

THE WRATH OF GOD AND HIS JUDGMENTS

Those in the world today who believe there is a God can have vastly different understandings or perceptions of God's nature. Looming large in beliefs about God are two aspects of God's nature that are at polar opposite ends of the spectrum, **wrath** and **love**. Though the understanding of most likely falls in between the two, these are the defining aspects that seem challenging to reconcile. This article focuses on God's **wrath** and **judgments**, but first some thoughts about the **love** of God.

The Love of God

The apostle Paul said, "If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (**Romans 10:9-10**). This is what Jesus referred to as being born again (**John 3:3**). Jesus also made it clear that there is no other way to access the God of the universe except through him (**John 14:6**). Born again believers in Jesus Christ have planted within them the very Spirit of the living God and receive a portion of the aspect of God's nature they are called to live out, **God's overwhelming love**.

Having received God's love, they are redeemed from sin, God remembers their sins no more (**Jeremiah 31:31-34**), their names are written in the Book of Life (**Exodus 32:31-33; Psalm 69:28; Revelation 20:11-15**) and they will live in the *love of God* for eternity. **NOTHING** can separate them from God's love (**Romans 8:31-39**). This aspect of God's nature, **LOVE**, is the one you must seek and embrace if you want to live forever in God's presence. Otherwise, you will face the wrath of God at the final judgment.

The Nature of God

Love is certainly the central attribute of God's nature and the one that can touch and redeem human lives. But the amazing God of the universe is much more complex. There are many attributes to God's nature. God is also:

Holy – without sin, pure, spotless, transcendent (**Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8**).

Omnipotent – all powerful. God's mighty power is declared throughout scripture. Job spoke of it (**Job 42:1-2**).

Omniscient – all knowing (**Job 37:15-16; Psalm 139:2-3; Hebrews 4:12-13**).
God knows everything in history – past, present, and future.
God knows your every thought and future action before it occurs.

Immutable – unchangeable, not flippant like human nature (**Psalm 119:89-90; Hebrews 6:17-18**).

Wrathful – vengeance and punishment for those who are enemies of God
(**Nahum 1:2-3; Hebrews 10:31**).

This is a short list of the attributes of God's nature; there are others. Let's talk about the one that looms largest in the understanding of many in this world – the **wrath** of God.

The Wrath of God

Wrath is defined as *response to wrong or injustice, real or perceived, usually carried out with anger or indignation*. Humans dole out wrath just as God does, but there's a big difference between God's wrath and ours. Human wrath is often *rage*, expressed after pent up emotion and frustration, that explodes on others, frequently unjustified. God's wrath is not like that. God's wrath is holy, measured, and always justified.

The wrath of God recorded in scripture is always a divine response to sin, disobedience, and rejection of God by created beings. Angels, long in existence before humans, experienced the wrath of God when they rebelled against their Creator. Satan and countless rebellious angels, will receive God's wrath in the future and are, "**tormented day and night for ever and ever**" (**Revelation 20:7-10**).

Humans have received God's wrath in the past due to disobedience, rebellion, and other sins. The Old Testament documents most of these instances:

Curse on Adam and Eve, and their ejection from the Garden of Eden (**Genesis 3**),
The flood of the entire earth, saving only Noah and his family (**Genesis 6-9**),
Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah for their sins (**Genesis 19**),
Plagues on Egypt and death of the Egyptian Army in the Red Sea (**Exodus 6-14**),
Earth swallowing 250 Israelites who opposed Moses, God's servant (**Numbers 16**),
24,000 Israelites died for sexual relations with the Moabites (**Numbers 25**),
Exile and loss to history of the 10 northern tribes of Israel (**2 Kings 17**),
Exile of the remaining tribes of Israel to Babylon (**2 Kings 25**).

The New Testament also speaks to God's wrath. One notable instance is in the book of Acts when Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead in their deception to God and their fellow believers (**Acts 5:1-11**). Unrepentant, rebellious humans will also receive God's wrath in the future at what is known as the Great White Throne Judgment (**Revelation 20:11-15**).

Here is why God exerts His might in wrath. God is holy and pure. Sin and sinfulness (our unrighteousness) cannot abide in the same realm with God's holiness and purity. And because God is sovereign and can send wrath on anyone in creation at any time, God did just that as documented above.

