

1. **Introduction:** Revelation describes God's judgment on an earth whose people rejected its Creator. The overall message is "God is Sovereign and His justice will prevail." To understand Revelation, it is necessary to consider God's wrath and peace with God.
 - Peace on earth was shattered by consequences of Adam and Eve's sin. Sin led to God's wrath. We will consider God's wrath by first considering our own wrath.
2. **Human Wrath:** Human wrath is an intense, uncontrollable emotion of anger, hatred, or rage, often accompanied by a strong desire for vengeance (think of road rage as an example). Our sin-nature presents us with an overwhelming desire to punish or seek revenge against offenders.
 - From God's perspective, human wrath is sin that usually gives birth to other sins. Wrath is distinguishable from "normal" or "natural" anger kindled by unjust actions. Because human wrath arises from our sin nature, wrath is often disproportionate to its apparent cause. Wrath can be both petty and merciless.
 - Natural anger at injustice should generate a godly response. Anger that seeks vengeance is wrong. Vengeance belongs to the Lord.
3. **God's Wrath:** God's wrath is not malicious anger. It is His righteous response toward all ungodliness and unrighteousness which has been active toward humanity since Adam's sin.
4. **Created in God's Image:** God created Adam and Eve in a state of holiness which if maintained by obedience would enable them to live forever in God's presence.
 - God is Spirit. Adam and Eve were created spirit/physical creatures with their spirit "alive" and sensitive to God's Spirit. All humans are their progeny.
 - God has both communicable and non-communicable attributes. He gave His human creatures replicas of His communicable attributes of love, knowledge, justice, goodness, truthfulness, mercy, patience, holiness and wisdom. Disobeying God disrupts communicable attributes.
 - Only God possesses incommunicable attributes which include being omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, sovereign, transcendent, immutable, and self-existent. These attributes can be defined but not fully comprehended. They belong only to God.
5. **Adam and Eve's Wish List:** Adam and Eve, in the Garden as created, lacked nothing necessary for life. The serpent figure came into the Garden and stirred their natural curiosity by reminding them that God knew things they didn't know and could do things they couldn't do. He convinced them God was deliberately depriving them of knowledge they needed.
 - They rightly wanted to be more like God but wrongly wished for what God had withheld.
 - God shielded Adam and Eve from knowing about evil

6. **Beginning of God's Wrath Toward Human Sin:** Adam and Eve knew only God's goodness. The serpent brought evil to their attention by telling them they could become more like God through knowing about evil as well as good.
- The two new humans were free to do as they pleased with one exception. They were not to eat fruit from the tree of knowledge in the middle of the Garden. The serpent told them eating that very fruit would make them like God in knowing both good and evil.
 - Adam and Eve didn't recognize the likelihood God knew things, that for their own good, they shouldn't know. They had no idea that knowing evil would be harmful. They decided to eat the fruit believing they would become more like God in desirable ways.
 - The reality was, that after disobeying and eating the fruit, they "fell" from innocence into a changed state of being in which they acquired a "sin nature" making them unholy, a state that was passed to all their progeny. Their inherent inclination to trust and obey God was lost and they feared their loving Creator.
 - They immediately died spiritually, became mortal and began to die mortally. Their "created" perfection of holiness was lost by their disobedience. Adam and Eve had become sinners with seemingly no way to "go back."
 - Their Creator had no sin in His nature, nor had He put sin in their "as-created natures." Their choice to disobey Him cost them (and us) their holiness, brought sin into their lives, gave them a sin nature, destined them to die mortally, and caused the earth to be cursed.
7. **God's Wrath at Sin:** What happened to Adam and Eve was a disaster of staggering proportions. The disaster was a consequence of their sin of disobedience. God's righteous wrath was kindled at their sin. The worst consequence was loss of their state of holiness.
- Their sin made them unholy. Unholiness caused them to realize they were naked before God. That seemed dangerous. They tried to cover themselves and their sin with fig leaves. But realizing they were naked was the least of the problems caused by their sin.
 - Having become unholy meant they could no longer live in God's presence in the Garden of Eden (Hebrews 12:14). For that reason, Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden.
 - Outside the Garden they found themselves on an earth made hostile by the consequences of their sin. No longer able to eat from the bounty of Eden, they had to learn to grow and find food among the thorns and thistles of the cursed but still habitable earth.
 - With God's help, Adam and Eve and their progeny endured, but they and all their progeny would live with the consequences of God's initial wrath against Adam and Eve's sin. Adam and Eve's progeny would also experience God's wrath against their own sin. God's eternal wrath can only be avoided if God provides a way.
8. **God's Love for His Created Humans:** God is eternal love. He has wrath but is not wrath. Love is a fundamental, eternal attribute of God, but wrath is simply God's holy character rightly responding to the presence of the evil of sin. If no sin, then no wrath at sin.

