hold for one minute?” “No, I will not hold for one minute.” Click. Hmmmmmmmmm.

Getting back to the criminals who have destroyed so many businesses all under the guise of protesting the death of George Floyd when all they saw was an opportunity to loot and get stuff for free. I must admit I don’t have warm fuzzy feelings toward them. I was pretty much in a controlled-burn situation myself. But God even puts up with all that. But how can He? His wrath against the wicked has been satisfied and it’s temporarily on hold.

² *and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. (1 Jn. 2:1-2 NAU)*

Do you see the two groups of people in that verse? There’s those who are in Christ, John’s puts it “for our sins.” Then there’s the group that isn’t, “and not for ours only, but also for **those of the whole world.**”

If God were not at this present time withholding His wrath, we might have witnessed Him pouring out His wrath on all those thugs pillaging and plundering and burning and looting places that employed some hard working American citizens. But their day is coming, except they repent. And if God were not at the present time withholding His wrath, we would have witnessed Him pouring it out on ISIS and Al Qaeda and a dozen other Muslim terrorists groups. If God were not at

this present time withholding His wrath we would have seen Him pouring it out on liars like Kenneth and Gloria Copeland and Creflo Dollar and Jesse Duplantis and the Roman Catholic Church and Mormons and JW's and Scientologists. If God were not at the present time withholding His wrath, we would have witnessed Him pouring it out on the multitudes of men and women who pervert the gospel of Jesus Christ every week from the thousands of pulpits around our little planet.

And finally, God's future wrath.

There will come the Day of Judgment and the Day of Wrath when the time is fulfilled and Christ returns to bring all things to an end. But until that Day, the unbelieving and corrupt world has the on-going chance at salvation from the wrath to come. *God our Savior,*
⁴ *who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:3-4 NAU)*

⁷ *But when he, John the Baptist, saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? (Matt. 3:7 NAU)*

⁶ *For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, (Col. 3:6 NAU)*

Except for those whom God has given over to begin their sentence of eternal separation from Him now and those who simply will never come to Him through Jesus, no one is beyond salvation. And make no mistake about it, all who die without Christ will face eternal damnation. That is the judgment for them after they die. That is their appointed end. Apart from Christ there is nothing but judgment and wrath.

But for we who are in Christ by the grace of God, we *wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come. (1 Thess. 1:10 NAU)* Are you one who has been rescued? Today is a good day to be rescued. Call on His

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name and He promises to rescue you. Call on His name to save you from your sins and from the wrath to come.

In Jesus' name. Amen.