

THE WRATH OF GOD

Text: Nahum 1:1–6

–Bill Turner

1. **There was a very wealthy man who had thousands of flocks...**
 - a. And next door lived a poor man who had only one lamb and he loved this little lamb
The lamb would eat from his hand in the house...
 - b. But when the rich man had a guest, instead of taking one of his own lambs...
he stole his poor neighbors lamb and butchered it to feed it to his guest
 - c. David was angry when Nathan told him this—then Nathan said: YOU ARE THE MAN
2. **David had been a young man of faith blessed by God**
 - a. Anointed King, given Blessings, a Palace, Authority, A Wife... But David betrayed God
 - b. and Took another man's wife... and he he had him killed: Murdered
3. **There are some things that are so heinous that the only proper response is anger.**
 - a. In Fact: Not only would anger be the proper response—a lack of anger would be wrong
The Wrath of God is the holy revulsion of His being against evil

I. THE WRATH OF GOD IS REAL

A. THE WRATH OF GOD IS MISUNDERSTOOD

1. **SOME EVADE the Idea God is a God of Wrath the Implications are frightening.**
 - a) They Would Rather Think of God as a Grandfather who just smiles and is happy as long as everyone has a good time.
2. **SOME MISUNDERSTAND God's Wrath as unworthy of His Character**
 - a) They think anger or wrath is beneath God—as if it is a weakness of character.
 - b) But God is Perfect—in His love and in His wrath...
3. **SOME WANT GOD'S WRATH Inflicted on Enemies right now**
 - a) But they don't see so they think God is excusing sin rather than punishing it

B. THE WRATH OF GOD IS REAL

1. **Wrath is defined as: 'deep, intense anger and indignation'.**
 - a) **CHARA** “to burn with fury.” **CHARON** “burning fierce wrath”
The anger of God against unrepentant sin (**Jer 7:16-17; 20**)
 - b) **EBRA** “intense anger” of God against sin (**Isaiah 13:9**)
 - c) **QATSAPH**: “to be bitter with anger” — Assyrians were like ISIS Terrorists of ancient world, Nineveh capital (**Nahum 1:1-3; 6a**)
 - d) **ZA'AM** describes God's holy revulsion and revenge against evil doers
Paul used the Greek equivalent: (**Romans 2:8-9**)

One researcher: “A study of the concordance will show that there are more references in Scripture to the anger, fury and wrath of God, then there are of His love and tenderness.” (A.W. Pink)

The Wrath of God is real and is the holy revulsion of His being against evil

II. THE WRATH OF GOD IS PURE

A. GOD'S WRATH IS NOT LIKE HUMAN WRATH

1. It is wrong to assign our concept of anger onto God

- a) Our Anger is mixed with our selfishness and pride...
- b) We didn't get our way—We were mocked, dismissed, Offended, made fun of...
- c) The anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God...

B. THE WRATH OF GOD IS PURE—BECAUSE GOD IS HOLY

1. His Holiness Demand that He Cannot Tolerate Sin

- a) When Jesus Took a whip and drove out the money changers—It was Because...
 - (1) God's Name was Dishonored...
 - (2) God's People were Being Ripped Off...
 - (3) God's Temple was Profaned for selfish money & power rather than Holy Temple!

C. HIS WRATH IS PURE—BECAUSE IT'S CONSISTENT WITH HIS LOVE

1. God's Love is Pure—and His Wrath is Pure

2. Like A Parent Who Disciplines their Child out of Love! (Amos 3:1–2)

3. God disciplines those He loves for their benefit! (Hebrews 12:5–10)

D. HIS WRATH IS PURE—BECAUSE IT'S RELATED TO HIS JUSTICE

1. God is Just (Psalm 7:11) His Wrath is His Just Response to Evil

- a) It Would Be Unjust To Allow Evil to Go Unpunished!
- b) But God's Justice is Perfect, Just as His Love and Holiness is Perfect

2. God Will Never Excuse Sin—But He is long-suffering—

but His patience has a limit because He is Just...

III. THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED

A. GOD'S WRATH IS REVEALED FROM HEAVEN

1. (Romans 1:18) literal meaning in greek: "constantly being revealed"

- a) At the flood... on Sodom and Gomorrah... On Pharaohs, Caesars, Herods

2. God's wrath is revealed through Government & Authority (Rom 13:2–4)

3. God's wrath works through Nations and Rulers to Punish Evil!

- a) God used Israel to Punish the Canaanites / Babylon to Punish idolatrous Israel
- b) Persia to Punish Egypt / Rome to punish corrupt Jerusalem

B. THE REASONS FOR GOD'S WRATH...

1. IDOLORTY (Romans 1:18, 21, 25)

a) Paul uses the definite article – it is not a lie, but the lie.

- (1) The lie is essentially idolatry – which puts us in the place of God.
- (2) The lie from Satan in the garden—you will be like God (Genesis 3:5).

b) Refusing God they worship ANYTHING & EVERYTHING other than God!

