

## God's Wrath/Anger

by Timothy R. Jennings, M.D.

**Healing Substitution Model:** God's wrath is not like human vengeance. Because God desires only the service of love, He can never force anyone to live out His law against their will. Thus, God's wrath is His ultimate and final gift of love for those who refuse His cure. God's wrath is His abandoning, forsaking, giving up, and ultimately letting people go in response to the choices that they have made. As a result, the sinner is allowed to reap what they have freely chosen – the suffering of un-remedied sin, which culminates in eternal non-existence.

**Penal Substitution View** – God's wrath is His "just" "vengeance" by inflicting pain, suffering, torment upon His creatures to vent divine displeasure, torturing His children in order to satisfy Himself or His law. This is often referred to as "divine justice."

### Documentation for Healing Substitution Model:

**"My anger will flame up like fire and burn everything on earth.** It will reach to the world below and consume the roots of the mountains. I will bring on them endless disasters and use **all my arrows against them.**" (Deuteronomy 32:22,23 – GN)... **"They fail to see why they were defeated;** they cannot understand what happened. Why were a thousand defeated by one, and ten thousand by only two? **The Lord, their God, had abandoned them; their mighty God had given them up.**" (Deuteronomy 32:29,30 – GN)

**"When that happens, I will become angry with them; I will abandon them,** and they will be destroyed. Many terrible disasters will come upon them, and then they will realize that these **things are happening to them because I, their God, am no longer with them.**" (Deuteronomy 31:17 – GN)

**"I will fight against you with all my might, my anger, my wrath, and my fury.** I will kill everyone living in this city; people and animals alike **will die of a terrible disease....** Anyone who stays in the city will be **killed in war or by starvation or disease...**It will be **given over** to the king of Babylonia, and **he** will burn it to the ground. I, the LORD, have spoken...I will set your palace on fire, and the fire will burn down everything around it. I, the LORD, have spoken..." (Jeremiah 21:5,6,9-10,14 – GN)

**"The LORD has abandoned** his people like a lion that leaves its cave. The horrors of war and the LORD's **fierce anger** have turned the country into a desert." (Jeremiah 25:38 – GN)

**"The LORD, the God of Israel, told me to go and say to King Zedekiah of Judah, 'I, the LORD, will hand this city over** to the king of Babylonia, and **he** will burn it down. (Jeremiah 34:2 – GN)

**"Very well, then, I will give you freedom: the freedom to die by war, disease, and starvation."** (Jeremiah 34:17 – GN)

**"You will feel my anger when I turn it loose on you** like a blazing fire. And **I will hand you over** to brutal men, experts at destruction." (Ezekiel 21:31 – GN)

**"I will hand you over to other nations** who will rob you and plunder you." (Ezekiel 25:7 – GN)

**"The king killed the young men of Judah even in the Temple.** He had no mercy on anyone, young or old, man or woman, sick or healthy. **God handed them all over to him.**" (2 Chronicles 36:17 – GN)

**"I will attack the people of Israel and Judah like a lion.** I myself will tear them to pieces and then leave them. When I drag them off, no one will be able to save them. **I will abandon** my people until they have suffered enough for their sins and come looking for me. Perhaps in their suffering they will try to find me." (Hosea 5:14,15 – GN)

**God's anger is revealed** from heaven against all the sin and evil of the people whose evil ways prevent the truth from being known. **God punishes them,** because what can be known about God is plain to them, for God himself made it plain...They say they are wise, but they are fools; instead of worshiping the immortal God, they worship images made to look like mortals or birds or animals or reptiles. **And so God has given those people over to do the filthy things their hearts desire,** and they do shameful things with each other. **They exchange the truth about God for a lie;** they worship and serve what God has created instead of the Creator himself, who is to be praised forever! Amen. Because they do this, **God has given them over** to shameful passions....**Because those people refuse to keep in mind the true knowledge about God, he has given them over** to corrupted minds, so that they do the things that they should not do." (Romans 1:18,19,22-26,28 – GN)

**"Because of our sins he was given over to die..."** (Romans 4:25 – GN)

**"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"** Matt 27:46

Then "Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" "My God, My God, **why hast Thou forsaken Me?**" As the outer gloom settled about the Saviour, many voices exclaimed: The **vengeance of heaven** is upon Him. The bolts of **God's wrath** are hurled at Him, because He claimed to be the Son of God. Many who believed on Him heard His despairing cry. Hope left them. If **God had forsaken Jesus**, in what could His followers trust? {DA 754.3}

**"I was shown that the judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord upon them**, but in this way; "They place themselves beyond His protection. He warns, corrects, reproves, and points out the only path of safety; then if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course, independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, **if they choose their own way, then He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them.** **"It is Satan's power that is at work at sea and on land, bringing calamity and distress**, and sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey, and storm and tempest both by sea and land will be, for Satan has come down in great wrath. He is at work. He knows his time is short and, he is not restrained; we shall see more terrible manifestations of his great power than we have ever dreamed of." Manuscript Release vol. 14, p. 3

God bears long with the rebellion and apostasy of His subjects. Even when His mercy is despised and His love scorned and derided, He bears with men until the last resource for leading them to repentance is exhausted. But there are limits to His forbearance. **From those who to the end continue in obstinate rebellion, He removes His protecting care. Providence will no longer shield them from Satan's power.** They will have sinned away their day of grace. {RH, September 17, 1901 par. 7}

**God keeps a reckoning with the nations.** Not a sparrow falls to the ground without His notice. Those who work evil toward their fellow men, saying, How doth God know? will one day be called upon to **meet long-deferred vengeance.** In this age a more than common contempt is shown to God. Men have reached a point in insolence and disobedience which shows that their **cup of iniquity is almost full.** Many have well-nigh **passed the boundary of mercy.** Soon **God will show that He is indeed the living God.** He will say to the angels, "**No longer combat Satan in his efforts to destroy.** Let him work out his malignity upon the children of disobedience; for the cup of their iniquity is full. They have advanced from one degree of wickedness to another, adding daily to their lawlessness. **I will no longer interfere to prevent the destroyer from doing his work.**" {RH, September 17, 1901 par. 8}