

A SUBJECT SELDOM DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC

Selected Old & New Testament Scriptures

Today in our time together I want to speak about a topic that is usually not spoken of in public and especially in the Church anymore, the wrath of God.

Carol Kuruvilla who is an editor at HuffPost's Religion Section decided to conduct a little experiment. "*We asked our readers to do something humans have been trying to do for centuries — to define God. The catch? They had to encapsulate all of God in just one word.*" Despite their diverse religious backgrounds here are the top 10 responses in rank order 10-1:

- Omnipotent
- Fiction
- Non – existent
- Almighty
- Imaginary
- Amazing
- Creator
- Awesome
- Everything
- Love

Here is how, not just the Church, but the world has painted God but if you notice there is no mention of His wrath, why, because we don't want to talk about it.

Even looking for a definition in Explore on your computer cover coats the word wrath this way, "*Extreme anger (chiefly used for humorous or rhetorical effect) such as "he hid his pipe for fear of incurring his wife's wrath."*"

J. I. Packer takes us to the Bible Dictionary for a better definition of wrath: *Wrath is an old English word defined in the Bible Dictionary as 'deep, intense anger and indignation'. 'Anger' is defined as 'stirring of resentful displeasure and strong antagonism, by a sense of injury or insult'; 'indignation' as 'righteous anger aroused by injustice and baseness'. Such is wrath. And wrath, the Bible tells us, is an attribute of God*

The first time that the word “wrath” appears in the Bible is not with God but rather with a man by the name of Potiphar when he hears what his wife says about what Joseph had done to her.

- We know that she was lying about Joseph, so Potiphar’s wrath was unjustified.

But in every incident that we see in the Bible where God’s wrath is displayed, it is justified.

- God’s wrath is not an embarrassment to Him. He need never be ashamed, like men. God’s wrath is inseparably linked with His glory. God defends His glory when He exercises His wrath.

The wrath of God is not just taught in the Bible, it is a prominent truth in the Scriptures as noted Bible Teacher A. W. Pink calls attention to in his book, “**The Attributes Of God**”: *A study of the concordance will show that there are more references in Scripture to the anger, fury, and wrath of God, than there are to His love and tenderness*

How many of you this morning have done something in your life (and I am not going to ask you what) that would deserve God’s wrath?

Imagine for a second that one of your children was stricken with a rare disease. As you met with the Doctors they told you that there was only one cure, one medicine that would work and here is the catch, it is extremely expensive. What would you do to obtain that cure?

- That is what God did, there was only one cure for our sins that brings His wrath and that was His precious only Child of God, Jesus Christ.

John 1:24-29

- Here is the Lamb of God that “takes away” the sins of the world.

The expression, “the Lamb of God,” to which John referred has a rich Old Testament background. There was the “Passover Lamb,” sacrificed at the time of Israel’s exodus from Egypt, which was a prototype of our Lord, Jesus Christ. There were the other sacrificial lambs that were a part of Israel’s worship. Then, there is the “Lamb of God” described by Isaiah which is clearly a reference to the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Isaiah 53:4-11 (New Living Translation)

"This day, my God, I hate sin not because it damns me, but because it has done Thee wrong. To have grieved my God is the worst grief to me." - Charles Spurgeon