

The Wrath of the Lamb Revelation 6:12-17

Great trip - Great ministry in Italy with our Partner church in Torino

A) God is doing great things - they keep out growing their facilities

B) First time I was there: 51/2 years ago - when they first started - little building sat 20 people - packed

C) Next building - sat about 60 - It was packed

D) The building they are in now seats about 100 - again packed

1) Huge churches for Europe

From there I was in Hungary for 5 days - ministering to Serbian Pastors and leaders - Great week of teaching and ministry.

A) Being with many who were around when we first were used by God to start the first CC in Yugoslavia 35 years ago.

B) But it is great to be back - great to be home - although it was quite the ordeal getting here on Friday.

C) More on that in a minute-

Now before I left a week ago - we looked at scene in Ch.5 - The Worth of the lamb

A) Jesus was found to be the only one in heaven or on earth to take the scroll - title deed...

B) Jesus was found worthy to take the scroll and lose the seals

C) As Chapter 6 begins we see Jesus the lamb - begins to take the scrolls and break the seven seals

D) Seven Judgments are being poured out on planet earth -

The title of this message is the Wrath of the lamb

¹² I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is

shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" - PRAY

A trucker was driving down the road when a motorcycle gang surrounded the truck and almost caused him to lose control. The trucker started to yell at the bikers and honk his horn, his face FILLED RED WITH ANGER.

He even threw in a few obscene gestures, as the motorcycle gang raced off.

A couple of hours later, he pulled into a little diner for dinner. He was minding own business when that same motorcycle gang walked in. **Not wanting any trouble, he kept to himself.**

One of the bikers recognized him and immediately got in his face shouting "**Big man in the 18 wheeler, out of your truck, you're a wimp**", The biker proceeded to grab the truck driver's coffee and pour it all over his food.

The trucker didn't say a word, paid his bill and walked out. The biker turned to the waitress and said, "**He's not much of a man out of his truck**"

The waitress causally shot back, "he is not much of a truck driver either, **he just ran over 10 motorcycles on the way out.**"

In the passage we are looking at today- We see Jesus in a way that we don't normally see him or like to think about him

A) His Wrath is being poured out - world that has rejected him

B) It is such an intense scene that the people of the earth are crying out to the rocks and MTs - fall on us and hide usthe Lamb

Doesn't that sound like a paradox? Or an oxymoron? The wrath of a lamb?

A) Have you ever seen an angry lamb? Look out!

B)The lamb is coming! - Beware of the lamb signs on fences of a house

Bb)Warning Attack lamb on the premises - Chased and bitten by a few dogs - The Dobermen

C)Never chased by a lamb - Lambs are passive - cute and cuddly - not Vengeful

But during the tribulation when these cataclysmic things start happening

A)that are more intense than anything the World has ever seen before

B)There have been Meteor showers - but not like this 1)there have been earthquakes but not this kind of shaking

C)There have been signs in the heavens - but nothing to this degree

Whatever this is, all of the people on planet earth realize -

A)This isn't "mother-nature" expressing her anger - this isn't climate change

B)This is all coming from the hand of God! This is the wrath of the Lamb

¹⁵ And the kings (Rulers-Presidents) of the earth, the great men, the rich men, (influential - Gates -Bezos - Buffet - Soros) the commanders, the mighty men, **(Most powerful military leaders)** every slave and every free man, **(So Everyone else) - turned to God in repentance - that is what it should say right? -**

But men's hearts are so hard - so callous they instead) hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

The Tribulation starts in Ch 6 and runs through chapter 18 -

A)A time when the Lord is pouring out his wrath on a world that has for a long time rejected his son

B)A time period that the Bible says - unless those days were shortened no flesh would survive

1)It is intense -

C)The Tribulation is spoken of in the OT many of the Prophets -

1)Matthew 24 - Luke 21 and the book of Revelation

This portion of scripture is one that confuses many people. -

A)How could a loving God bring so much havoc on planet earth

B)It doesn't make sense to them - THE WRATH OF JESUS

C)Lets talk about the Love of Jesus - the miracles of Jesus the wonderful teachings of Jesus - That I love

D)But this picture of him as the Wrath of the Lamb - I struggle with that

1)All this devastation in the book of Revelation - I don't understand it

It doesn't compute with their view of God.

