

THE PRELUDE TO THE WRATH OF GOD

Studies in the Revelation

Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.
Revelation 15:7

THE COMING WRATH OF GOD:

Wail, for the day of the LORD is near!

It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

Therefore all hands will fall limp, and every man's heart will melt.

They will be terrified, pains and anguish will take hold of them; they will writhe like a woman in labor, they will look at one another in astonishment, their faces aflame.

Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, (described as) cruel, with fury and burning anger, (why) to make the land a desolation; and He will exterminate its sinners from it.

For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not flash forth their light; the sun will be dark when it rises and the moon will not shed its light.

Thus I will punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud and abase the haughtiness of the ruthless.
Isaiah 13:6-11

Near is the great day of the LORD, near and coming very quickly;

Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly.

A day of wrath is that day,

A day of trouble and distress,

A day of destruction and desolation,

A day of darkness and gloom,

A day of clouds and thick darkness,

A day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and the high corner towers.

I will bring distress on men so that they will walk like the blind, (why) because they have sinned against the LORD; and their blood will be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung.

Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them on the day of the LORD'S wrath; and all the earth will be devoured in the fire of His jealousy, for He will make a complete end, indeed a terrifying one, of all the inhabitants of the earth.
Zephaniah 1:14-18

1. "Sowing and Reaping" Wrath
2. Cataclysmic Wrath
3. The Wrath of God's Abandonment
4. The Eternal Wrath of God

ANOTHER SIGN IN HEAVEN (THIRD):

Sign One: The Woman and the Child

A (first) great sign appeared (where) in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.
Revelation 12:1-2

Sign Two: Great Red Dragon

Then (second) another sign appeared (where) in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.
Revelation 12:3-4

Sign Three: Seven Angels and Seven Plagues

Then I saw (third) another sign (where) in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues (plage: wound or blow), which are the last, because in them (what) the wrath of God is finished.
Revelation 15:1

Question:

**If God is love, why does He reveal His wrath?
Why can't He be merciful and forgive everybody?**

Answer:

Three reasons: One, because of the vengeance of God promised to those who suffered for His name. Two, because of His nature and character (both loving and just). And three, because His wrath is part of His predetermined divine plan of redemption.

BECAUSE OF THE VENGEANCE OF GOD:

And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over (1) the beast and (2) his image and (3) the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.
Revelation 15:2

Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room (what) for the wrath of God, (why) for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.
Romans 12:19

When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from (what) judging and avenging our blood on (who) those who dwell on the earth?" And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also. Revelation 6:9-11

BECAUSE GOD'S VERY CHARACTER DEMANDS IT:

And they sang (1) the song of Moses (Ex. 15:1-18), the bond-servant of God, and (2) the song of the Lamb (Rev. 5:8-14), saying,

- (1) "Great and marvelous are Your works,
- (2) O Lord God, the Almighty;
- (3) Righteous and true are Your ways,
- (4) King of the nations!
- (5) Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name?
- (6) For You alone are holy;
- (7) For all the nations will come and worship before You,
- (8) For your righteous acts have been revealed."

Revelation 15:3-4

1. Great and marvelous are Your works

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

Psalms 139:14

2. O Lord God, the Almighty

Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless. I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly." Genesis 17:1-2

For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind and declares to man what are His thoughts, He who makes dawn into darkness and treads on the high places of the earth, The LORD God of hosts is His name.

Amos 4:13

3. Righteous and true are Your ways

"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, (why) for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride." Daniel 4:37

For I proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.

Deuteronomy 32:4

Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; Whoever is discerning, let him know them. For the ways of the LORD are right, And the righteous will walk in them, but transgressors will stumble in them.

Hosea 14:9

4. King of the nations!

Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? Indeed it is Your due! For among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is none like You.

Jeremiah 10:7

5. Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name?

All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and they shall glorify Your name. For You are great and do wondrous deeds; You alone are God.

Psalms 86:9-10

6. For You alone are holy

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."

Isaiah 6:1-3

7. For all the nations will come and worship before You

All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and they shall glorify Your name. For You are great and do wondrous deeds; You alone are God.

Psalms 86:9-10

8. For your righteous acts have been revealed

The LORD performs (what) righteous deeds and judgments for all who are oppressed.

Psalms 103:6

"O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a reproach to all those around us."

Daniel 9:16

BECAUSE IT IS ALL PART OF GOD'S PLAN:

After these things I looked, and the temple (*naos*: Holy of Holies) of the tabernacle of testimony (where) in heaven was opened, and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels (what) seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from (what) the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

Revelation 15:5-8

His wrath and judgment on sin

A (1) jealous and (2) avenging God is the LORD;
The LORD is avenging and (3) wrathful.
The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries,
And He reserves wrath for His enemies.
The LORD is slow to anger and great in power,
And the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.
In whirlwind and storm is His way,
And clouds are the dust beneath His feet.
He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; He dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither; The blossoms of Lebanon wither.
Mountains quake because of Him and the hills dissolve;
Indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence,
The world and all the inhabitants in it.
Who can stand before His indignation?
Who can endure the burning of His anger ?
His wrath is poured out like fire and the rocks are broken up by Him.
The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who take refuge in Him.
But with an overflowing flood He will make a complete end of its site, and will pursue His enemies into darkness.
Whatever you devise against the LORD, He will make a complete end of it. Distress will not rise up twice. Nahum 1:2-9

His gift of mercy and grace

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:9