- Before Creation, God’s love was between the members of the Holy Trinity. Creating moral spiritual creatures (angels) and physical/spiritual creatures (humans) extended God’s love. He gave His moral creatures freedom to choose. That introduced the possibility of sin.
 - Some of God’s angelic spiritual creatures and both of His first physical/spiritual humans did sin. As-created, they possessed never-ending life with the ability to choose to sin or not sin.
 - When some angels sinned, no provision was made for their forgiveness or cleansing. They were cast out of God’s presence and continued in a never-ending life of opposition to God.
 - Humans were created holy with the possibility of never-ending life and the ability to choose to sin or not sin. If they sinned, they would become mortal. They sinned! Sin brought death.
 - God’s wrath was kindled against their sin. But God “so loved” His sinful human creatures that He decreed for Himself to pay sin’s penalty including directing His wrath at Himself.
9. **God’s Plan to Redirect His Wrath at Human Sin to Himself:** With great redeeming love God decreed, that for His human creatures who would believe, He would pay the death penalty due their sins and absorb the wrath due those sins, thus enabling their restoration.
- God deemed freedom of choice for His moral creatures vital even knowing some would use it to choose to disobey and oppose Him. Both angels and humans could choose to sin or not sin.
 - Though moral creatures were created holy, if they sinned, their sin of disobedience would cause them to lose their holiness. Unholy creatures could not live in the presence of Holy God. Unholiness deserves and receives God’s righteous wrath.
 - Today, during mortal life, the redeemed live on earth assured of eternal life in God’s presence when they die though they remain sinners redeemed by grace. The people on earth are a mixture of redeemed sinners and unredeemed sinners.
 - God’s wrath at sin was revealed when Adam and Eve sinned and continues to this day.
 - Today, The “***wrath of god is being revealed***” (Rm 1:18 NIV).
 - God’s wrath is directed at “sin” not specifically at people, but the bad things that happen because of sin affect both the redeemed and unredeemed.
 - Since Adam and Eve sinned, there has never been a time in human history when God’s wrath at sin was not active.
 - God’s wrath is neither a new thing nor a thing uniquely directed at end times. It is God’s holy nature responding to evil. It has been active toward human sin since Adam and Eve’s sin and will continue to be active until there is no more sin.

- **Examples of God's Wrath at Offenses of Unbelievers:** Achan taking forbidden plunder from Jericha resulted in a plague on Israel; destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah for sexual sin (only Lot and his two daughters survived); Nadab and Abihu (sons of Aaron) were incinerated for offering unauthorized fire before the Lord; Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas died for wickedness and disrespect for God's offerings; a plague killed 24,000 Israelites in Moab for immorality and idol worship.
- **A Few Other Examples:** (1.) The flood of Noah's time (only 8 people were saved). (2.) Egypt enslaved the Hebrews. They were in Egypt for 430 years. Their enslavement began when Joseph died after the first 30 years. Slavery lasted 400 more years;. (3.) Assyria conquered the Northern 10 Tribes and exiled them by scattering them in the Assyrian Empire. (4.) Babylon conquered Judah and destroyed Solomon's Temple in 586 BC. (5.) Rome conquered Judah and destroyed the Second Temple in 70 AD. Jewish sacrificial worship ended, most Jews who survived were scattered. About a million Jews were killed in the war. (6.) Black-death plague in Europe from 1346-1353 killed about 50 million people which was about 50% of Europe's 14th-century population. (7.) The 20th century was a century of devastating wars. There were 2 world wars, a deadly cold war, and many regional conflicts. The gruesome total number of people killed by war in the 20th century wars is estimated between 125 and 200 million (still a small percentage of the 20th century world population).
- **Protection from God's Wrath:** "In Christ," believers' souls are protected from all harm. No one and nothing can take them out of God's hands. Their physical bodies and minds may be tortured, and they may be killed, but their redeemed souls will live on with God. Jesus paid the death penalty due our sins and experienced God's wrath at those sins.
- Ultimately, each redeemed soul will be united with a resurrection body. Then, as a complete holy human person, they will live forever in God's presence.
- Their ever-lasting home will be in God's paradise on the New Earth with a New Heavens. All effects caused by sin will be removed. All things will be restored to holy perfection.
- The battle against sin from a human perspective has been long. Victory at times has seemed doubtful, but God is all-powerful. He will ultimately subdue every obstacle.
- God wins! Because God wins, we win. Bless His Holy Name and His plan that will restore to Him a holy people who will then live a never-ending life of peace "in Christ" with Him in His paradise.

10. **Summary 12/14/25:** God's wrath is His righteous response toward all ungodliness and unrighteousness. His wrath toward human sin began with Adam and Eve's sin and will end when Jesus comes again. All sin will then have been eliminated either by redemption or will be eliminated by terminal judgment.

- Jesus life and death shielded the souls of those "in Christ" from harm. Nothing and no one can harm the soul of a person "in Christ." Their mortal body and mind can be tortured and killed, but their soul is safe and secure "in Christ."
- God's wrath comes in many forms derived from anything within His sovereignty. Wrath may come as His direct action or may come through natural disasters or human-caused disasters.
- The major form God's wrath takes is removal of Common Grace restraints enabling the sin nature of people to do its worst. That means people carry out most judgments on themselves by their own actions. God gives them over to their own sinful desires with accompanying consequences.
- God's wrath is real and active on earth today and has been since Adam and Eve's sin. The tragedies unveiled in Revelation are all a consequence of God's rightful wrath at sin.
- God's wrath will cease when evil is no more. At that point, God's plan will be complete, the cursed earth and heavens healed, and final punishment of wicked angels and humans finished.
- Though the route to God's planned end-state for creation has been and will be difficult, God has ordained that the souls belonging to Him "in Christ" will be protected from all harm. The human mortal body containing the soul during mortal life may suffer and be killed, but no one and nothing can harm or snatch redeemed souls from God's hand.
- Rejoice! Let God do what He must do to bring His plan to completion.
- God told Adam and Eve they must not eat the fruit of forbidden knowledge. Likewise, He tells us not to speculate about the day of Jesus' return or about the timing of end-times' events.
- Simply, be prepared (by being obedient) for His unexpected coming. Jesus will come "like a thief in the night." Like a good scout, "Always be prepared!"
- **Deuteronomy 29:29:** *"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."*