

## ***THE WRATH OF THE LAMB***

We are speaking to you again from the Book of the Revelation. Turn to chapter six, and our subject is *“The Wrath of the Lamb.”*

***“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed, as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”*** (Revelation 6:12-17). Here you have the picture of God closing out this age, at a point when time as we know it shall be no more.

We need to look at this Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God. And, first, I want you to go back to the days of His flesh. He was born of the virgin, He lived a perfect life, then He died a sacrificial death. God raised Him from the dead, took Him back to Heaven and placed Him on His eternal throne and placed the reins of eternity in His hands. He is there now, as the God-man, reigning over the kingdom of God. During the days of His flesh, we saw very little indication of wrath, for He came to *serve* as the perfect and gentle Lamb. Secondly, let us notice Jesus upon His throne in His mediatorial reign. He is there now, reigning as Prophet, Priest and King and Judge. According to the Bible, ***“He must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death”*** (1 Corinthians 15:25-26). This is His glorious mediatorial throne, and He will remain there until every enemy has been conquered. We are told in Acts chapter three that Heaven must receive Christ ***“until the times of restitution of all things”*** (3:21), therefore He must reign successfully until everything that was lost in Adam is redeemed and brought back to the Lord Jesus Christ as His possession. He will continue His present reign—How long?—until the restitution of all things. Then our Lord is coming back to this earth in person to close out this age. Thirdly, I would have you look at the Lord Jesus in His second coming. He came first as a Lamb; He is coming back as a Lion. The Lamb speaks of His purity and humility; the Lion speaks of His authority and strength. As the *“Lion of the tribe of Judah,”* our all-glorious Lord is coming back to earth again!

You cannot look at Jesus in the days of His flesh and expect the same conduct from Him in the days of His wrath. The *“gentle Jesus meek and mild”* in the days of His flesh, is coming back in great power and glory in His wrath. When John saw the Christ of Revelation, His voice was as the sound of many waters, His eyes as a flame of fire, His hair as white as snow, His feet as fine brass burning, and His countenance shone as the sun in his strength (Revelation 1:13-16). That is the Lord who is coming back to this earth to close out time as we know it, coming back to take vengeance on them that know not God and obey not the Gospel, and to raise all of His people (2 Thessalonians 1:8). And there will be no more hope of salvation, so far as I know, after He comes again. That may go against some of your theories about the second coming, but I have not found anywhere in the Bible where sinners can be saved after the Lord’s return. In His return, He leaves the throne of grace and sits on the throne of absolute judgment. In my part of the country, some preach a *“gospel”* which holds out hope for the Jews to be saved after the Lord comes. I don’t find that in the Bible, and many of those preachers will admit it is not plainly recorded but they arrive at this teaching by deduction. Ladies and gentlemen, we are not authorized to interpret the Scriptures in that manner! Hebrews 9:28 says our Lord came the first time to bear the sins of many, and He is coming back the second time *“without sin unto salvation,”* coming back as Judge and not as a Sin-Offering, not as a Saviour!

As we seek to expound this great passage in Revelation chapter six, I want to ask several questions about the WRATH OF THE LAMB.

**I. WHO IS THE LAMB?** We have already showed you that it is our Lord, who came the first time in humility as the Lamb, but let us answer it more fully and see what the Scriptures show us about this Lamb.

First, *He is the God-man*, and a *hyphen* never meant so much as it does here. He is God and yet He is man; He is man and yet He is God. And if you take only one and leave the other, you have another Jesus; or if you lessen either His full manhood or His full Godhood, you have another Jesus. We want the Jesus of the Scriptures, who, when He was here in the days of His flesh, was actually God walking the streets, walking on the water, opening the eyes of the blind, cleansing the lepers—as He went about doing good, He was GOD and He was MAN.

Secondly, *Who is the Lamb? He is God's only begotten Son*. What a marvel it is that God would give His only begotten Son to be a sin-offering, to bear our iniquities and our diseases in His own body on the tree, to suffer and die in the place of God's dear people. ***"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed"*** (Isaiah 53:5).

Then *He is God's Prophet*, the One who came down here to this earth to tell us something, to declare something from God, to teach us. He did far more teaching than preaching, if you want to make the distinction. Showing us the ways of God and the way to God was the ministry of this Holy Lamb of God as God's great Prophet. In the Old Testament you had the offices of Prophet and Priest; both were God-ordained, and so our Lord Jesus is the Great Fulfillment and completion of these great saving offices.