A)So they seek to explain it away - allegorize it - make it more palatable

B)Soften it - not as bad as it sounds

C)But others go so far as to actually turn from the Lord -

1)I can't believe in a God who would do that to people- creation

D)So I want to help us Understand the Wrath of God today.

Theme of this message:

A)The Bible ascribes certain characteristics with God - by using this language - God is

B) God is love. 1 John 4:16

➤ **God is faithful 2 Thessalonians 3:3 / 1 Corinthians 1:9**

➤ **God is Holy. Isaiah 6:1-5 / Revelation 4:8**

➤ **God is Just. Deuteronomy 32:4**

C)The Bible never says - God is wrath or wrathful

So it is important that we see his actions of Wrath in view of who he is

A)He is Love - he is Faithful - He is Holy - (whole perfect) - He is faithful

B) Wrath is part of the emotional language used in the Bible to convey the CARE that God has for us.

C) Just as we, at our best, react strongly and purposefully

1) when someone we care about is mistreated

2) or when justice is undermined, so does the God of the Bible.

God is not like a judge in a courthouse, suspending his personal feelings in order to act objectively.

A) He is more like a parent who feels affronted when her daughter is bullied in school

B) and who takes steps to confront the offender.

“When the Bible attributes wrath or anger to God, it is not describing a God whose rage is like the tantrums of a three-year-old, or a God who flies off the handle like a boss whose employee has yet again ruined a work project. God’s anger is not an uncontrolled emotion. It is instead more like the controlled anger of a parent whose teenage daughter has stayed out way beyond the expected time of her return home and has thereby not only worried her parents but also made herself vulnerable to unwelcome dangers. Such anger is motivated by concern for the well-being of the person toward whom it is directed. It expresses disapproval within a context of care and concern, and it aims at a more responsible and trusting relationship moving forward.” Kevin Kinghorn - What about God’s Wrath

C) This example of an enraged parent helps make the point that an emotion associated with wrath can be completely legitimate.

D) We sometimes refer to it as righteous anger.

E) A virtuous response to instances of injustice and oppression should include righteous anger.

Think of it this way: If you were to witness a marginalized person being exploited by someone in power,

A) And if your reaction wasn’t one of righteous anger, then one could question your moral Character.

B) How could you as a follower of Jesus one who is to be oriented toward the good,

1) toward the fullness of life - that God intends for people,

C) How can you NOT BE unsettled and outraged by cruelty, scandal, and sin of all kinds

1) that we see in the world today.

We see this sort of reaction of ANGER and Wrath in the life of Jesus

A) #1 Jesus was angered when God the father was being misrepresented by others.

B) Happens in Mark 3 when Jesus was in the Synagogue on the sabbath- and there was a man with a withered hand there.

C) And all the religious leaders were watching Jesus - they knew he would be drawn to the man with need.

D) But if Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath - 1) they taught that was wrong because a healed was considered a work

E) They taught that God said - can’t do anything on the Sabbath - constituted work

So they are watching Jesus hoping to see him heal the guy and break the Sabbath

A) ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they kept silent. ⁵ And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts. Mark 3:4-5

B) The word anger here in the Greek describes a great indignation - vengeance - Intense

C) This went beyond being ticked off or perturbed

D) So Jesus was filled with wrath when God was being misrepresented by others.

E) Over emphasizing religious ritual over human need.

#2 Jesus was also filled with wrath when God’s people were being mistreated by others.

A) The Cleansing of the Temple 2X - Beginning and end of his ministry

B)God's people were being ripped off - taken advantage of -

1)God's temple was turned into a place to make merchandise

C)Fashioned a whip - goes into the courtyard of the temple - over turning tables -

1)driving out the money changers – LAMBO

D) INDICTMENT: Turned my father's house that was supposed to be a place of prayer - you have turned it into a Den of thieves

God is the one who warns his people that “my anger will be aroused” if they “take advantage of the widow or the fatherless” (Exodus 22:22, 24).

