

Morning Sermon August 29, 2021
"The Day of Wrath" Revelation 6:12-17

I. See in this passage the purpose of Christ's Second Coming: wrath, destruction, righteous punishment of sin –

¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" Revelation 6:17 (NKJV)

See this day as extremely different from Jesus' first coming –

1. His first coming was humble –

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

Though he was praised by angels, and visited by shepherds, Luke 2:8-20, at His birth, and though He did many miracles during His three years in ministry – John 21:24-25, even then He was not known world-wide; it was not until after He died, and after that resurrected, people started recognizing and acknowledging Him ...

2. His Second Coming will be seen by ALL –

⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and **every eye will see Him**, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. Revelation 1:7

The other major difference though is even MORE IMPORTANT and dramatic –

3. His first coming was with mercy and a provision of grace –

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Yet, even the message of grace had a warning of condemnation connected to it -

¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name

of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." John 3:16–21 (NKJV)

4. Yet Christ's second coming is a day of wrath and judgment –

¹² I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!" ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" Revelation 6:12–17 (NKJV)

A. Note, it impacts the universe, all creation – Revelation 6:12-14

B. Note, no human being will be able to escape it... not the king, not the rich, not the mighty, not the slave or the free...

The only way of escape is Christ Himself – John 14:6, Acts 4:12, and in the day of Wrath, He will no longer be the Savior, but the Judge -

²² For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. John 5:22–23 (NKJV)

II. Notice the wrath here is called **the wrath of the Lamb!**

¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from **the wrath of the Lamb!**" Revelation 6:12 (NKJV)

1. Sin against a Holy God is bad enough ---

2. However, sin against God's Love, and Christ's sacrifice INCREASES GUILT TEN-FOLD –

A. *With increased guilt is increased FEAR* – “Fall on us and hide us... from the wrath of the Lamb!” Revelation 6:16 B (NKJV)

B. *With increase guilt there is increased judgment / increased guilt was because of greater light and privilege* –

²⁰ Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.” Matthew 11:20–24 (NKJV)

C. *To whom much is given, much shall be required* -

⁴⁸ But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. Luke 12:48 (NKJV)

D. *Much Given = knowledge of Christ's sacrifice* -

²⁶ For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on *the testimony of two or three witnesses*. ²⁹ 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? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord. And again, “*The LORD will judge His people.*” ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:26-31

III. *Escaping God's wrath? Beware of hypocrisy* –

... He began to say to His disciples first of all, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. ² For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. ³ Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops. ⁴ “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of

those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! Luke 12:1B –5 (NKJV)

1. *Hypocrisy is putting on a mask*

A. *A mask of good deeds* – Matthew 6:1-4

B. *A mask of words, prayers* – Matthew 6:5-10

C. *Without a pure heart* –

²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men's* bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Matthew 23:27–28 (NKJV)

2. *All our hearts are by nature sinful, to the point we can deceive even ourselves* –

⁹ “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰ I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings. Jeremiah 17:9-10

3. *Just as kings and mighty men will be judged in the day of God's wrath, so will many who SEEMED to be godly Christians* –

²¹ “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. ²² 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?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)

4. *Confess your hypocrisy (and all other sins) to God* –

⁹ 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 (NKJV)

This is what the Bread, the Wine, the Lord's Supper are about, forgiveness because of the sacrifice of the Lamb!

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