

The Wrath of God

Introduction: we don't like these aspects of God

Both wrath and jealousy seem unattractive, unworthy traits of God. But this proves we are dealing with the true God of the Bible, and not a god of our imagination. The true God will contradict your expectations and challenge your pre-conceptions – as any real person would. All real relationships involve contradiction.

The Wrath of God

Nahum 1:2-8

²The 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.

³The 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.

⁴He rebukes the sea and makes it dry;
he dries up all the rivers;
Bashan and Carmel wither;
the bloom of Lebanon withers.

⁵The mountains quake before him;
the hills melt;
the earth heaves before him,
the world and all who dwell in it.

⁶Who 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.

⁷The LORD is good,
a stronghold in the day of trouble;
he knows those who take refuge in him.

⁸But with an overflowing flood
he will make a complete end of the adversaries,
and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

We are uncomfortable with idea of God's wrath because we image God's wrath is like our own – irritable, self-indulgent, cruel, and short-tempered.

(1) God's wrath is a perfect wrath and part of his morally perfect character.

1 John 1:5

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Romans 9:20

But who are you, O man, to answer back to God?

(2) It is a good thing to be angry at evil. Therefore, God's wrath is a judicial wrath.

(3) People choose God's wrath.

John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

John 3:19

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.

Genesis 3:8

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Romans 1:24-26

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonor.

(4) The gospel is Christ absorbing God's wrath.

1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.