A)For a God who values justice and righteousness, designed laws to safeguard the poor and vulnerable in Israel

B)In Isaiah 5:8-30 we find a series of woes in which God denounces the powerful people such as landowners

1)who take advantage of poor farmers forced to sell their land because of accumulated debts

C)My mother is a very loving and compassionate person - A mother to many

1)but if you cross or hurt one of her boys - Mama bear comes out

D)You don't want to be on the receiving end of that Wrath. - Born out of the love for her family.

#3God's Wrath is seen in the OT when his people are indulging in self destructive behavior

A)God's angry reaction to people's self-destructive tendencies is an overarching context throughout the whole narrative of Scripture.

B)Even where God's anger is linked with his jealousy for his people,

C)we find this element of him being troubled, being angry, for our sake.

Jeremiah 7:18-19 makes this point explicitly: “They pour out drink offerings to other gods to arouse my anger. But am I the one they are provoking?” declares the LORD. ‘Are they not rather harming themselves, to their own shame?’”

D)He is angered by watching them destroy themselves!-

How many of you parents have had that same reaction when one of your kids was living in Rebellion against God and you.

A)It breaks your heart but at the same time it also angers you - to watch them waste their lives

B)Mom when I came home late nothing good happens after 11pm

C)We see another example of this in the life of Jesus he laments over the city of Jerusalem -

⁷“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! ³⁸ See! Your house is left to you desolate; ³⁹ for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!*’ - *Matthew 23:37*

D)So we see from these examples - The Wrath of God is seen in response to him being loving, faithful, Holy and Just

Now Sometimes God in his Anger - responds to the Rebellion of Mankind by giving them over to pursue their sin.

A)In essence he gives men their hearts desire in order to get them to themselves - come to their senses

Romans 1 example:

¹⁸**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven** against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. (own god's in their image)

God's wrath and Judgment take an interesting form

²⁴ **Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness,** (sexual immorality) in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

²⁶ **For this reason God gave them up to vile (disgraceful) passions.** For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, **God gave them over to a debased mind,** to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Paul is telling us here: After pleading with people to turn from their sin and turn to him/ walk with him

A) Live in relationship to him -

B) they keep refusing - God turns them over to experience the fullness of their sin

C) That is exactly how the Tribulation period starts -

D) After 1000's of years of pleading with his creation to accept the salvation that comes through Jesus

1) And 1000's of years of the people of earth rejecting that invitation

D) There is coming a day when He will give the world what it is craving in a false Messiah

1) That is how the Tribulation starts - Turn back to

Rev 6

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." ² And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

We noted in the Study on Wednesday night that this is the Beginning of the Tribulation

A) It starts when Jesus opens the first seal -

B) Point: The Judgment that is coming upon the earth is originating from heaven

1) and from the hand of Jesus the lamb of God

Notice is begins with the Anti-Christ coming on to the scene - this rider on a white horse

A) And comes into the world - he went out conquering and to conquer.

B) The world is going to be in great upheaval after the rapture -

1) when a billion or more people disappear from planet earth

C) I don't know if you realize how crazy Thursday night and Friday was around the world.

I woke on Friday morning in Budapest Hungary - 5:30am - which would have been 8:30pm

Thursday night here - 9hrs ahead

A) I was ready for a nice day of Traveling home. I had a nice itinerary laid out. 14.5 hour journey

B) Start with a flight from Budapest to Munich Germany - where I would catch a flight from there to SFO

On that flight I had a free upgrade to Business class and had one of those seats that turns into a bed.

A) So my long 10 ½ hour flight was in that setting. - Excited rested - get some work done

B) Things started to unravel - when my flight to Munich from Budapest was an hour late.

C) So now I am running to get to my gate in Munich because I am not missing that flight

1) and losing my Business class seat

The weather last week in Europe was horrible- Temps in the 90's w/ 100% Humidity

A)And much of where we were ministering -had NO A/C

B)And even where there was A/C they don't do it right - a comfortable room temp for them is 78-80 degrees

1)Did I mention the Humidity was 100%

C)So by the time I get to my gate in Munich I am sweating really good -

1)I am really glad I have a private seat

D)People would not enjoy sitting next to me - sweating so bad

It was in Munich that we discover that something crazy has happened in the world.