The wrath of God is a terrible thing. It is mightier than the most explosive power devised by humans. It is more powerful than atomic weaponry. It is hard for us to comprehend it in its fullness. But it is real, and we do not want to incur God's wrath. The Bible states it this way, **"It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God"** (**Hebrews 10:31**).

We don't hear much about the wrath of God anymore, even from the pulpit. The wrath of God has been watered down and neglected so much, that people give it little thought. **But they should.** The prophet Nahum spoke about God's wrath, **"The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The Lord takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies. The Lord is slow to anger and great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished"** (**Nahum 1:2-3b, NIV, emphasis added**). God's wrath is his love in action against sin. The apostle John says it this way – **"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on Him"** (**John 3:36**).

Judgments of God

All of the enemies of God – those who have refused to acknowledge Him, those who have denied Him, those who have sinned against Him and the creation, and those who have rebelled against Him, will ultimately be judged by God. Some already have as noted in previously cited passages of scripture. But, in the future, *everyone* who is still an enemy of God will be judged at the event the Bible calls the Great White Throne Judgment:

"Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another

book was opened, which is the **book of life**. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. **If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:11-15).**

In the final judgement recorded in Revelation, only those whose names were not written in the Book of Life experience the wrath of God. Jesus said the same thing in a slightly different way, **"then they (who did not do the will of God, living in sin and rebellion) will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life" (Matthew 25:46, (emphasis added)).**

The most important question to ask yourself is this – **am I foe or enemy of God who has rejected God and His plans for the created world?** Only if you are will you experience God's wrath. The good news is that God has made a way through Jesus, so that you never to have to worry about His wrath again!

Saved From the Wrath of God

Just like God spared the Israelites in Egypt from the plague of death by blood covering the doorposts of their homes (**Exodus 12:1-30**), born again believers in Jesus Christ who are covered by the blood shed by Jesus on the cross of Calvary will be spared from the wrath of God now and in the future. The apostle Paul said it this way, **"Since we have now been justified by His (Jesus') blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him" (Romans 5:9, (emphasis added)).**

God's wrath was satisfied by the death of Jesus on the Cross. Jesus took all the pain, suffering, and agony at his crucifixion that should have been ours. God did this because of He is love and has shared it generously with the creation. **"God is love. Whoever lives in love – lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us, so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear – because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:16b-18, emphasis added).**

The apostle Paul provided the most reassuring words about God's love – **"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all**

day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” **NO**, in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us from the LOVE OF GOD that is in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (Romans 8:35-39 **(EMPHASIS ADDED)**).

Closing Thoughts

God wants you to be one of His redeemed children. God wants you to honor, glorify, and worship Him. God wants your respect, obedience, and reverence, not fear. If you are still fearful about the wrath of God it may be that you are not yet perfected in love and, quite possibly, not born again. God wants you to be sure of your salvation and His love in which you can walk for all eternity.

This is an introduction on the subject of **The Wrath of God and His Judgments**. Here are some other resources you may wish to explore:

Written Works

Knowing God, J. I. Packer, pp. 75-178 (especially chapters 12-17)

The Wrath of a Loving God, John of Taize

Wrath of God Satisfied?, Tom Stuckey

Websites

[What are the most important things to understand about the nature of God? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[What are some of the key things to know about the nature of God? \(compellingtruth.org\)](#)

[15 Bible verses about Nature Of God \(knowing-jesus.com\)](#)

[4. The Nature of God | Bible.org](#)

[What is the biblical understanding of the wrath of God? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[What is the wrath of God? What is the biblical meaning of the wrath of God? \(compellingtruth.org\)](http://compellingtruth.org)

[7. The Wrath of God | Bible.org](http://Bible.org)

[John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever rejects the Son will not see life. Instead, the wrath of God remains on him." \(biblehub.com\)](http://biblehub.com)

[What Does the Bible Say About Wrath Of God? \(openbible.info\)](http://openbible.info)

[15 Times God Unleashed His Wrath in the Bible \(alot.com\)](http://alot.com)

[Is America Experiencing the Wrath of God? - Dr. Roger Barrier \(crosswalk.com\)](http://crosswalk.com)
[Five Truths About the Wrath of God | Desiring God](#)

[The 7 Judgments of God | Biblical Christianity \(biblical-christianity.com\)](http://biblical-christianity.com)

[What are all the different judgments in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)