Fourthly, *He is God's divinely-ordained Priest*. The prophet can teach us of God, but it is the Priest that must offer the sacrifice for our sins in order to bring fallen, guilty, depraved sinners back into fellowship with God. We fell in Adam and we lost all avenues of communication with a Holy God due to our sin. In the Old Testament, you could not come to God but by a priest. They had to have an altar, an acceptable sacrifice and a priest. You could not come into the presence of God in any other way. Now the Lord Jesus is God's High Priest, God's Mediator, God's one way of a sinner coming into His fellowship. ***"And the priest shall make an atonement for him before the LORD: and it shall be forgiven him"*** (Leviticus 6:7), and it tells us this over and over in the writings of Moses. The atonement blood was shed and the sinner was forgiven. Now Christ our Great High Priest has come and made the ONE final and complete sacrifice, and all for whom He operated as Priest are forgiven by God's grace. Oh, we have a Great High Priest at God's right hand! In Hebrews we read, ***"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"*** (Hebrews 4:14-16). As long as Christ, God's Lamb, sits upon the throne of grace, there is mercy and salvation; but the time is coming when the throne of grace will become a throne of judgment and all mercy is past. Ladies and gentlemen, that day is fast approaching! God's Lamb will execute judgment in His wrath!

And so, in the fifth place, *this Lamb of God is the King of Glory*. And I appreciate that, don't you? A KING is one who rules, one who knows the way and controls all circumstances, and I surely need such a King to rule and reign and govern me. Just as I need the Prophet to tell me the way, and the Priest of make atonement for my sins, so I need this Holy King of Zion to be my Lord and my King. In Psalm 24:7-10, ***"Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in."*** This is how God saves sinners—the King comes in to dwell there and make them over into His image. ***"Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the***

***LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.***” Sinner, He is King! Lay down your shotgun and surrender and the King of glory will take over. God will never lift the white flag of peace in any man’s soul until all rebellion has been conquered. And, dear believer, this King of glory is mighty in battle; He’ll fight and win for us. We don’t have to fight our battles—the King of glory has all the resources to fight every foe that we might face, and He will win! So I just trust in the King and move on with Him.

**II. WHAT IS THE WRATH OF THE LAMB?** We are told that the great day of His wrath has come, so what is His wrath and how does He reveal it? His wrath means that God is angry. Many people don’t believe that God is ever angry, but the Word of God shows otherwise. Even in the days of His earthly ministry, our Lord Jesus Christ became angry at the thieves and money-changers in the Temple. He demanded that they get up and get out of the Lord’s House immediately, and He even took after them with a whip! God’s anger is His righteous indignation against sin; it is God’s fury and God’s fire; it is His vengeance against evildoers. ***“When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”*** (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8), then the wicked ***“shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power”*** (vs. 9).

Then His wrath is God’s judgment upon the wicked. How we do need to warn this generation that the Lord is coming back again, and when He gets off His throne of grace and upon the throne of judgment, there’ll be no hope for the wicked. All of God’s elect will have already been brought in, and in this passage you find no opportunity of mercy for any man at His appearing. Search it; see if you can find any hope of salvation—you will find instead that ***“it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you”*** (that is, trouble God’s dear people, vs. 6). But no mercy! ***“Recompense tribulation;” “taking vengeance;” “everlasting destruction”***—not the language of mercy, my friends! When our Lord Jesus comes back to this world, He will be glorified in His saints, but there will be no hope of salvation for any man for the day of salvation as we know it will be ended forever! Today is the day of grace, but the day of His wrath is coming.

**III. WHEN WILL THIS GREAT DAY OF THE LAMB’S WRATH TAKE PLACE?** I do not, of course, know the date, but can give you some signs to let you see how God will work in the day of the wrath of the Lamb. I learned a long time ago that there are two things I must not do in reference to the coming of our Lord: I am not to be a stargazer all the time looking up into the heavens and only thinking and preaching about His return. So I must pray and preach as if He would return at any moment; then I make my plans and continue to work for the Lord as if He were not going to come at all in my lifetime. But, let us learn something of when He will come, as given in the Scriptures.

First, *He will come at the end of this age.* When will it be? I do not know, but all the indications are that the age is closing out now. The time element in God’s great prophetic programs is the most baffling thing we can ever study. Sometimes God seems to go along for about 2,000 years without any major prophetic event taking place, but there are certain signs of the times that seem to indicate that our Lord is coming soon. However, *soon* with the Lord may not be *immediately* according to our time scale. ***“Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh”*** (Matthew 24:44).

Secondly, *He will come when God’s grace ends.* Can you show me in this Book that the Lord will give a great revival and save many people after He comes back? He is going to call and save all of the elect while He is still seated on that throne of grace, not after He has risen in His wrath! ***“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them”*** (Revelation 10:11)—where do you see any great time

of people being saved there? ***“For the great day of HIS WRATH is come; and who shall be able to stand?”*** (Revelation 6:17).

