

Romans: Verse-by-Verse

Romans 2:5-6B

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 God "will give to each person according to what he has done."

- God Judges Humans On The Basis Of Deeds

All along Paul has been trying to tell us something: Because of his great love for humans, God has been holding back his full judgment of sin. As he said in verse four:

"Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?"

There are two points in history when God's kindness, tolerance, and patience will no longer avail for us. 1. When we die without having acknowledged God's offer of salvation. 2. When God's full judgment is finally poured out on this world.

The long view: "But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed."

- **The Day Of God's Wrath:**

Synonyms in the Old and New Testament: "The day of the Lord," "The day of Christ," "The day of God's wrath", or "That day". All point to the same future moment in history Paul references in Romans 2:5.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3: “Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”

The phrase "the day of the Lord" appears some twenty-one times in the Old Testament. See: Joel 1:15; Zephaniah 1:14.

New Testament references speak of "the day of the Lord" as a future event: 1 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Corinthians 1:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:2; 2 Peter 3:10

All twenty-seven passages in the Bible containing the phrase "the day of the Lord," speak of it a future moment in history. See also, "The day of Christ": Philippians 1:6, 10, and 2:16.

- **Two Points of Focus:**

1. The “Day of the Lord” encompasses an entire set of events – not just one day. 2. The “Day of the Lord” describes a moment in history when God’s full judgment is released in our world.

- Old Testament References to “God’s Wrath”:

There are five Hebrew words in the Old Testament that are sometimes translated "wrath." One word used to describe “The Day of God’s Wrath” is "ebrah" which denotes “overwhelming fury”.

- “A day of Reckoning” - Isaiah 2:12
- “A day of Judgment” - Isaiah 2:13-17
- “A day Cruel, with Fury and Burning Anger” - Isaiah 13:9
- “A day of Destruction from the Almighty” - Isaiah 13:6; Joel 1:15
- “A day of Panic, Subjugation, and Confusion” - Isaiah 22:5
- “A day of Vengeance” - Jeremiah 46:10

- “A day that Belongs to the Lord God of Hosts” - Jeremiah 46:10
- “A day of Tumult” - Ezekiel 7:7
- “A day of Doom” - Ezekiel 7:10; 30:3
- “A day of Battle” - Ezekiel 13:5; Zech. 14:3
- “A day of Clouds” - Ezekiel 30:3
- “A day of Judgment for Egypt” - Ezekiel 30:19
- “A day of Gloom and Darkness” - Joel 2:2; Amos 5:18, 20; 8:9
- “A day that is Great and Awesome” - Joel 2:11; 3:1
- “A day when the Sun and Moon grow dark” - Joel 3:15
- “A day when Justice is Dealt Out” - Obadiah 15
- “A day of Punishment” - Zephaniah 1:8
- “A day of the Lord's Anger” - Zephaniah 2:23
- “A day that is Unique” - Zechariah 14:7a

All of these Old Testament descriptions make it clear that “The Day of God’s Wrath” will have manifold consequences.

- The New Testament Expressions:

1. A day of cataclysmic judgment: 2 Peter 3:10-13

2. A day of deliverance for God’s people: Romans 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10, 5:9; Luke 17:30

Robert Van Kampen: “The day of the Lord’ Synonymous with the “end of the age,” the “final harvest,” and the “seventh seal,” which includes God's trumpet and bowl judgments and is culminated in the battle of Armageddon.”

The primary purpose of the day-of-the-Lord wrath: To destroy the kingdom of darkness, giving specific attention to the final beast empire of Satan, which, at that time, will dominate the world.

- **The “Day of the Lord's Wrath” is composed of two major parts:**

1. The series of God's trumpet judgments against the earth's wicked, including unsaved Israel, that will occur while the seventieth week is in progress.

2. The series of bowl judgments, "which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished."

In its final moments, The “Day of the Lord” will end at the climactic battle of Armageddon."

So seeing the “Day of God’s Wrath” in context we can understand fully what Paul is warning the Jewish and Gentile moralizers about. By refusing God’s kindness, tolerance and patience, they are storing up for themselves God’s wrath.

That wrath is going to be experienced at two points in history: 1. When they die and can no longer respond to God’s kindness. 2. When “The Day of God’s Wrath” engages and God’s full judgment is released in the world.