



The heart of God & the anger of God

By Bill Subritzky

THE HEART OF GOD

THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. God's love.

God was crushed by the adulterous heart of Israel.

“Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols; they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations.” (Ezekiel 6:9.)

2. The Anger of God.

God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of the widespread practice of homosexuality by the inhabitants. (Genesis 19:24, also Ezekiel 16:50, Jude 7, Leviticus 18:22 and Leviticus 20:13.)

THE GRACE OF GOD (Unmerited favour)

3. God chose Israel out of all the peoples of the earth.

“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” (Deuteronomy 7:6–8.)

4. God delivered the people of Israel out of Egypt. He opened the Red Sea.

5. He overthrew the Egyptians in the Red Sea and destroyed their armies.

6. Israel was a special treasure to God above all people.

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.” (Exodus 19:5.)

7. They complained in the desert and yielded to intense craving. God sent quail to feed them.

THE ANGER OF GOD

8. He told them to send spies into the Promised Land. With the exception of Joshua and Caleb they brought a bad report and refused to enter that land. God then condemned them to wander in the wilderness until the whole of that generation over 20 years of age died.

9. They continued to murmur against God and He sent a plague which killed 14,700 people.

10. The people continued to complain about a lack of food and water. God sent fiery serpents among them and many died. (Numbers 21:6.)

11. Israel committed fornication with the women of Moab a heathen nation and God took revenge upon Israel.

“Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel. Then the LORD said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the LORD, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel.” (Numbers 25:1–4.)

THE GRACE OF GOD

12. God gave Joshua great favour after the people of Israel entered the Promised Land and they defeated the many nations which had inhabited that land.

13. The reign of the Kings of Israel then began. Both David and his son Solomon ruled the nation and prospered as they obeyed God.

For example, Psalm 23 says –

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

14. The nation was then divided into the nations of Judah and Israel. Israel had a succession of kings who failed to obey God and took the people into idolatry. Finally God delivered that nation into the hands of Babylon and the people were taken there. They were replaced by heathen people from Assyria.

15. In the case of Judah, God performed great miracles of deliverance, such as defeating an Ethiopian army of one million men and 300 chariots by an Israeli army half that size.

16. Judah had a succession of kings, some of whom obeyed God, but the majority led their nation astray and finally God delivered Judah into the hands of the King of Babylon.

17. Throughout these years God sent a succession of prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel to warn Israel, but they mocked, scourged and imprisoned them. Other prophets were killed by the Israelites.

THE VENGEANCE OF GOD

18. In the book of Lamentations we read of the terrible punishment that God wrought on Israel. In accordance with His word of warning in Deuteronomy 28:58 that if they disobeyed Him, He would bring upon their descendants extraordinary plagues, great and prolonged plagues and serious and prolonged sicknesses as well as every other disease and sickness. He also said that they would eat their children. (Deuteronomy 28:53.)

19. In Lamentations 4:10, we read that the women cooked their own children and ate them.

CONTRASTING THE LOVE OF GOD WITH HIS VENGEANCE

20. The love of God for Jerusalem is illustrated in the following verses:

“Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: “Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born.

“And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ Yes, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare.

“When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,” says the Lord GOD.

“Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine

flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty. Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you,” says the Lord GOD.” (Ezekiel 16:1–14.)

21. The response to this love is illustrated in the following verses:

“Moreover you took your sons and your daughters, whom you bore to Me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your acts of harlotry a small matter, that you have slain My children and offered them up to them by causing them to pass through the fire? And in all your abominations and acts of harlotry you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, struggling in your blood.

“Then it was so, after all your wickedness — ‘Woe, woe to you!’ says the Lord GOD — that you also built for yourself a shrine, and made a high place for yourself in every street. You built your high places at the head of every road, and made your beauty to be abhorred. You offered yourself to everyone who passed by, and multiplied your acts of harlotry. You also committed harlotry with the Egyptians, your very fleshly neighbors, and increased your acts of harlotry to provoke Me to anger.

“Behold, therefore, I stretched out My hand against you, diminished your allotment, and gave you up to the will of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who were ashamed of your lewd behavior.” (Ezekiel 16:20–27.)

22. Eventually Israel was totally scattered and only came again into being as a nation in 1948.

23. No wonder God said that He was crushed by their adulterous heart.

All the above is an illustration of the fact that God set aside Israel as a special nation, loved it, delivered it and made it prosper, but nevertheless it defied God and earned His anger and judgment.

NEW TESTAMENT

24. The love of God.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16.)

25. This expresses the love of God for the world and the fact that He is giving it another chance. This is called the New Covenant.

God through Jesus Christ allowed Himself to be crucified on the cross because He loves us and wants to share eternity with us.

Those who cling to, trust and obey Jesus will have everlasting life. Those who do not will go to everlasting fire.

26. A further illustration of God's love is shown in the following Scripture when Jesus wept over Jerusalem, knowing its fate because of disobedience to God.

“Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.” (Luke 19:41–44.)

This happened and in A.D. 79 Jews rebelled against Rome and one million were slaughtered.

THE NEW COVENANT

27. The grace of God. (Unmerited favour.)

“For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah — not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” (Hebrews 8:7–12.)

“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17.)

28. If we come to Jesus in true repentance we receive forgiveness for our sins. This is the grace of God. He grants us this favour because of the price paid for our salvation on the Cross. Jesus Christ paid a ransom price for us, forgiving us of our sins and healing us.

