May 1, 2023

 **Blessing to all and your love ones. I hope this letter fines you in good health and spirit. This month BSL is on a topic some of us oversee it meaning as we read scripture. I’m speaking about the “Wrath of God”. Why did God imposed wraths upon the people then and also in the future? These questions are answered as you read these two short articles. I also listed where in scripture they may be found.**

Your Brother in Christ, Tony Gonzalez

**1 Peter 3:15**

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

**Understanding of the Wrath of God**

**Bible Scripture Letter #37**

*Wrath* is defined as “the emotional response to perceived wrong and injustice,” often translated as “anger,” “indignation,” “vexation,” or “irritation.” Both humans and God express wrath. But there is vast difference between the wrath of God and the wrath of man. God’s wrath is holy and always justified; man’s is never holy and rarely justified.

 In the Old Testament, the wrath of God is a divine response to human sin and disobedience. Idolatry was most often the occasion for divine wrath. [Psalm 78:56-66](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ps%2078.56-66) describes Israel’s idolatry. The wrath of God is consistently directed towards those who do not follow His will ([Deuteronomy 1:26-46](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut%201.26-46); [Joshua 7:1](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Josh%207.1); [Psalm 2:1-6](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ps%202.1-6)). The Old Testament prophets often wrote of a day in the future, the "day of wrath" - [**Zephaniah 1:14-15**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Zeph%201.14-15).

* **14** The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.
* **15** A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

God’s wrath against sin and disobedience is perfectly justified because His plan for mankind is holy and perfect, just as God Himself is holy and perfect. God provided a way to gain divine favor—repentance—which turns God’s wrath away from the sinner. To reject that perfect plan is to reject God’s love, mercy, grace and favor and incur His righteous wrath.

 The New Testament also supports the concept of God as a God of wrath who judges sin. The story of the rich man and Lazarus speaks of the judgment of God and serious consequences for the unrepentant sinner ([Luke 16:19–31](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2016.19%E2%80%9331)). [John 3:36](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%203.36) says, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.” The one who believes in the Son will not suffer God’s wrath for his sin, because the Son took God’s wrath upon Himself when He died in our place on the cross ([Romans 5:6–11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%205.6%E2%80%9311)). Those who do not believe in the Son, who do not receive Him as Savior, will be judged on the day of wrath - [**Romans 2:5–6**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%202.5%E2%80%936)**.**

* **5** But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.
* **6** He will render to each one according to his works:

 Conversely, human wrath is warned against in[**Romans 12:19**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%2012.19)**,**[**Ephesians 4:26**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph%204.26)**, and**[**Colossians 3:8-10**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Col%203.8-10).

**Romans 12:19**

* **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

**Ephesians 4:26**

* **26** Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

**Colossians 3: 8 - 10**

* **8**But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.
* **9** Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices
* **10**and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

God alone is able to avenge because His vengeance is perfect and holy, whereas man’s wrath is sinful, opening him up to demonic influence. For the Christian, anger and wrath are inconsistent with our new nature, which is the nature of Christ Himself ([2 Corinthians 5:17](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor%205.17)). To realize freedom from the domination of wrath, the believer needs the Holy Spirit to sanctify and cleanse his heart of feelings of wrath and anger. [Romans 8](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%208) shows victory over sin in the life of one who is living in the Spirit ([Romans 8:5-8](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%208.5-8)). [Philippians 4:4-7](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Phil%204.4-7) tells us that the mind controlled by the Spirit is filled with peace.

 The wrath of God is a fearsome and terrifying thing. Only those who have been covered by the blood of Christ, shed for us on the cross, can be assured that God’s wrath will never fall on them. “Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through Him!” ([Romans 5:9](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%205.9)).

*Source:* https://www.gotquestions.org/wrath-of-God.html

*I have included another article on the topic of “What and Who” is of God’s Wrath.*

## **What Is Wrath?**

There are a number of words in both the Old and New Testaments that are translated as wrath. These words are also frequently translated as anger. Most generally they refer to God’s response to human disobedience. But the words are also used in relation to a negative human response to other people. *There is really no good way to soften* **“the wrath of God”** *to mean anything other than an angry response on God’s part to human disobedience.*

## **What Is God's Wrath?**

In [**Romans 2:1-17**](http://www.christianity.com/bible/search/?ver=niv&q=romans+2%3a1-17), Paul talks about the *wrath and judgment of God that will come to those who have rejected the truth and followed evil.*

[**Romans 2:5**](http://www.christianity.com/bible/search/?ver=niv&q=romans+2:5) offers a good perspective on just what God’s wrath is, *“But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath when his righteous judgment will be revealed.”*

God’s wrath is not angry retribution against those who have offended God. Rather it is his righteous judgment against those who do evil. God is righteous. And *he will judge us according to His righteous standard.*

## **Who Will Experience His Wrath?**

Throughout the Scriptures, *God’s wrath is reserved for those who are in rebellion against him*. But *wrath is never the experience of those who are responsive to his call.* Believers may, and do, experience discipline from the hand of God. But that discipline is intended to help us to grow and mature in the faith, and in relationship to God. *Wrath though is the final judgment against all those who are accounted as God’s enemies, those who have turned their faces away from God.*

*Source:* https://www.christianity.com/wiki/god/what-is-the-biblical-understanding-of-the-wrath-of-god.html

**The following are the Wrath of God verses found in the bible**

[**Psalms 7:11**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-7-11/)

* **11** God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.

[**Psalms 75:8**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-75-8/)

* **8**  For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed,
and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.

[**Isaiah 26:21**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-26-21/)

* **21** For behold, the Lord is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain.

[**Ezekiel 25:17**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ezekiel-25-17/)

* **17**  I will execute great vengeance on them with wrathful rebukes. Then they will know that I am the Lord, when I lay my vengeance upon them.”

[**Nahum 1:2-6**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Nahum-1-2_1-6/)

* **2** The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful;
the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.
* **3** The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty.
His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.
* **4** He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; he dries up all the rivers;
Bashan and Carmel wither; the bloom of Lebanon withers.
* **5**  The mountains quake before him; the hills melt;
the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it.
* **6** Who can stand before his indignation?
    Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire,
    and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

[**Matthew 7:13-14**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-7-13_7-14/)

* **13** “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easythat leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.
* **14** For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

[**Matthew 10:28**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-10-28/)

* **28**  And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

[**Luke 12:5**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Luke-12-5/)

* **5** But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

[**John 3:36**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-3-36/)

* **36** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

[**John 15:6**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-15-6/)

* **6** If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

[**Romans 1:18**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-1-18/)

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

[**Romans 6:23**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-6-23/)

* **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[**Romans 12:17-21**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-12-17_12-21/)

* **17** Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.
* **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
* **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”
* **20**  To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”
* **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

[**Galatians 5:19-21**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Galatians-5-19_5-21/)

* **19** Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,
* **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,
* **21** envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

[**Hebrews 9:22**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Hebrews-9-22/)

* **22** Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

[**Hebrews 10:26-31**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Hebrews-10-26_10-31/)

* **26** For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,
* **27** but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.
* **28** Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.
* **29** How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?
* **30** For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.”
* **31** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

[**2 Peter 2:9**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Peter-2-9/)

* **9** then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

[**Revelation 19:11-21**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Revelation-19-11_19-21/)

* **19** And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.
* **20** And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.
* **21** And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

[**Revelation 20:15**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Revelation-20-15/)

* 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

*Source:* https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Wrath-Of-God/