

## God – The Wrath of God I Thes. 1:9-10

Thesis: To help us better understand what causes the wrath of God and the destruction that comes from it.

### Introduction:

- A. Most people know that God is a very loving, merciful God.
  - 1. They know that God cares for His people.
  - 2. They know the home in heaven that He wants to give to everyone.
  
- B. However, many of these same people do not believe in the God.
  - 1. They say that God, because of His love for us, could not destroy us or send us to hell for an eternity.
  - 2. However, the Bible tells a different story.
  - 3. While God does love us, we need to be aware of the wrath of God that comes upon those who disobey Him.

### I. The wrath of God is always associated with disobedience and destruction.

- A. The wrath of God was against Egypt because of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart.
  - 1. On numerous occasions, Moses told Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go.
  - 2. On each occasion, Pharaoh refused.
  - 3. This refusal brought the wrath of God upon Egypt in the form of the ten plagues.
  - 4. The final show of God's wrath came at the Red Sea
    - a. **Ex. 15:1-10** - Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea! {2} The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; he is my God, and I will praise Him; my father's God, and I will exalt Him. {3} The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is His name. {4} Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. {5} The depths have covered them; they sank to the bottom like a stone.
    - b. **Ex. 6-10** - Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces. {7} And in the greatness of Your excellence you have overthrown those who rose against You; you sent forth Your wrath; it consumed them like stubble. {8} And with the blast of Your nostrils the waters were gathered together; the floods stood upright like a heap; the depths congealed in the heart of the sea. {9} The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide

the spoil; my desire shall be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.' {10} You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

**B. The wrath of God was upon Israel when they disobeyed Him in the wilderness.**

1. The Golden Calf (Ex. 32)
  - a. Moses spent forty days and night on Mt. Sinai.
  - b. While there, Israel asked Aaron to make an idol for them that would lead them.
  - c. Aaron creates this golden calf from the gold that the people had given him.
  - d. Notice God's wrath.
    - 1) Ex. 32:7-10 - And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. {8} They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" {9} And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! {10} Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."
  - e. It was only because Moses pleaded with the Lord that He did not consume them.
  - f. God's wrath was kindled against them because of their disobedience to Him.
2. The Rebellion of Korah (Num. 16:41-50)
  - a. Korah and 250 leaders of the congregation rebelled against Moses and tried to take over the leadership of Israel.
  - b. God destroyed Korah and these men by causing the ground to open up and devour them, showing that Moses was His chosen leader.
  - c. After this occurred, the people began to complain against Moses and God because these men were killed.
  - d. Notice the wrath of God.
    - 1) Num. 16:44-46 - And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, {45} "Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment." And they fell on their faces. {46} So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a censer and put fire in it from the altar, put incense on it, and take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the LORD. The plague has begun."
  - e. Because of Moses and Aaron, only 14,700 people died (16:49).

- f. Again, it was Israel's disobedience that caused the wrath of God to come upon them.
- 3. Idolatry with Moab (Num. 25).
  - a. Israel has committed harlotry with the women of Moab (25:1).
  - b. They also began to worship the god of Moab, Baal (25:2-3).
  - c. Because of their disobedience, God's wrath was poured out on Israel.
    - 1) Num. 25:4-5 - Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the LORD, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel." {5} So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor."
  - d. It was only when Phinehas, the son of Aaron, killed an Israelite man and a Moabite woman that the plague stopped.
    - 1) Num. 25:10-11 - Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: {11} "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal."
  - e. Because of their disobedience, 24,000 Israelites died (25:9).
- 4. God's wrath came upon Israel because of their disobedience to Him.
  - a. Israel was to use God's wrath as a reminder to be faithful to Him (Deut. 9).
    - 1) This entire chapter is a reminder of the rebellion of Israel.
    - 2) Moses wants them to use their rebellion as a reminder to remain faithful to God.
  - b. Moses also tells Israel to use the wrath of God to teach their children to be faithful to God (Deut. 29:23-29).

### C. The wrath of God was upon Israel and Judah after they came into the land of Canaan.

- 1. II Kgs. 23:26-27 - Nevertheless the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him. {27} And the LORD said, "I will also remove Judah from My sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, 'My name shall be there.'"
- 2. II Chr. 24:17-22
  - a. Joash, king of Judah, served idols instead of God.
  - b. Because of this, the wrath of God was aroused against Judah.
  - c. II Chr. 24:17-22 - Now after the death of Jehoiada the leaders of Judah came and bowed down to the king. And the king listened to them. {18} Therefore they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served wooden images and idols; and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem because of their trespass. {19}

Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the LORD; and they testified against them, but they would not listen. {20} Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, “Thus says God: ‘Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you.’” {21} So they conspired against him, and at the commandment of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the LORD. {22} Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but killed his son; and as he died, he said, “The LORD look on it, and repay!”

3. **II Chr. 36:15-21**

- a. Judah is finally taken into the Babylonian Captivity because of their unfaithfulness to God.
- b. Truly, this is the saddest time in the history of the nation of Israel.
- c. **II Chr. 36:15-21** - And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. {16} But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, **until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people**, till there was no remedy. {17} Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand. {18} And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon. {19} Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions. {20} And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, {21} to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

4. The wrath of God came upon Israel because of their unfaithfulness.

**D. The wrath of God always begins with disobedience and ends with destruction.**

1. God has never punished the innocent with His wrath.
2. His wrath is reserved for the guilty.
3. This does not mean that bad things never happen to the innocent, but it is not God’s wrath that is against them.

## II. There will come a time when the wrath of God will come upon any who are disobedient today.

### A. Today, the wrath of God is reserved for those who are disobedient.

1. **I Thes. 1:9-10** - For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, {10} and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
2. **Rom. 1:18-19** - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, {19} because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.
3. Twice, God says that His wrath comes upon the sons of disobedience.
  - a. **Eph. 5:6** - Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
  - b. **Col. 3:6-7** - Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, {7} in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.
4. God does not punish us in the same manner today as He did in the Bible.
  - a. God's wrath will be one of eternal destruction.
  - b. However, there will come a time when God's wrath will be revealed.

### B. The wrath of God will be revealed when Christ is revealed.

1. **Rom. 2:5-10** - But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, {6} who "will render to each one according to his deeds": {7} eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; {8} but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness-- indignation and wrath, {9} tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; {10} but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
2. **II Thes. 1:6-10** - since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, {7} and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, {8} in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. {9} These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, {10} when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

C. The wrath of God always begins with disobedience and ends with destruction.

**Conclusion:**

- A. The great news is that we can be saved from the wrath to come.
  - 1. Rom. 5:8-9 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. {9} Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
  - 2. Because Christ died on the cross, we have the hope of living with Him for an eternity.
  
- B. God does not want to pour His wrath out on us; and because of that, He gives us an opportunity to be saved.