Thirdly, as you can see, the day of His wrath will come *when God’s judgment begins*. At that coming day when time shall be no more, God asks, ***“Can thine heart endure, or can thine hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with thee? I the LORD have spoken it, and will do it”*** (Ezekiel 22:14). Oh, that day is coming when the Lord God Almighty with His holy angels shall lay hands on every wicked man in the earth, and will say, “You are arrested and condemned by the courts of Heaven and we are going to put you in Hell and you’ll be there forever and ever!” That’s the day of JUDGMENT, and who can be strong against the Lord when He has risen up in His wrath to judge? And there is no remedy, Ladies and Gentlemen, in that day when the Lord Jesus Christ comes forth in judgment, for the LORD has spoken it and He will do it!

#### **IV. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO GOD’S CREATION WHEN THE WRATH OF THE LAMB IS COME?** Let us notice our text more closely here, especially verses 12 and 13.

First, the stars shall fall from Heaven. Some think this is merely a spiritual thing, but it is going to be literal too. All of the great planetary systems have served their purpose and will be no more. The sun will refuse to shine. This has happened before—in Egypt when God sent total darkness, and at Calvary when the sun was hidden for three hours as the Lord of Glory died! Then there is going to be a great blackness down yonder in the future—a blackness as sackcloth of hair, He tells us. Then the moon will turn into blood and this earth will reel to and fro in a mighty cataclysmic destruction. The great men, the mighty men, the chief men of the earth will all begin to cry and tremble. They don’t know what to do, and so they are willing to be crushed by the mighty rocks and mountains. They had rather face death and Hell than to look upon the One who is coming forth in all His fury to judge the world. Then they begin to pray, but their prayer is too late—and they are praying to the wrong one, praying to nature rather than God. O Lord God, what a day that will be! ***“The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison”*** (Isaiah 24:19-22). Just like a little ball of yarn, God is going to visit this earth planet and wind it up! Here in Isaiah you have much the same story as in our text in Revelation 6, and I want you to see it and ponder over it.

This earth, He says, is filled with transgressions and they are heavy upon it. Ever since the day when Cain slew Abel, there has been a long course of constant bloodshed. This earth is soaked with blood, soaked with transgressions, soaked in sin, and she is going to fall and never rise again. I like to point out to some of my premillennial friends that in the face of all these Scriptures there is no place for an earthly millennium. They don’t see it, and they want to place this passage a long way out into the future, after their 1000-year kingdom, but I think they have no authority to do that. Anyhow, when the heaven and the earth have “fled away,” with no earth standing, where are you going to put their beautiful literal millennial reign? We just mention some things to cause you to think along with the Word of God.

**V. WHY WILL GOD DO THIS?** You must be sure that everything God does is wise and everything that God does is right. And since God is the great All-knowing God and the High and Holy God, it would be wicked and sinful for things to be otherwise. He is too good to do wrong and too wise to make a mistake. He is sovereign; when He planned all things that would ever come to pass, He didn’t consult you and me about it, did He? He knew what He was doing and all that He was going to do. When He got ready to create this earth and all the other planets, the stars and the great celestial

bodies, He did it without the help of any man. And when He brings it all to a conclusion, He is going to do exactly what is wise and what is right.

I am so glad that all things are in His hands. Your destiny is in His hands, for if it were left up to you Hell would be your certain doom! And so we don't know fully why He does all of these things, but I have studied it for a while and want to give you a few answers to this fifth question. Why will God send forth His Son in wrath?

First, He will do it *because time will be ended*. He said that time should be no more. After all of creation has served her purpose, God will bring it to a close. God created the sun, moon and stars for a purpose, to serve man and all the earth until time should come to an end. The moon serves God and controls the waters on earth; the sun controls all the land. The water and the heat from the sun bring forth food out of the ground for the service of man while he continues here in this time state. Creation has now served its purpose, and God rises up and says, "Earth, sun, moon, stars, I don't need you any more." And all of these things shall pass away, and there shall be a new Heaven and a new earth as the final home of God's children for all eternity.

Secondly, *God's new order has come in*. The old earth has the curse on it; but God is going to bring in a new order without the curse. And God's redeemed people are not going to live under that curse for all eternity, and neither is Christ going to reign here on this cursed planet! Notice what the Lord tells us in Isaiah: "**For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind**" (65:17). To begin with, our Lord created the earth and the heavens; then sin came in and brought the curse with it, and all of that must pass away in the purpose of God in redemption; and so we will have "new heavens and a new earth" and the former shall not come into mind. So far as I can tell, those who die in their sins are going to be forgotten by both God and their fellowman.

Thirdly, *His everlasting Kingdom has come*. We have Christ as our King now, and the Kingdom of God exists in its spiritual form. The King lives on the inside of His people and we are in His kingdom now; but the outward visible kingdom comes when our Lord comes back and brings in His new and everlasting rule and reign.

