



# attributes of *God*

WEEK 19 — GOD'S WRATH



**A. W. Pink**

“It is sad indeed to find so many professing Christians who appear to regard the wrath of God as something for which they need to make an apology, or who at least wish there were no such thing. While some would not go so far as to openly admit that they consider it a blemish on the Divine character, yet they are far from regarding it with delight; they like not to think about it, and they rarely hear it mentioned without a secret resentment rising up in their hearts against it.”

## **DEUTERONOMY 32 : 39 - 41**

“See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive;  
I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.  
For I lift up my hand to heaven and swear, As I live forever, if I sharpen  
my flashing sword and my hand takes hold on judgment, I will take vengeance  
on my adversaries and will repay those who hate me.”

## WE NEED TO CONSIDER GOD'S WRATH

### 1) We must see God as He has revealed Himself to be, not who we want Him to be.

*"There are more references in Scripture to the anger, fury, and wrath of God, than there are to his love and tenderness". (A. W. Pink)*

### 2) Scripture instructs us to consider it!

**Romans 11:22** – "Note then the kindness and the severity of God:"

### **BUT – We need to consider it in light of the unity of God**

Consider it in light of God's holiness, justice, as well as all of His other attributes

*"To discount the enormity of God's severity, as if we aren't really that bad and really deserve mostly kindness, is to discount the enormity of God's holiness." (Matt Chandler)*

## WHAT IS GOD'S WRATH?

Generally, wrath means intense anger and indignation.

**Wayne Grudem** – "God's wrath means that he intensely hates all sin."

**J. I. Packer** – "God's resolute action in punishing sin.... The Bible labors the point that just as God is good to those who trust him, so he is terrible to those who do not."

**A. W. Pink** – "The wrath of God is his eternal detestation of all unrighteousness... It is the holiness of God stirred into activity against sin. It is the moving cause of that just sentence which he passes upon evildoers."

## GOD'S WRATH IS SEEN THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE

There is no hiding of God's wrath in Scripture.  
God clearly makes this aspect of His character known.

**Exodus 32:9-10** – “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.’”

**Deuteronomy 9:7-8** – “Remember and do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD. Even at Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, and the LORD was so angry with you that he was ready to destroy you.”

**Deuteronomy 9:22-24** – “At Taberah also, and at Massah and at Kibroth-hattaavah you provoked the LORD to wrath. And when the LORD sent you from Kadesh-barnea, saying, ‘Go up and take possession of the land that I have given you,’ then you rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God and did not believe him or obey his voice. You have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.”

**2 Kings 22:13** – “Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.”

**Nahum 1:2-8** – “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. 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. He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; he dries up all the rivers; Bashan and Carmel wither; the bloom of Lebanon withers. The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it. 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. The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him. But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness.”

**Romans 1:18** – “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.”

**Colossians 3:5-7** – “Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.”

**Hebrews 3:7-11** – “Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.’ As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’”

**Revelation 19:15-16** – “From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”

## **TRUTHS ABOUT GOD'S WRATH**

### **1. God's Wrath is a Good Attribute (as all are!)**

*"The wrath of God is as much a Divine perfection as is his faithfulness, power, or mercy.... Indifference to sin is a moral blemish." (A. W. Pink)*

*"Sin is hateful and it is worthy of being hated. Sin ought not to be. It is in fact a virtue to hate evil and sin." (Wayne Grudem)*

*"God's wrath in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is, instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil. God is only angry where anger is called for. Even among humans, there is such a thing as righteous indignation, though it is, perhaps, rarely found. But all God's indignation is righteous." (J. I. Packer)*

### **2. God's Wrath is Related to Judgment and Justice**

**God's wrath is only given to those who deserve it.**

**Romans 2:5-6** – "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. He will render to each one according to his works."

### **3. God's Wrath Includes Both Present and Future Realities**

**People not reconciled to God are already under His wrath now.**

**John 3:36** – "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."

**Romans 1:18** – "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth."

**But those people still will experience future judgment and wrath.**

**Romans 2:5** – "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."

**Revelation 6:15-17** – "Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?'"

## 4. God is Slow to Execute His Wrath

**Remember the attribute of God's patience.**

**Psalm 103:8** – “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

**Romans 2:4** – “Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?”

## 5. God Relents from His Wrath When People Repent

**Psalm 72:11-13** – “God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day. If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword; he has bent and readied his bow; he has prepared for him his deadly weapons, making his arrows fiery shafts.”

**Jonah 3:4-5 and 4:1-2** – “Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, ‘Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’ And the people of Nineveh believed God, called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.... But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the LORD and said, ‘O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.’”

**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10** – “For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

## 6. IN CHRIST, WE DON'T HAVE TO FEAR GOD'S WRATH. JESUS BORE IT FOR US!

**Romans 5:9-11** – “Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

**Ephesians 2:3-5** – “... among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved...”

**1 Thessalonians 5:9-10** – “For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

**Romans 3:23-26** – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

**Matthew 27:45-46** - “Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

## IS WRATH A COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTE?

**Wrath, in our typical experience, is sinful for us.**

**Ephesians 4:31-32** – “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

**Yet, there are two ways it is communicable....**

### **1) We can feel righteous anger toward evil, injustice, and sin.**

**Hebrews 1:9** - “You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

### **2) We can support God given authority in government and strive for justice for the oppressed.**

**Romans 13:3** – “For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.”

## HOW SHOULD GOD'S WRATH AFFECT US?

### **1. It should lead us to worship.**

**Hebrews 12:28-29** – “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.”

*“We have to feel the weight of God's severity, because without feeling the weight of his severity, we won't know the weight of his kindness, and we won't be able to worship him and him alone. Worship of him is why we were created.” (Matt Chandler)*



## 2. It should lead us to seek His grace that we may walk in holiness.

**1 Peter 1:14-19** – “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”

*“The wrath of God is a perfection of the Divine character upon which we need to frequently meditate. First, that our hearts may be duly impressed by God’s detestation of sin. We are ever prone to regard sin lightly, to gloss over its hideousness, to make excuses for it. But the more we study and ponder God’s abhorrence of sin and his frightful vengeance upon it, the more likely are we to realize its heinousness.” (A. W. Pink)*

## 3. It gives us hope when we suffer due to injustice.

**No one gets away with their sins.  
One day all wrongs will be made right.**

**2 Thessalonians 1:5-10** – “This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering-- since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.”

## 4. It should lead us to share Christ with non-believers.

**We should not speak of the wrath of God against unbelievers and the reality of hell without heaviness in our hearts and a desire to see others delivered from God’s wrath to become His worshippers.**

**2 Peter 3:9-10** – “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.”

**2 Corinthians 5:18-20** – “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We have seen many texts that tell us about God's wrath.  
What are some other accounts in the Bible where we see God's wrath displayed?
2. Review the quote on the first page. Why are we not prone to think about this attribute?
3. Should we love the fact that God is a God of wrath who hates sin?
4. How should God's wrath help us fight sin in our lives?
5. How can thinking about God's wrath enhance our worship of God?
6. God's wrath is a communicable attribute.  
In what ways is it wrong for us to imitate His wrath?  
In what ways is it right for us to imitate His wrath?
7. Do you know any songs that mention God's wrath?

