

February 15, 2025

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

"Bible Answers to Honest Questions" #2

Honest Question: The Bible portrays God as a God of love, but it also speaks in a number of places of God's wrath. How can God be both a God of love and a God of wrath? Seems like a mutually exclusive portrayal of the character of God.

Bible Answer*: You're right about the fact that in the Bible God is described as a God of unfathomable love and yet at the same time a God of wrath. But these two attributes of God **are not** mutually exclusive. First let's look at two texts which describe both attributes of the character of God:

God's Love: John 3:16 — "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

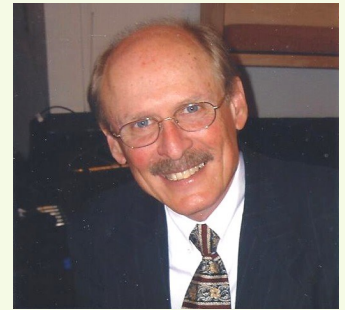
God's Wrath: Romans 1:18 — "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness."

Comment: One week from today, February 22, will be the one year anniversary of Laken Riley's horrific murder in Athens, Georgia — murdered by an illegal migrant, Jose Ibarra. You can read the entire story at: <https://search.app/UmqWNQNsP4pNMC8L6>.

If I were Laken's dad, I would not be satisfied with Ibarra's sentence of "life without the possibility of parole." Justice would not be served by any sort of life sentence if I were Laken's dad. Only torture, like he inflicted on Laken, and death would be justice for me. My undying love for my daughter, Laken, would have engendered an unsatiable rage toward her brutal killer!

Yet our love for those dearest to us can never compare with God's undying love for His children! His great love for us is demonstrated by the unthinkable price the Father paid in giving us His Son, and the unimaginable suffering of Jesus, first in Gethsemane and then on Calvary where His life was crushed out in one moment as the horrendous weight of our sin and guilt was placed upon Him — all that we might have eternal life in a place free from sin and death! We can only faintly fathom what God went through to save us!

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Pastor Darrell Chilson

"We are living in the season of Christ's return."

Jesus said, "Watch and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The mission of West Valley Ministries is to help Christ's followers recognize the signs of His approaching return and be prepared for that Great Day.



Our Instructor, Jessica Lindsey

John 16:16-33 NIV

The Disciples' Grief Will Turn to Joy

16 Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

17 At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?"

18 They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

19 Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?"

20 Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.

21 A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.

22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

25 "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father.

26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf.

27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."


29 Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. \

30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

31 "Do you now believe?" Jesus replied.

32 "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."



Likewise, we can only faintly imagine in our limited capacity the wrath of God toward those who not only reject His Son but torture, persecute, and murder His precious children. God's immeasurable wrath toward those who have and will "hurt" the children He so desperately loves is a wonderful thing! His great wrath is a function of His great love — not an oxymoron, not a dichotomy that wrongly suggests that God's love is inconsistent with His wrath toward evil. (See Zechariah 2:8, 9; 2 Thessalonians 1:6).

Throughout the ages, evil has seemed to triumph over good — evildoers over the followers of Christ. The blood of martyrs, burned at the stake, crucified on crosses, thrown to lions, and tortured and killed by merciless men, instruments of the Devil — their blood cries out, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on earth?" (Revelation 6:10). I thank God for the promise of Romans 12:19, "'Vengeance is mine, I will repay', says the Lord.'" That promise and the reality that God will finally avenge His own is what enables me to "let go" of my insatiable anger toward those who hurt those I love — of those who violate children, imprison innocent people for political revenge, rape and murder for sexual pleasure, and plunder our nation for personal profit! I can deal with the present condition in our world because I know that in the end, God is going to judge, condemn, and destroy those individuals with a justice beyond compare to anything I might wish to see done in my passion for justice to be served against evil and evildoers.

One Final Thought: If you have never experienced the agony resulting from the actions of evildoers, you will not understand the peace that comes in knowing that God is a God of love **and** a God of justice. His justice does not preclude but only proves His love for His creatures. There are some who want to believe that eternal life in heaven will be extended to all humanity — universal salvation for all, but can you imagine what heaven would be like if those who have sold out to evil were allowed to live among those who have come to love God and righteousness here on earth? It would not be heaven for us, nor would the wicked be happy there! Those same people who believe in universal salvation sometimes also feel that "we must love everybody" just because Jesus told us to love our enemies. But love does not enjoin the believer to associate with wicked people and embrace the idea of mercy and forgiveness to all. Love for our enemies simply seeks the salvation of all, and forgiveness the willingness to allow God to ultimately do the punishing. Even Paul said regarding those who were blatantly immoral within the church, "Do not keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner — **not even to eat with such a person....** Those who are outside **[unbelievers] God judges. [But] put away from among yourselves that wicked person."** 1 Corinthians 5:11, 13.

Please send your questions to Pastor@wvetm.com and I will address them in our newsletter — or privately if you wish.

