God's Relentless Wrath Against Sin

("His Hand is Stretched Out Still")
Isaiah 9:8-10:4
2-21-2024

Introduction:
Note the repeated Sentence: *"For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still." (9:12,17,21, 5:25; 10:4; 14:27)*
God stretched out his hand in wrath to send punishment & judgment.
Compare: Moses hands being lifted up in war (Exodus 17:8-16)

**** God hates sin, and is relentless in His holy wrath against it.***

I. The Lord will <u>completely</u> judge <u>PRIDE</u> (9:8-12)

II. The Lord will <u>suddenly</u> judge <u>REBELLION</u> (9:13-17)

A. Rebellious <u>Disregard for God</u> (v.13)

B. Rebellious <u>Leadership</u> (lies & false teaching) (v.14-16)

C. Rebellious <u>Hypocrisy</u> (v.17a)

D. Rebellious <u>Lifestyles</u> (v.17b)

E. Rebellious <u>Talk</u> (v.17c)

III. The Lord will <u>severely</u> judge <u>WICKEDNESS</u> (v.9:18-21)

IV. The Lord will <u>righteously</u> judge <u>INJUSTICE</u> (10:1-4)

Conclusion: While God's hand is stretched out against the wicked to keep them under His relentless wrath (Jn. 3:36), God's hands are also extended to offer grace, forgiveness and reception (see: Isaiah 65:1-2; Compare Rom. 10:21)

God's Relentless Wrath Against Sin

("His Hand is Stretched Out Still")
Isaiah 9:8-10:4
2-21-2024

Introduction:
Note the repeated Sentence: *"For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still." (9:12,17,21, 5:25; 10:4; 14:27)*
God stretched out his hand in wrath to send punishment & judgment.
Compare: Moses hands being lifted up in war (Exodus 17:8-16)

**** God hates sin, and is relentless in His holy wrath against it.***

I. The Lord will <u>completely</u> judge _____ (9:8-12)

II. The Lord will <u>suddenly</u> judge _____ (9:13-17)

A. Rebellious _____ (v.13)

B. Rebellious _____ (lies & false teaching) (v.14-16)

C. Rebellious _____ (v.17a)

D. Rebellious _____ (v.17b)

E. Rebellious _____ (v.17c)

III. The Lord will <u>severely</u> judge _____ (v.9:18-21)

IV. The Lord will <u>righteously</u> judge _____ (10:1-4)

Conclusion: While God's hand is stretched out against the wicked to keep them under His relentless wrath (Jn. 3:36), God's hands are also extended to offer grace, forgiveness and reception (see: Isaiah 65:1-2; Compare Rom. 10:21)

God's Relentless Wrath Against Sin

("His Hand is Stretched Out Still")
Isaiah 9:8-10:4
2-21-2024

Introduction:

"After giving a glorious description of the coming Messiah, who will usher in the kingdom for the nation and whose reign will last forever, Isaiah focused on the nation in his day." (Bible Knowledge Commentary, Walvoord, p. 1054).

The book of Isaiah continually alternates between the "then" and the "now"; future righteousness versus present sinfulness; future blessing by God versus present judgment by God.

Isaiah 9:8 – 10:4 is a poem which warns of God's judgment to befall Israel. The poem is divided into four sections, each one ending with the same refrain.

When Israel was about to enter the promised land, God gave warning, <u>not to forget</u> His commands. He knew that the danger of self-sufficiency and fullness of bread was that Israel might forget the Lord who provided it all (Deut. 28). Israel did, and turned to idolatry.

Did you know that God is a God who <u>hates</u>?

Now, the Bible is clear that God is a God of <u>love</u> (I Jn. 4:8).

He loves people (Jn. 3:16) and He loves righteousness ---

> --Ps. 11:7 - "For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness: his countenance doth behold the upright."
>
> --Ps. 33:5 - "He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD."
>
> --Ps. 37:28 - "For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off."

Because God loves righteousness, He of necessity must hate unrighteousness; because He loves right, He abhors wrong; because He loves truth, He hates falsehood; because He loves holiness (purity), He hates sin.

In a fallen world, it is impossible to love without hating (Amos 5:15).

Those who love sin, hate God (Mic. 3:2; Prov. 8:36), and those who love God, hate sin (Ps. 97:10 - "Ye that love the LORD< hate evil" (cp. Prov. 8:13).

"Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good" (Rom. 12:9).

God is not neutral or indifferent when it comes to sin.

