

**Got Questions:
What is “The Wrath of God” and Will Christians Endure it?**

Eschatology: From the Greek word *eschatos*, which means “last.” The Biblical study of eschatology is the study of “the last things.”

Five Questions Regarding God’s Wrath:

1. What is “The Wrath of God?”
2. Will God’s People Endure the Day of Wrath?
3. What Should Christians Expect When Jesus Returns for Them?
4. What is the Day of the LORD?
5. But Wait, Are We in the Day of the LORD Right Now?

#1 What is “the Wrath of God?”

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.

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 5:8 – 9

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

Revelation 6:15 – 17

15 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,

16 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,

17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

#2 Will God’s People Endure the Day of Wrath?

Malachi 4:1 – 3

1 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

2 But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

3 And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

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1st Thessalonians 1:2 - 5a, 9b - 10

2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,

3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,

5a because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction...

9b ...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

#3 What Should Christians Expect When Jesus Returns for Them?

1st Thessalonians 4:13 – 18

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1st Thessalonians 5:1 – 11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.

2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

3 While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.

8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- The day of the LORD will come suddenly like a thief.
- People will expect peace and safety; instead, destruction will come to them suddenly.
- But Christians (waking or sleeping) are destined for salvation.

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#4 What is the Day of the LORD?

Isaiah 13:6 - 13

6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!

7 Therefore all hands will be feeble, and every human heart will melt.

8 They will be dismayed: pangs and agony will seize them; they will be in anguish like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at one another; their faces will be aflame.

9 Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.

10 For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light.

11 I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.

12 I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir.

13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the LORD of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.

- It is a day of destruction from God, the Almighty.
 - It is “the day of the LORD” (Yahweh)
- God will be cruel, with wrath and fierce anger.
- It will be a day to punish the world for its evil and destroy sinners.
- The heavens will tremble, and the earth will be shaken.
- It is a day of great darkness.
 - The stars, the moon, and the sun will no longer give light.
- The hearts of men will melt in fear.

Joel 2:1 – 11

1 Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,

2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.

3 Fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them.

4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses they run.

5 As with the rumbling of chariots, they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army drawn up for battle.

6 Before them peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale.

7 Like warriors they charge; like soldiers they scale the wall. They march each on his way; they do not swerve from their paths.

8 They do not jostle one another; each marches in his path; they burst through the weapons and are not halted.

9 They leap upon the city, they run upon the walls, they climb up into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief.

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10 The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.

11 The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?

- It is a day of darkness and gloom.
 - The lights of the heavens will withdraw their light from shining.
- God will raise a mighty army to march across the earth, and none will escape them.
- The earth will quake, and the heavens will tremble.
- The people will be in anguish and great fear.

Amos 5:18 - 24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light,

19 as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.

20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 “I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.

23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

- It is a day of darkness and not light.
- No one will escape.
- God will not be appeased or appealed to by men.
 - He will not accept offerings to change His mind.
 - He will not look at solemn assemblies or listen to their songs.
- It is a day when justice will roll down, and righteousness will flow.

Obadiah 1:15 For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.

- This wrath will come upon all nations and repay the evil deeds they have done to others.

Zephaniah 1:14 - 18

14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.

15 A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the LORD. In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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- A day of destruction, darkness, and war.
- This is because of mankind’s sins against the LORD.
- Nothing will deliver them from the wrath on that day.
- This will be the end of the inhabitants of the earth.

#5 But Wait, Are We in the Day of the LORD Right Now?

2nd Thessalonians 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

2nd Thessalonians 2:1 - 8, 13 - 15

1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,

2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

Rebellion (*apostasia*): loosing or departure. This is often associated with an “apostasy” - a departure from the gospel in the gospel as “a falling away from the faith.” However, the Greek word is very generic.

The only other usage of *apostasia* in the New Testament is in **Acts**:

Acts 21:21 and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake (*apostasia*) Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.

The neuter noun *apostasion* is used in respect to divorce in **Matthew 5:31** and **19:7**, and **Mark 10:4**. The verb *apolyō* is used in terms of loosing, departing, dismissing, or separating.

Matthew 5:31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces (*apolyō*) his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce (*apostasion*).’

Matthew 14:22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed (*apolyō*) the crowds.

Act 13:3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off (*apolyō*).

Act 28:25 And disagreeing among themselves, they departed (*apolyō*) after Paul had made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

What loosing or divorcing or dismissal or separation or departure, has Paul been assuring us will occur before the Day of the Lord comes?

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4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

- The Day of the Lord will come to execute God’s wrath against the sin and the rebellion of man under the evil influences of the lawless one.
- Therefore, Christians should not be concerned that we are in the Day of the Lord, because the lawless one is being restrained from appearing until after the church has departed and been gathered together to be with the Lord Jesus Christ.

2nd Peter 3:10 - 13

10 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.

11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- It will come like a thief – unannounced, unexpected, and unpleasant.
- The planets and heavenly bodies will be on fire.
- But we are waiting for a new and righteous heaven and earth.