

“...And Justice for All”

A Contextual Study of
The Three Angels' Messages

Our Mission:

To make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels' Messages in preparation for His soon return (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Rev 14:6-12).

Key thoughts:

- God's people *are identified by* their faithfulness to His Word.
- God's people *have suffered because of* their faithfulness to His Word.
- God *has promised justice* to those who have suffered for their faithfulness to His Word.

“The Time of Your Wrath Has Come”

The Proclamation of Justice: Part One

Vindication & Vengeance

Revelation 11:18

The nations were enraged,
but your rage *has come*,
and the time *has come* for the dead to be judged,
and the time *has come* to give to your servants, the prophets,
their reward,
as well as to the saints and to those who revere your name,
both small and great,
and the time *has come* to destroy those who destroy the earth,

“The nations were enraged, but your rage has come.”

Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*,

"Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us."

“The nations were enraged, but your rage has come.”

He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.

Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure. (Psalm 2:1-5 NKJV)

“the nations were enraged”

"But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles [lit. 'nations']. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* forty-two months." (Rev. 11:2 NKJV)

“but your wrath has come”

- The Return of Jesus (Rev. 6:15-17)
- The Seven Last Plagues (Rev. 15:1)

Summary

1. The wrath of God is a response to the wrath of the nations—which refers to their opposition to God and their oppression of His people.

The Wrath of God

1. It is provoked by the wrath of the nations—i.e. their oppression of His people
2. It's purpose is the destruction of the oppressors

“the time has come for the dead to be judged”

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:9-10 NKJV)

“the time has come for the dead to be judged”

1. the time has come to give to your servants, the prophets, their reward, as well as to the saints and to those who revere your name, both small and great, and...
2. the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth.

OT Background

1. The Song of Moses – Deuteronomy 32
 - God will judge [vindicate] his people
 - God will avenge the blood of his servants
 - God will repay those who afflict his people
2. Judgment scene – Daniel 7

Daniel 7:21 NASB

I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them...

Revelation 13:7 NASB

And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them...

OT Background

1. The Song of Moses – Deuteronomy 32

- God will judge [vindicate] his people
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- God will examine the evidence recorded in the books

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- God will examine the evidence recorded in the books
- God will pass judgment in favour of the saints
- God will destroy the oppressor

The Judgment in Daniel 7

1. The judgment examines the evidence recorded in the books.
2. The judgment results in vindication for those who have been faithful and yet have been mistreated and oppressed.
3. The judgment results in the destruction of the oppressors.

Revelation 11:18

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and the time *has come* for the dead to be judged,
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their reward,
as well as to the saints and to those who revere your name,
both small and great,
and the time *has come* **to destroy those who destroy the earth,**

Who are the destroyers of the earth?

Revelation 11:18

... the time has come ... for destroying the **destroyers of the earth.**

Revelation 19:2

... his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who **corrupted the earth** with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

Summary

1. The wrath of God is a response to the wrath of the nations—which refers to their opposition to God and their oppression of His people.
2. The judgment of the dead assumes an examination of the evidence and results in the vindication of the martyred saints and the destruction of their oppressors.

The Wrath of God

1. It is provoked by the wrath of the nations—i.e. their oppression of His people
2. It's purpose is the destruction of the oppressors
3. It is poured out in the seven last plagues

“The time of your wrath has come”

Revelation 11:19

And **the temple** of God which is **in heaven was opened...**

Revelation 15:5-16:21

After these things I looked, and **the temple** of the tabernacle of testimony **in heaven was opened...**

“The time of your wrath has come”

Revelation 11:19

...and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hail storm.

Revelation 15:5-16:21

... and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake...and great hail from heaven fell upon men.

“The time of your wrath has come”

Revelation 11:19

...the ark of His covenant was
seen in His temple...

Revelation 15:5-16:21

And out of the temple came the
seven angels having the seven
plagues...

Summary

1. The wrath of God is a response to the wrath of the nations—which refers to their opposition to God and their oppression of His people.
2. The judgment of the dead assumes an examination of the evidence and results in the vindication of the martyred saints and the destruction of their oppressors.
3. The opening of the temple in heaven takes place in conjunction with the outpouring of the seven last plagues. The opening of the temple in heaven indicates the completion of the judgment process and the end of intercession.

The Wrath of God

1. It is provoked by the wrath of the nations—i.e. their oppression of His people
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Key thoughts:

- God's people *are identified by* their faithfulness to His Word.
- God's people *have suffered because of* their faithfulness to His Word.
- God *has promised justice* to those who have suffered for their faithfulness to His Word.
- God's justice includes *vindication* for those who have suffered for their faithfulness to His Word, and *vengeance* on those who have afflicted them.

Revelation 14:6-7 NKJV

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—

Revelation 14:6-7 NKJV

...saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

What is “the everlasting gospel?”

- The Greek word translated ‘gospel’ means ‘good news’.
- The Greek text does not have the definite article—i.e. there is no ‘the’ in the original.
- A literal translation would be “having eternal good news to preach.”

What is “the everlasting gospel?”

- The message of salvation from sin through the death of Christ is eternal good news—but it is not the focus here.
- The angel tells us exactly what his good news is— “the hour of his judgment has come”
- The good news is that God is going to bring justice to an unjust world—He is going to make right the wrongs that his people have suffered.

Judgment celebrated

- Again God's judgments are acknowledged as "true and just" but this time it is explicitly stated that the reason is because He "has judged the great harlot" (Babylon) and "has avenged on her the blood of his servants."
- This is exactly what the martyrs were longing for God to do. God has answered their prayer and in doing so has fulfilled the covenant promise of Deuteronomy 32.

Daniel 12:5-7 NKJV

Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank.

And *one* said to the man clothed in linen, who *was* above the waters of the river, "How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders *be*?"

Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who *was* above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that *it shall be* for a time, times, and half *a time*; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these *things* shall be finished.

Revelation 11:18

The nations were filled with wrath, but now the time of your wrath has come:

the time for the dead to be judged,

for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,

and those who fear your name,

both small and great,

and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.

Revelation 14:6-7 NKJV

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—

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