Proverbs 6:16-19
These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Note the repeated Sentence: *"For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still." (9:12,17,21, 5:25; 10:4; 14:27)*

Isa 5:25 Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcases were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.
Isa 9:12 The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.
Isa 9:17 Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.
Isa 9:21 Manasseh, Ephraim; and Ephraim, Manasseh: and they together shall be against Judah. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.
Isa 10:4 Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.
Isa 14:27 For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

In these contexts, God's outstretched hand is not describing a hand of grace but an outstretched hand of wrath.

God stretched out his hand in wrath to send punishment & judgment.
Compare: Moses hands being lifted up in war (Exodus 17:8-16)

**** God hates sin, and is relentless in His holy wrath against it.***

I. The Lord will <u>completely</u> judge <u>PRIDE</u> (9:8-12)

v. 8
Through the Prophet Isaiah, God would send His word of warning to Jacob (Judah – the southern Kingdom), and that warning of God's wrath and judgment against sin would fall on Israel (the Northern Kingdom). Israel would serve as an object lesson to Judah.

Isaiah, who was a prophet primarily to Judah, would warn Judah of future judgment and would give Israel as an example.

This is like saying, "Learn from your sister!" See the punishment coming to her (by Assyria in 722 BC) and turn from your sin or else the same thing will happen to you. (and it would – by Babylon in 586 BC).

v. 9
Ephraim and Samaria, who personified the 10 northern tribes, were warned of impending judgment. God said through Isaiah and other prophets that He would level their cities, but they in pride (arrogance) and stoutness (fatness) of heart said in effect, "If he does, we will rebuild stronger and better!) **(v. 10)**

v. 10
The pride of Israel was in thinking that they could rebuild what God has torn down.

Israel said in arrogance, "God, if You break down our brick buildings, we will rebuild with cut marble; You break down our sycamore trees, and we will replant them with cedars."

v. 11
God has often used His enemies to chastise His chosen nation.

He would use Assyria to conquer Northern Israel (cp. 10:5) and Babylon to conquer Southern Judah.

Perhaps today He would even use militant Islamic terrorists to judge the West (as was the case on 9/11/01).

v. 12
Not only would God use Assyria, but He would employ the services of Syria to lead the way and of the Philistines to mop up from the rear.

These heathen people would—like a powerful vacuum cleaner with gaping mouth wide open—devour everything in their path.

"His hand is stretched out still" - "The outstretched hand will punish (cf. 5:25) beyond what the people had already experienced" (MacArthur note).

What was the sin that would lead to such a judgment by God? Pride.

God hates pride (cp. Assyria's pride 10:12-20 and Babylon's (Lucifer's) pride 14:11-15).

- Prov. 11:2 - "When pride cometh, then cometh shame"
- Prov. 13:10 - "Only by pride cometh contention"
- I Jn. 2:16 - "The pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world
- 1 Peter 5:5 – "be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."
- Prov. 16:18 - *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall*"
- Prov. 15:2 - *"The Lord will destroy the house of the proud"*

--Ask Nebuchadnezzar (who boasted over Babylon) if God can abase (humble) the proud (Dan. 4)
--Ask Hezekiah (who boasted of his vast wealth) if God abases the proud (II Ki. 20:12-18; cp. II Chron. 32:25)
--Ask Uzziah (who usurped the role of priest) if God abases the proud (II Chron. 26:16-20)
--Ask Herod Agrippa if God abases the proud (Acts f12:20-23).

II. The Lord will **suddenly** judge **REBELLION** (9:13-17)

Rebellion is the relentless refusal to submit to an authority.

Rebellion is a theme in Isaiah:

Isa 1:2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

Isa 1:20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isa 1:23 Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

Isa 30:1 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

Isa 30:9 That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:

Isa 36:5 I say, sayest thou, (but they are but vain words) I have counsel and strength for war: now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me?

Isa 50:5 The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

Isa 63:10 But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

Isa 65:2 I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;

Isaiah was a prophet who would go and preach to the nation of Judah, yet they would not listen to him (Chapt. 6:9-11); Tradition says that Isaiah would eventually die by being cut in half by a saw (cp. Heb. 11:37).

1Samuel 15:23 – "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry"

A. Rebellious Disregard for God (v.13)

As a stubborn child who refuses to respond to the discipline of his parent, Israel refused to respond to the chastisement of God.

God would chasten Israel and still she would not repent and turn back to God, but would remain obstinate, stiff-necked, and stubbornly rebellious.

Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.

B. Rebellious Leadership (lies & false teaching) (v.14-16)

v. 14
"Head and tail" - Both extremes and everything in between will be cut off in one day.

v. 15
Everyone from false leaders to false prophets would be judged by God, through Assyria.

v. 16
As the leadership goes, so go the people. When the blind lead the blind, both fall into the pit.

It is a serious matter to teach God's Word. To offer teaching that leads to error ends up in destruction.

