

**Today's Topic: Wrath and Rapture**

**I. Scriptures about God's Wrath: Hebrew = *ebra*; Greek = *orgé* or *thymos*. Both mean anger, fury, rage, insolence; the righteous anger of God toward sinful disobedience and moral offense, having a focus on righteous punishment.**

**Zephaniah 1: 14-15, 18.** "The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness . . . 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath. In the fire of his jealousy the whole world will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth."

**Luke 3:7.** John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

**John 3:36.** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.

**Romans 1:18.** The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness

**Romans 2: 5-8.** 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. 6God "will give to each person according to what he has done." 7To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

**Romans 5: 8-10.** Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

**1 Thessalonians 5: 8-9.** But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 6:16.** They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

**Revelation 19:15.** Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

**I. Scriptures about the Rapture, a word not found in scripture. It is derived from the Latin verb *rapere* meaning "to carry off" or "to catch up," ideas that are firmly based in scripture.**

**Matthew 24: 30-41.** At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. . . . 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

**John 14:1-3.** In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52.** Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.** For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

### III. Discussion Questions

- We who are in Christ were not appointed to suffer God's wrath (1 Thes. 5:9). Talk about the difference between God's wrath and His discipline.
- If Christians remain on earth during the tribulation, or the day of God's wrath, what will they experience?
- As a believer would the way you live your life be any different if you believed you would be raptured vs. if you were required to endure the events of the tribulation?

**IV. Next Week's Topic & Scripture: OT and NT Sacrifice / Scriptures TBA.**