

Proverbs 35



Words to Find:
 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Wrath of God

Jonathan Edwards

The wrath of God is like great waters that are dammed for the present. The waters increase more and more, and rise higher and higher, till an outlet is given; and the higher the stream is stopped, the more rapid and mighty will be its course, when once it is let loose. If God should only withdraw His hand from the floodgate, it would immediately fly



open, and the fiery floods of the fierceness and wrath of God would rush forth with inconceivable fury, and would come upon you with omnipotent power. If your strength were ten thousand times greater than it is, yea, ten thousand times greater than the strength of the stoutest, sturdiest devil in Hell, it would be nothing to withstand or endure it.

The **Bible View**

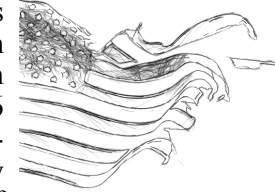



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Irreparable Damage

Bill Brinkworth

After reading I and II Kings, one sees that after King Solomon's death, the kings that succeeded him were often less than desirable. At least 26 leaders were remembered as: "...they walked in the sins" of another person, "... sinned and made Israel to sin ...", "... did evil in the sight of God...", or "... did worse than all that were before him." Bad leadership has always been a problem for any country, including Israel.



Of all the kings that wanted to lead their country in the direction God commanded, Josiah (II Kings 22-23) was the most determined to please God and have Him bless his country. King Josiah rebuilt the temple, so the country could return to proper worship of the one God in Heaven; and urged the priests to inquire of the Lord what must be done. When Josiah heard God's truths from the Word of God, he was convicted,

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God's Restraint

Jonathan Edwards

Sadly, in that time period, only six leaders were recorded as doing "... right in the eyes of the Lord ...", "right in the sight of the Lord", or even "... according to all his father (a godly man) did". Further investigation of those six reveals that not all of them did all that was right. They tolerated some sin to continue in their country, and did not halt all that was plaguing the nation. With early Israel as an example, we can see that godly leadership is rare.

The bow of God's wrath is bent, and the arrow made ready on the string. His justice bends the arrow at your heart, and strains the bow. It is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, and that of an angry God, without any promise or obligation at all, that keeps the arrow one moment from being made drunk with your blood.

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Irreparable Damage

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repented of his sins, and was even more determined to remove sin from his country; so God's hand would be on it

The young king committed himself, and the people also agreed to obey God. He cleaned out idolatry from all over the country. Even the places of false worship were destroyed. Priests of false religions were killed. Houses of sodomites (II Kings 23:7) were destroyed. Witchcraft and occult practices (II Kings 23:24) were also "put away," along with many other practices that were abominable in the sight of God.

After all the "good" this king brought about in Israel, I expected to read that God was going to spare the country His due wrath, as He had done graciously many times in the past. Although there "... was no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might ..." (II Kings 23:25) God did not stay His hand of vengeance on the land; all because of the great wickedness of a previous king, King Manasseh (II Kings 21).

*"Notwithstanding the LORD turned **not** from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had pro-*

voked him withal." II Kings 23:26

Horrified, I related that time in history to what is happening in so many countries today. Leaders, like the wicked King Manasseh, are also ignoring God's law. They are allowing false worship to continue, in many ways even giving it preferential treatment. There is no effort to turn to God. Abominations that are clearly forbidden by God are allowed and encouraged to continue. God is totally mocked, ignored, or forgotten.

Even more frightening is that even if a godly leader did take the reins of a country, and do all he could to turn the country to God, and even have results; it may be too late! Irreparable damage may have been done that has angered a Holy God! The sins of past leaders may have angered God so much; that no matter what moral and biblical changes are made, it may be too late!

What can one do, when God is so angered at what was done by previous leaders and the people? There is nothing that can be done, if it is anything like what happened prior to King Josiah's reign. A nation will reap what was sown by wicked rulers. Only God can turn His wrath away. We certainly cannot make Him.

"That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on

the unjust." Mat. 5:45 (Consequences often fall on the ungodly and godly, as rain falls on both).

If a nation finds itself in the hopeless situation Israel faced in II Kings 23, individuals still must not give up and succumb to what everyone else is doing. Christians must still stand for right and live righteously, and do all they can to change what is going on around them. Although nations may crumble, individuals can still determine in their heart to do what is right according to God's Word. We must do right, no matter what happens around us.

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Rom. 14:12

A Free Pardon

C. H. Spurgeon

A prisoner was taken out to die, and as he rode along in the death cart his heart was heavy at the thought of death, and none could cheer him of all the throng. The gallows-tree was in sight, and it blotted out the sun for him. But lo, his prince came riding up in hot haste, bearing a free pardon.

Then the man opened his eyes, and, as if he had risen from the dead; he returned to happy consciousness. The sight of his prince had chased all gloom away. He declared that he had never seen a fairer countenance in all his days; and when he read his pardon, he vowed that no poetry should ever be dearer to his heart than those few lines of sovereign grace.

Friends, I remember well when I was in that death-cart, and Jesus came to me with pardon. Death and Hell were before me; but I rejoiced exceedingly when I saw the nail prints in his hands and feet, and the wound in his side. When he said, "Thy sins, which are many, are all forgiven thee," I thought I never saw such loveliness before, and never heard such music in all my days. Nay, it was not mere thought; I am sure my judgment was right. Eternity itself shall never disclose anything to me more sweet. My pardoning Lord hath no peer nor rival. Oh, what a Christ is He who appeared to me, a guilty, condemned sinner, on the way to Hell! Blessed be His name. He bore on the tree my curse, and shame, and death, and I am free.

Curse of Sin

Dr. J. Parker

Oh, sin! How hast thou cursed us! Thou hast thrown up a barrier between ourselves and God; with thy chilling breath thou hast extinguished the light of our household joys. Thou hast unstrung our harp, and filled the air with discordant cries. Thou hast unsheathed the sword, and bathed it in human blood. Thou hast dug every grave in the bosom of the fair earth; but for thee we should not have known the name of widow or orphan, tear and sigh, sorrow and death; but for thee our hearts would not have known pain.

“No one gets away with any sin!”