29. Paul the apostle was a murderer and torturer of Christians before his conversion. He repented after meeting Jesus on the Damascus Road. In the Grace of God he became the great Apostle Paul.

30. Examples of the grace of God:

Jesus said,

“But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” (John 4:14.)

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” (John 5:24.)

And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35.)

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” (John 6:37.)

“And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:40.)

“I am the bread of life.” (John 6:48.)

“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:54.)

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.” (John 10:11.)

“And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.” (John 10:28.)

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 13:34.)

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. (John 14:12–14.)

31. The gift of the Holy Spirit is part of the grace of God.

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:15–17.)

Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” (John 14:23.)

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27.)

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” (John 15:7–8.)

“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one.” (John 17:22.)

32. Through the cross of Jesus Christ everybody who will listen and surrender to God can receive the Born-again experience and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

33. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us on earth, and Jesus intercedes for us in heaven. (Romans 8:26 & 34.)

34. For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13.)

35. The Gentiles received the Holy Spirit. (Which was a shock to the Jews.)

“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were

astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days." (Acts 10:44–48.)

36. Jesus died a dreadful death on the cross to forgive us, save us and give us the gift of eternal life.

37. We cannot take this grace of God lightly.

Warnings:

Romans 6:1–2 says, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"

"Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God." (Romans 6:11–13.)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23.)

"Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off." (Romans 11:22.)

38. Not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven."

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (Matthew 7:21–23.)

39. Jesus speaks against sin and refers to everlasting fire.

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched — where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’

And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched — where ‘Their worm does not die. And the fire is not quenched.’

And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire — where ‘Their worm does not die. And the fire is not quenched.’ “For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt.” (Mark 9:43–49.)

40. We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the things done in our body. i.e. in this world.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.” (2 Corinthians 5:10–11.)

41. Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

In this parable the servant who failed to do anything with the money given to him by his Lord was cast into outer darkness. This is a warning to us that we must use the talents given to us by the Lord.

42. Care for those who are; hungry, a stranger, naked, sick or in prison.

(Matthew 25:31-46)

We will be judged by our care of them and if we fail to do so we will be sent into the everlasting punishment.

43. Warning from the Apostle Peter.

“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now “If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?” (1 Peter 4:17–18.)

44. The born-again Christian who has clung to, trusted and obeyed Jesus Christ will receive a reward.

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

(1 Corinthians 3:11–15.)

45. Without Holiness no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14.)

ANGER OF GOD

46. Further warnings about those who fall away.

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.” (Hebrews 6:4–6.)

RESULT OF WILFUL AND DELIBERATE SIN AGAINST GOD

47. The “once saved always saved doctrine” has led many people into believing that once they have made a commitment to Christ that they will go to heaven.

There are many scriptures which disprove this doctrine.

e.g. Hebrews 10:26–31 says,

“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The LORD will judge His people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

48. Jesus said that the way to heaven is a narrow way and a difficult way and few there be who find it.

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

(Matthew 7:13–14.)

49. The final judgment of those who do not take part in the first resurrection and reign with Jesus for 1000 years.

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.” (Revelation 20:11–12.)

“And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15.)

50. The second death.

“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (Revelation 21:7–8.)

SUMMARY

51. All the above shows us that we must walk carefully before God and walk in His love and obey Him if we want to inherit the kingdom of God.

He loves us dearly. But if we continually and wilfully disobey Him we will incur His anger and face eternal death.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9.)

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7.)

52. The following is what the Bible says about sin. We should note that in some bibles today (e.g. The Message) they diminish the reference to sin by

deleting much of it. This of course puts the Scripture life of many Christians in danger.

The principal work of the Holy Spirit is to convict of sin, righteousness and judgment. (John 16:9-11.) If sin is removed from the Bible how can He convict us?

Remember if we repent from all sin, walk carefully before God in true holiness and obedience then we will inherit the kingdom of God, but not otherwise.

53. Sin list

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 says,

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Do not be deceived.

Neither fornicators,

nor idolaters,

nor adulterers,

nor homosexuals,

nor sodomites,

nor thieves,

nor covetous,

nor drunkards,

nor revilers,

nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”

Those practicing:

Uncleanness (impurity)

Filthy language

Dirty jokes

Licentiousness (indecent) e.g. Pornography

(Colossians 3:8, Galatians 5:19 & Ephesians 5:3-4)

Those practicing:

Sorcery i.e. witchcraft (Galatians 5:20)

Examples:

Fortune telling – Horoscopes

Some forms of heavy metal rock

Ouija boards

Drugs – charms

Spiritism – séances

Freemasonry

Martial Arts – Kung Fu, Aikido, Tae Kwon Du, Karate, Tai Chi, Judo (rooted in Taoism and Buddhism)

Druids Lodge

Eastern religions – Yoga, TM, ESP, Hypnosis (Hindu goddess Shiva)

Worship of the creation (Idolatry)

Romans 1:25 says,

“who exchanged the truth of god for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

Those practicing:

Hatred

Contentions e.g. quarrelsome

Jealousies

Outbursts of wrath

Selfish ambitions

Dissensions (causing fights)

Heresies e.g. Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons

Envy

Murders e.g. deliberate unnecessary abortion

Drunkenness

Revelries (wild parties)

(Galatians 5:20-21)

Those who are:

Cowardly (refuse to follow Christ)

Unbelieving

Abominable

Sexually immoral

Liars (Revelation 21:8)