**VI. HOW IS GOD'S WRATH ILLUSTRATED IN THE BIBLE?** I must emphasize these things in a day when most people have a weak little God who is always trying to do something but sinners won't allow Him. He is a poor and pitiful "god" indeed! But in the Bible we have God exercising His wrath, His authority and His judgment all the way through the Old Testament and the New. God is a God of love, but also a God of wrath. A holy and a righteous God destroyed all the people in this earth at the time of the Flood. Down yonder in Sodom, the Lord rained down fire and brimstone and destroyed an entire city, after He had gotten His one righteous man out of it. God did that of His own power! Did He do right or did He do wrong? Who are you to stand up in the face of a holy God and try to justify the old wicked Sodomites and condemn God?

Then in Numbers chapter 16, we see where one family of people thought they were smarter than God, smarter than God's servant, and this Holy God of the Bible sent them all to Hell with their "breeches" still on! Yes, that is what the Bible says—He opened the earth and down to Hell they went. God vindicated His servant Moses and totally wiped out the opposition, saying to Moses, "March on!" Ladies and gentlemen, you and I need to realize that God will punish sin, that His wrath does rise up in a moment.

Do you remember when God wiped out 185,000 men of the Assyrian army? Old king Sennacherib sent Hezekiah a note and boasted of what he was going to do. Then Hezekiah, as it were, spread that letter out before the Lord, asked the Lord to read it and then tell him what to do. Then God assured him that HE would take care of the situation; so He sent His holy angel through the enemy's camp and wiped out an entire army! So when the leaders awakened that next morning, behold, the soldiers were dead men! Read 2 Kings chapter 19. God moved there to protect His people, and He is

going to do the same at the end of this age, to protect and defend those who faithfully walk with the Lord.

Judgment at the end of the age? It is coming! What does this mean? God is going to shake this earth and bring it to an end. Oh, what a day that will be! And the heavens will depart as a scroll that is rolled up. No wonder the mighty men, the kings of the earth, are screaming and wanting to be hidden from the One who sits on the throne! The most mighty, influential, powerful men of the day, and they are brought to be melted into absolute nothingness in the face of the wrath of the Lamb! And if the world's most mighty are brought down in such consternation, where shall the rest of the ungodly sinners appear? That day is coming, my sinner friend, and, Oh that you were wise while it is called today!

**VII. WHO SHALL BE ABLE TO STAND?** This is a personal question for each of us, and as I was preparing this message I had to look in my own heart and in my face, as it were, and ask the Lord if B. B. Caldwell would be able to stand in that day! There will be some people who can stand in the Day of Judgment. In searching the Scriptures I find several expressions that tell us *who* will be able to stand.

First, it will be *those who have been born again*. Regeneration gives a sinner that eternal life and nature that will be able to appear before this coming Lamb of God. Have you been born again?

Second, they are *those who are washed in the blood*. Are you washed in the blood? It is only His blood that can put away the guilt and stain of sin.

Third, *those who have on white robes*. The white robes are the righteousness of Christ, as John tells us in Revelation chapter seven. ***“And one of the elders answered, saying into me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them”*** (Revelation 7:13-15). These have wonderful acceptance with God and we don't hear them crying for the rocks to fall on them. They are able to go out and meet Him in peace, for He dwells with them and in them! The premillennialists talk to us about “the great tribulation,” as if it were only one certain time, but I read where Paul talks much about “tribulation” as a necessity (1 Thessalonians 3:4). So how are you going to avoid that which God sees as a necessity to purge us that we might come out to His praise and glory and be able to fight the good fight of faith? ***“We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God”*** (Acts 14:22). Well, who shall be able to stand? Notice in the next place,

Those *who are in Christ* will be able to stand. ***“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”*** (2 Corinthians 5:17). That new creature will not come under the judgment of God but will surely stand even in the day of God's wrath!

And so it comes down to the personal: Have you been born again? Are you washed in the blood? Do you have the white robe? If you are regenerated, you have that white robe and the devil cannot take it from you. It needs no dry cleaning process, but is kept ever fresh by the working of God's grace in your heart and life! It is the righteousness of Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. Are you a new creature in Christ Jesus? Then come out from among the wicked, come out of these old harlot churches, obey God in the fullest extent possible in your life, and seek to walk in newness of life with Him until your little day is done. Who shall be able to stand the day of His wrath? I believe that God's people will, for God is able to make us to stand. Will YOU be able to stand? Is the call of God on your soul in this hour? In the face of the coming terrible day of God's wrath, do you have any hope? Let us pray. — **B. B. Caldwell** (1899-1976)

- Originally preached in the 1960s or 1970s; transcribed from tape and slightly edited by Wylie Fulton. •