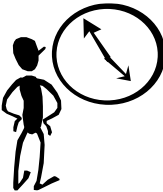
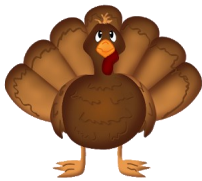


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Time of Assembly

Every other Sunday:

Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.

OR

Bible Study	4:00 p.m.
Worship	5:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Study	7:00 p. m.
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Some Thoughts on God's Wrath

By Doy Moyer

One way in which God's wrath is spoken of in Scripture is that God sometimes removes His protection and allows people to feel the consequences of the sins to which they have given themselves. Rather than intervene, He lets the "reap what you sow" principle work.

Sometimes God's wrath is carried out by people without His intervention. For example:

- The Israelites were warned that if they mistreated others (sojourners, fatherless, widows), then "*my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword*" ([Exodus 22:24](#)). God did not personally wield the sword, but He did it through others while removing His protection.
- Saul was chastised because he did not carry out God's wrath against Amalek ([I Samuel 28:18](#)).
- The Lord's wrath was kindled against Judah because of Manasseh, and God said He would remove them from His sight, which meant withdrawing His protection so that they would go into captivity ([II Kings 23:26-27](#)).

This shows that sometimes the wrath of God was seen in one nation coming against another. God gave people over to their situation and would not protect them from the destruction to come.

This same basic idea can be seen in [Romans 1](#), where "*the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth*" ([Romans 1:18](#)). How is this wrath manifested? By God giving them up to their destructive ways ([Romans 1:24, 26, 28](#)). "*God gave them over ...*" tells us that God leaves them to wallow in the consequences of their own self-destruction. "*And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up...*" This coincides

with [Ephesians 4:19](#), where the people gave themselves up to their own evil ways. In these cases, it seems that the wrath of God is applied through God giving people over to what they had done to themselves. Rather than save them from themselves, He allows them to experience the self-destruction of their own ways. Their rebellion removes them from the protection of God as God allows them to have what they wanted.

It's as if God says, "You don't want Me in your lives? You don't want my protection? You don't want My rules? Have at it. Here is what you get when you are on your own. I am cutting you loose to feel the weight of your own sin and rebellion. How is that working for you?"

God warned Israel about this. There is a correlation between wrath and God removing His presence so that the protections they enjoyed with His presence are no longer available. Note [Deuteronomy 31:17-18](#):

"Then my anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide my face from them, and they will be devoured. And many evils and troubles will come upon them, so that they will say in that day, 'Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?' And I will surely hide my face in that day because of all the evil that they have done, because they have turned to other gods."

This is the nature of what sin does. The wrath of God is experienced when we feel the weight and destruction of sin, particularly when we refuse to turn to God for reconciliation and redemption. To be without God is to find ourselves experiencing the destruction of what sin can do. This is God's wrath. If we want to do things our own way without Him, He'll give us over to the consequences of what that entails.

If we do not want God in our lives, then God will give us over to our own desires. The consequences we suffer will be a manifestation of God's wrath, but it will also be the natural consequence of losing out on God's protection and help. By essentially telling God to get out of our lives, and by His respecting our free will to do what we desire, we judge ourselves unworthy of the eternal life He offers (cf. [Acts 13:46](#)). We cannot say that God was being mean and unfair to us. All we can say is that we received the consequences of our own desires.

Because Christ became sin for us, we can become the righteousness of God in Him ([II Corinthians 5:21](#)). Much can be said about this with respect to what Jesus did for us, but for now, let us be thankful and focus on this point:

"For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him" ([I Thessalonians 5:9-10](#)).

We need not experience the loss of God's presence. We need not experience what it will be like to be given over to our own selfish destruction. Christ has made it so that we are not destined for wrath.

What to Do When the Country is Falling Apart?

By Gardner Hall

The prophet Habakkuk was overwhelmed with anxiety about two things: (1) The injustice in his country (1:1-4) and (2) the resulting destruction at the hands of the Babylonians (1:5-2:1). However, when the prophet turned to the Lord in prayer, his confidence grew to the point that he could rejoice in the Lord whatever happened (3:17, 18). The final verse of the book, a statement from one of David's Psalms (18:13), is compelling. "Yahweh my Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like those of a deer and enables me to walk on mountain heights!" (HCSB).

The reference is probably to an animal like the Palestine mountain gazelle. Their hoofs have sharp edges and the undersides are concave, enabling them to climb seemingly impassible cliffs and thus view the world, as it were, from above the fray. That's the idea here! God gave the prophet feet like those of a deer, the spiritual traction to climb into the spiritual realms and view the rise and fall of the nations with a compliant detachment.

God's followers today are often overwhelmed with the same type of anxiety: (1) The injustices in our countries and (2) their growing weakness. Rather than wanting us to fall into depression when being bombarded with news about the evils in our nation, God invites us through the prophet to pray to him and rise above the fray into the heavenly realms. A focus on him and eternity helps us avoid the despair that comes from a this-worldly focus. "Yahweh my Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like those of a deer and enables me to walk on mountain heights!"

Just a Drop in a Bucket

By Doy Moyer

I find it interesting that in the midst of a passage intended to provide comfort for God's people, and in declaring God's greatness, we find this ([Isaiah 40:15](#), [17](#), [23](#)):

"Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales..."

"All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness."

God *"brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness."*

No nation will stand forever. If Assyria and Babylon were but a drop from a bucket, accounted by God as less than nothing and emptiness, with princes and rulers brought to nothing, so also is the USA, Russia, China, and every other nation.

Christians, then, while seeking the welfare of the place wherein they live

(Continued on page 6)

(wherever that may be), are not to idolize any nation or ruler, for all nations and rulers will come and go. To God, they are as nothing. They will be taken up like fine dust. Do not put your trust in earthly princes or powers.

Regardless of our earthly citizenship, which sometimes can be utilized for the benefit of the spread of the gospel, our heavenly citizenship overrides all other factors ([Philippians 3:20-21](#)). We are part of a “*kingdom that shall never be destroyed*” and will never be “*left to another people*” ([Daniel 2:44](#)).

Even so, all the nations are yet invited to partake of the tree of life for their healing ([Revelation 22:2](#)).

Can You Find the Books?

There are thirty books of the Bible in the paragraph below -- not all 66 books, only 30. See if you can locate them. Here are some hints:

- 13 of these are from the New Testament.
- 17 are from the Old Testament.
- The letters are all in order (none are written backward).
- Some of the books may have one or more spaces between letters.

There are thirty books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his johnboat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fundraising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, the books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle of the names are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found!