

# Truth For the Final Generation

## Midday Message

### “How does God Execute the Fierceness of His Anger?”

**Opening Hymn:** 225 NH “God is working His purpose out”

**Scripture Reading:** Hosea 11:8,9

#### Introduction:

Last time we saw from scripture that the correct way to understand the Old Testament was from the life and death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah. This also includes His intercession in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary but that will be developed later.

With this knowledge the careful bible student can approach the word of God and see God in a new light. Much like the Jews could not see (*John 5:39,40*) or refused to see. It is important and necessary to understand character of God if the believer is to endure the final test and pass the judgement.

*The great and essential knowledge is the knowledge of God and of his Word.* RH August 3, 1911, par. 4

#### The Ordinary Understanding of Anger of Wrath

What is the ordinary or typical understanding of anger? A person may get angry or passionate and be overcome and almost driven by emotions usually to hurt verbally or physically. How did the Jews picture God?

*And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.*

*<sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? John 9:1,2 KJV*

*It was generally believed by the Jews that sin is punished in this life. Every affliction was regarded as the penalty of some wrongdoing, either of the sufferer himself or of his parents. It is true that all suffering results from the transgression of God's law, but this truth had become perverted.*

*Satan, the author of sin and all its results, had led men to look upon disease and death as proceeding from God,—as punishment*

*arbitrarily inflicted on account of sin. Hence one upon whom some great affliction or calamity had fallen had the additional burden of being regarded as a great sinner.*

*Thus the way was prepared for the Jews to reject Jesus. He who "hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows" was looked upon by the Jews as "stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted;" and they hid their faces from Him. Isaiah 53:4, 3.*

*God had given a lesson designed to prevent this.*

*The history of Job had shown that suffering is inflicted by Satan, and is overruled by God for purposes of mercy. But Israel did not understand the lesson. The same error for which God had reproved the friends of Job was repeated by the Jews in their rejection of Christ. Desire of Ages 471.1 - 471.3*

What was the Error of Job's Friend's?

Job 42:7 (ESV):

*"After the Lord had spoken these words to Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite: 'My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.'"*

The friends of Job believed and insisted that suffering equals to punishment for sin and therefore, Job must have sinned, and he should repent. They spoke wrongly about God, presenting a harsh, legalistic and inaccurate view of divine justice.

This was based on a simplistic, retributive theology: that God always rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked in this life. So, in their view, Job's suffering *had* to be deserved.

God's Wrath

*For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. James 1:20 KJV*

*The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. Psalms 145:17 KJV*

It is clear then that man's wrath or anger does not work the righteousness of God, but God is righteous in every way and work. So, man's wrath cannot be the same as God's wrath or anger. Man's anger therefore cannot be the same as God's anger or wrath and is not a safe guide or comparison. Scripture makes that very clear.

In Romans 1: 18 scripture says:

*<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Roams 1:18 KJV*

Earlier Paul said:

*<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

*<sup>17</sup> For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. Romans 1:16-17 KJV*

God Gave Them Up

*<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

*<sup>19</sup> Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.<sup>20</sup> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

*<sup>24</sup> Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

*<sup>26</sup> For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:*

*<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Romans 1:18-20, 24, 26, 28 KJV*

In wrath or anger God allows individual to reap the consequences of their choice. They stubbornly persist in rebellion and God respects their choice.

### Sin Separates from God

*<sup>59</sup> Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:1-2 KJV*

Iniquity is an inward bent to sin or persistent and active denial of God's ways. Thus, God gives up the individual to their choice to reap what they have sown after having rejected the warnings. It is not abandonment but rather respecting their free choice in hopes that they would return.

*<sup>16</sup> And the Lord said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.*

*<sup>17</sup> Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us? Deuteronomy 31:16-17 KJV*

### Jesus Suffered the Full Wrath of God against Sin

*<sup>25</sup> Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. Romans 4:25 KJV*

The King James translators translated the Greek word (παρέδωκεν – paredōken) in three ways: “God gave them up, God gave them over” (Romans 1:24, 26 and 28) and “was delivered” (Romans 4:25). Jesus suffered the wrath of God and experienced in His person what the impenitent will experience in the end. Notice Jesus' awful words as He endured the terrible ordeal as our Substitute and Surety:

*And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Mark 15:34*

Under the intense pressure of separation from His Father Jesus spoke in two languages: Greek and Aramaic in expression of His soul anguish. It is clear that He understood that sin was separating Him from His Father. Those who ultimately persist in rebellion will be given up to the choice of idols and lawlessness and sadly they will experience the inevitable consequences of sin.

#### The Divine Lament

*<sup>8</sup> How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together.*

*<sup>9</sup> I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city. Hosea 11:8-9 KJV*

Israel had walked away from God and chosen idolatry. God's heart was turned at the state of affairs among His chosen people. He therefore, according to His character, chooses mercy above wrath. God will not "destroy" but rather will seek with all that is divinely possible to restore and heal according to human choice.

Appeal

*<sup>1</sup> O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.*

*<sup>2</sup> Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. <sup>3</sup> Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.*

*<sup>4</sup> I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.*

*<sup>5</sup> I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.*

*<sup>6</sup> His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon. <sup>7</sup> They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon.*

*<sup>8</sup> Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.*

*<sup>9</sup> Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.*

#### Closing Hymn: NH 308 "Wholly Thine"

Yours In Our Master's Service

Elder Ryan Griffith

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