A)Now it is 11:45am Friday in Munich - all of you 2:45am here in CA - all of you are asleep -

B)The rest of the world is being turned upside down. - An error in a software update - shuts the world down

1)Every airport in the World - all flights cease functioning - banks - trains - everything shut down

C)So while you all are sleeping 10,000's of people all over Europe are in Airports trying to figure out if they are going to get to their destinations

D)I am one of those lucky people!

It was insane: One report I read said things could be shut down for 3 days

A)Well after 31/2 hours of sitting in the airport - they announce that our flight to SFO is ready to board - loud cheers

B)But when I get on that flight - I realize that the chances of me making my connecting flight to John Wayne -

1)Where my bride Denise was going to pick me up was looking really slim

C)Our flight gets into SFO around 5:10pm - and sure enough - missed my connection.

My next flight that was scheduled for 2 hrs later - gets canceled

A)Then I manage to get on another flight about an hour later to SD - but it too gets canceled

B)And all the flights for Saturday - are looking later and later

C)They finally get me on a flight at 11:30pm that is going into Burbank Ca - arrive after midnight

Now All over the airport you see people that are Angry - Frustrated - Crying or drunk - long lines

A)That is how they are coping with the craziness

B)The Craziness that was started by an error that was made in a security update

C)Guys I tell you all of that to say: Imagine the upheaval that is going to take place on planet earth - when the rapture happens

D)A billion of people all over planet earth - suddenly gone

E)It is going to make yesterday look like a walk in the park -

The upheaval on planet earth is going to be insane not just for days but for years.

A)And then the world is going to experience - the most difficult season of 7 years that mankind has ever experienced

B)A time that is known as the tribulation - a 7 year period where planet earth and the people of planet earth

1)Experience Tumultuous things - cataclysmic things

C)But the Judgment of God and the wrath of God starts by turning the world over to this man -

1)the Anti-Christ

D)In the eyes of some he will do some good things

E)He and his team will develop strategies to get the world on track again

1)He will Bring peace between the Jews and the Arab nations

But he will also rule with an iron Fist - His way or the highway -

A)Seen by this phrase - He goes out conquering and to Conquer

Aa)Get with his program - or get lost

B)As Jesus opens the other seals this is what happens - 2nd Seal V.4 - Fiery Red horse - War - Anti-Christ makes war with many

C)Jesus opens 3rd Seal- V.5 is Black horse = Famine which often follows war

D)Jesus opens 4th Seal Pale horse - Death - which follows war and Famine

D)So we see that things are escalating on planet earth - note the end of v.8 And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

A fourth of the earth is killed

A)Today there are 10.3 billion people on planet earth

B)if 25% of the earth was to parish that means 2.5 Billion people will be killed

1))That is a huge number of people

C)And then when the 6th seal is opened there are these Cataclysmic things that are happening on planet earth.

D)And the people of the earth know exactly where this is all coming from -

1)the throne of God - the wrath of the Lamb

Question why is Jesus so Angry?

A)Is he angry with those who killed him for no reason?

B)Does he want revenge for his brutal murder?

C)No, he died even for those who were directly responsible for his lynching.

D)Is he angry at all the Hitlers & Saddam Hussein's Hezbollah's Hamas of this world? Yes.

E)Is he angry with crooked politicians - Child abusers - Sex traffickers ? Yes

Is he angry with his apostate and unfaithful bride, the church, who forgets and forsakes him? Yes, A)Jesus experiences anger, hurt, and frustration, just as any parent does with a child who rebels or acts foolishly.

B)There is a fourfold purpose to the Tribulation:

- **To finally bring his vengeance on all the oppressors of man**
- **To get the nation of Israel's attention**
- **To judge Satan, the Anti-Christ and all those who align themselves with them in their rebellion against God**
- **And to wake up the hearts of men and women around the world to turn from sinful ways and turn to God**

C)Listen: You are either under grace today or you are subject to Wrath

³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him..." John 3:36