- (1) Idolatry is an insult to a Holy God because it replaces God with a lie

2. UNBELIEF (Jn 3:36)

- a) Unbelief is more than a lack of faith—it is choosing a lie rather than God
- b) Belief in God is not an Intellectual decision—it is a Moral one
- c) To Reject God is to Love a Lie more than God Himself

3. **GRUMBLING AND COMPLAINING** (Numbers 11:1–6)

a) I don't know if you've ever had to be around an incessant complainer...

(1) but after Moses was w/ hundreds of complainers he asked God to let him die!

b) Complainers Discourage God's People and that Makes God angry!

(1) It's possible More harm has resulted from complainers in the church...

than even the harm caused by the enemy!

(2) Why would Satan need to tear up church, he has complainers doing it already!

4. **HARD ARROGANT HEARTS** (Romans 2:5)

a) Word Impenitence: having no sorrow or remorse for sin

(1) They lie to themselves... "I'm a good person so I don't need God"

(2) Their Heart is so hard that after they sin, they say: I haven't sinned...

"In the world it is called tolerance, but in hell it is called despair . . . the sin that believes in nothing, interferes with nothing, enjoys nothing, hates nothing, finds purpose in nothing, lives for nothing, and remains alive because there is nothing for which it will die" (Dorothy Sayers).

b) (Proverbs 6:16–19) Naboth was an innocent man who refused to sell his vineyard to King Ahab. Ahab looked the other way & his wife Jezebel had men to kill Naboth

(1) **arrogance**: Ahab was going to get what he wanted

(2) **plotting**: Jezebel devised evil plans

(3) **lying**: She hired men to lie about Naboth

(4) **false testimony**: They accused Naboth of blaspheming God

(5) **feet swift to evil**: All this was rushed through in secret

(6) **shedding innocent blood**: They had Naboth killed and Ahab got his garden

c) God's Wrath was against them and it did not go well...

(1) An Arrow shot at "random" happened to hit Ahab in the one gap of his armor

(2) Jezebel was thrown out a window, her body eaten by street dogs (2 Kings 9:35)

5. **APOSTASY** (Hebrews 10:26–31) Abandoning the Faith / Leaving the Church

a) Many have left the Lord because they're more important than God

b) They're too busy with more important things — Like thinking about themselves

6. **SIN AMONG GOD'S OWN PEOPLE**

a) like when God punished the rebellion against Moses led by Korah and his family

b) Or Ananias and Sapphira Lying to the Holy Spirit and Apostles

7. **ENEMIES OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST**

a) Those who suppress the truth with unrighteousness (Rom 1:18)

b) Professing to be wise, they became fools

c) Their end is destruction (Phil 3:18)

IV. THE WRATH OF GOD IS PERSONAL

A. **ALL OF GOD'S DIVINE ATTRIBUTES ARE PERSONAL**

1. **God is not an abstract Life force or cosmic energy field...**

a) God has individual personality and created us with individual personality...

—for a personal relationship with us—and us with Him

2. So God's Love is Personal... and His Wrath is Personal!

- a) The Personal Nature of God's Wrath is His Personal Involvement w/ us!

B. THE BIBLE SHOWS AN INTENSE AND PERSONAL REACTION TO SIN WITHIN GOD'S HEART

1. This is why the Bible describes God as a Jealous God...

- a) If God did not Care He Would Not Be Jealous!
- b) He is Jealous Because He Loves Us!

2. His wrath is not an uncaring response to wickedness,

—it is His personal and loving response for His creation.

- a) "... to construe God's wrath as simply in his purpose to punish sin or to secure the connection between sin and misery is to equate wrath with its effects and virtually eliminate wrath as a movement within the mind of God. Wrath is the holy revulsion of God's being against that which is the contradiction of his holiness." (Murray)

V. THE WRATH OF GOD IS DEMONSTRATED

A. THE WRATH OF GOD IS COMING...

1. He Will Execute His Wrath in Judgement (**Revelation 11:18–19**)
2. It Will Be a Day of Wrath and No One Will Escape the Judgement of God
3. But There is a Way to Escape from the Wrath of God...

B. GOD Poured OUT HIS WRATH AGAINST SIN ONTO HIS SON

1. One of the most amazing truths of the Bible—

God Poured Out His Wrath on Jesus on a barren hill outside Jerusalem... a rocky hill called Golgotha—the Place of the skull

- a) It was there that Jesus became the propitiation for our sin (**1 John 2:2**)
- b) Propitiation is a Theological term that means:

an offering that turns away wrath and restores a right relationship

In the O.T. the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement and bring with him the blood of a lamb. When he sprinkled the blood on the Mercy Seat, that blood was accepted by God as an "atonement" or a "covering" for the sin of the people.

2. Jesus blood on cross turned away God's wrath against us (**Romans 3:25**)

- a) Jesus our High Priest Offered His Blood in the True Holy of Holies where He is now at the Right Hand of God Interceding for You!

—> In saving us from His own wrath, God has done what we could not do, —and He has done what we didn't deserve."

CONCLUSION:

1. The Wrath of God is Revealed but the Love of God is also revealed

2. God's Wrath & Justice was Satisfied at the Cross (**1 John 4:10**)

- We are crucified with Christ in Baptism—our old man is put to death
- We are raised with Christ in Baptism—Born Again—Forgiven and Free!