*** IMPORTANT NOTE:** The Bible is the inspired Word of God and must be the only rule of faith and practice for any truth loving person. Any serious question about God, life, death, eternity, or personal doubts can only be answered or resolved by the Book that God has given us to reveal to humanity the truth about Himself and about us, His creation. Anything of this nature that can't be answered from the Bible is either unimportant or a decoy of the Devil to shake our faith in God. So on that basis alone must I answer "honest questions".



“REVELATION IN REVIEW” — Part 13

Revelation 15 and 16

Revelation 15 represents the beginning of the end of the story of the war between Christ and Satan which began in heaven before the creation of the world. The end of all things is now in view as God pours out His final judgments upon evil and the evildoers who have acted out the “playbook” of the Devil against the people of God. In the very first verse of this chapter, the Seven Last Plagues are introduced — judgments of God’s wrath upon those who have scorned, persecuted and martyred the followers of Christ. The account of this final wave of judgments is prefaced with the words, “In them [the seven last plagues] the wrath of God is complete.” The first verse “bookends” the beginning of this series of events:

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. Revelation 15:1.

The second verse “bookends” the end of this series of judgments, taking the reader to the victorious heavenly setting where those who have been faithful in their allegiance to God are honored before the saved and the hosts of heaven:

And I saw [something] like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark [and] over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. Revelation 15:2.


In verses three and four, the victorious saints sing “the song of Moses and the Lamb” (see Exodus 15:1-21) — a song of praise to God for His faithfulness and justice:

They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous [are] Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true [are] Your ways, O King of the saints! 4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For [You] alone [are] holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested." Revelation 15:3, 4.

The next few verses describe the dramatic preparation of heaven for the execution of God’s judgments upon “the earth” — upon those who have worshipped the beast and bear his mark of allegiance in their hand or forehead, those who have sought to destroy the people of God in the previous three years of the Great Tribulation.

What follows in Chapter 16 is an end time repeat of the plagues God brought upon Egypt as a result of Pharaoh’s refusal to let Israel go to their promised land. The parallels of these two stories, separated by 3,500 years, are fascinating! Note some of the similarities:

- 1) In Exodus, literal Israel, God’s chosen people, are held in bondage to the evil kingdom of Egypt [represented by the first of the seven heads of the Dragon in Revelation 12:3]. In Revelation, spiritual Israel, the Church of the last days, God’s chosen people, are held in contempt by the evil kingdom of the Papacy [represented by the seventh of the seven heads of the Dragon in Revelation 12:3].

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- 2) In Exodus, Israel is on their way to earthly Canaan. In Revelation, Israel is on their way to their heavenly Canaan.
 - 3) In Exodus, God poured 10 plagues upon Egypt in judgment upon those who were holding Israel in captivity against the command of God to let His people go to **worship** Him — to move toward Canaan. In Revelation, God pours 7 plagues upon the kingdom of evil in judgment upon those who are persecuting Christ's followers for their **worship** and allegiance to Him.

The Plagues of Egypt:

- 1) Fresh water turns to blood**
- 2) Frogs cover the land
- 3) Lice cover man and beast
- 4) Swarms of flies cover Egypt
- 5) Pestilence brings death of livestock
- 6) Boils break out on man and beast**
- 7) Destructive hail falls upon the land**
- 8) Locusts fill the land and eat all vegetation
- 9) Darkness completely obliterates the light**
- 10) Death of all firstborn — Pharaoh's power is broken**

The Plagues of Revelation:

- 1) Loathsome sores**
- 2) Sea turns to blood — every creature dies
- 3) Fresh water turns to blood — God's answer to the blood of martyrs**
- 4) Sun scorches with great heat
- 5) Complete darkness on throne of the Beast**
- 6) The River Euphrates dries up [the power of Babylon is broken] to prepare the way for the coming of Christ — demons gather nations to Armageddon**
- 7) A great earthquake — every island and mountain disappears — and hail weighing a hundred pounds falls upon the land**

"Noises/Voices and Thunderings and Lightnings and an Earthquake" —

Revelation 4:5; 8:5; 11:19; 16:18:

A very important key to understanding a principle of prophetic interpretation is illustrated in the repetition of a phrase at the end of the messages to the Seven Churches, the end of the Seven Seals, the end of the Seven Trumpets, and now at the end of the Seven Plagues. Each series ends with the same language, "And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake..." Revelation 16:18. This principle, introduced in a previous study, is that all four sets of "Seven" begin at different times and in sequence of each other, the Churches beginning in the First Century and the other Sevens in the last days of earth's history, but **each of the Sevens end at the same time, as revealed by the language above — each concluding together at the very end of time as Jesus prepares to return and rescue His Church.** This truth helps us to understand the flow of prophecy in Revelation from "start to finish", yet each set of events retaining their unique message to the Church.

Next week we begin a serious look at the final fall of Babylon — the Great Harlot!

Stay tuned!