C. Rebellious Hypocrisy (v.17a)

Why would God not even spare the youth, those without fathers and women without husbands?

Answer: Because everyone of them also is a hypocrite, and every mouth speaks foolishness.

The word ***"hypocrite"*** refers to one who answers or speaks out from underneath a covering; the word was used of actors who pretended to be someone they were not. These Greek and Roman stage actors would speak behind large masks and alter their voice to conceal their real identity and to match the person they pretended to be.

Hypocrisy is totally the opposite of the nature of God. It is a lie, while God is truth; it is fake, while God is real and genuine; it is deceitful, while God is trustworthy.

One is never more like the devil [who can disguise himself as an angel of light (II Cor. 11:14)] than when one pretends to be something he/she is not.

Matthew 23:13-f is the hardest sermon against hypocrisy in the Bible
ILLUS: Aesop's fable of a wolf that disguised itself as a sheep
(MacArthur, Matthew, Volume I, p. 353)

God is interested in the heart, not mere external, insincere displays of piety.

Phony "spiritual" practices cannot fool the Lord.

"You are what you really are when you are all alone."

What you do when no one is watching you reveals your true character.

Too many today, like the ancient Pharisees love "*the praise of men more than the praise of God"*

Christianity is not theatrics, it is not an act, it's not a game of pretending; it's to be a real, genuine relationship with God that results in real, genuine works for God.

In a world of facades, fake appearances, false impressions, deceitful image, masks, artificiality, we can make our greatest impact by just simple being REAL (genuine)!

D. Rebellious Lifestyles (v.17b)

E. Rebellious Talk (v.17c)

Beware of the judgment for rebellion!
Proverbs 29:1 He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

III. The Lord will <u>severely</u> judge <u>WICKEDNESS</u> (v.9:18-21)

v. 18
"Wickedness" (risha) – "denotes the kind of life that is opposite to God's character" (TWOT, Vol. 2, p. 863). Criminal activity, unrighteous crimes committed ultimately against God.

Wickedness is any action or attitude which is out of conformity with the character and will of God.

Sin is its own destruction. Wickedness promises pleasure but inevitably delivers death.

"The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

v. 19
"God's wrath allowed wickedness to cause the society to self-destruct" (MacArthur).

When brothers turn on brothers, something is terribly wrong.

v. 20
"If ye bite and devour one another, take heed lest ye consume one another."

v. 21
Ephraim and Manasseh – two brothers -- "Descendants of Joseph's two sons had engaged in civil war with one another before (see Judg. 12:4) and unite only in their opposition to Judah." (MacArthur)

Civil wars in the home, church, and society are due to <u>wickedness</u>.

There is no harmony to be found in sin; only turmoil, confusion, disorder, chaos, anarchy, and selfish disregard even for your own family.

IV. The Lord will <u>righteously</u> judge <u>INJUSTICE</u> (10:1-4)

v. 1
This woe (pronouncement of judgment) is upon those who legislate unrighteous laws.

Isaiah 10:1 is a good verse for the lawmakers of Albany.

v. 2
God is here speaking of laws designed to rob the poor of justice (not allowing fair trials or fair treatment of needy people) and lawmakers which violate human rights and exploit the poor and needy.

Those who take advantage of others will have pay day – some day.

v. 3
"The day of visitation" – refers to the invasion of God's wrath via Assyria and later Babylon.

The law of sowing and reaping (Gal. 6:7) will go into effect when the exploiters become the exploited, the unjust become the victims of injustice, the robbers get robbed.

v. 4
Without God's helping hand to aid, the unjust will fall lower than the low, with none to help.

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:31). It is a serious matter for God to stretch out His hand to chasten or judge.

Conclusion:

In the Lake of Fire, God's wrath will be relentless. There will be no exit door, no escape route, and no reprieve. There will be no rest, no cessation, and no diminishing of God's righteous indignation against sinners.

Mt 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:
Mt 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.
Re 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.
2Th 1:9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

While God's hand is stretched out against the wicked to keep them under His relentless wrath (Jn. 3:36), God's hands are also extended to offer grace, forgiveness and reception (see: Isaiah 65:1-2; Compare Rom. 10:21)

Romans 10:21

"...I have stretched forth My hands."
God's gracious offer of life was and is extended even to those who are under His wrath.

As long as God's hand of mercy is stretched out we must invite men to the spiritual wealth in His hands (Rom. 10:12).

"Gainsaying" = obstinate or contradicting

Israel had witnesses from A - Z (prophets from righteous Abel unto Zacharias - Mt. 23:35).
ILLUS: The parable of the King's wedding for His Son (the rejection of Israel) - Matt. 22:1-14.

However, He also stretches out His hand inviting you to enter His arms. He wants to save you today!