

Character of God

Part 2

The Anger of the Nations

The Wrath of God

By
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&
Friends

The Anger of the Nations

The Wrath of God

Rev.11:18 tells us, “And **the nations were angry**, and **thy wrath is come**, and the time of the dead that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.”

Now I want you to see the terms “**the wrath of God**,” “**the anger of the nations**,” and how they function.

The one is the direct result of the other.

EW 41 reads, “I saw that the powers of earth are now being shaken and that events come in order. War, and rumors of war, sword, famine, and pestilence are first to shake the powers of earth,…”

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The powers of the earth are being shaken by **sword – famine – pestilence**. It is this shaking that is making the nations angry.

Lk. 21:24:

“sword”=judicial punishment (Strong’s **Gr. 3162**)

“sword”=war, battle, fighting (Strong’s **Gr. 3163**)

Jer. 44:13:

“sword”=knife, dagger (Strong’s **Hb. 2719**)

“sword”=effect of knife, sword, axe (Strong’s **Hb. 2717**)

“famine”=dearth, hunger (Strong’s **Hb. 7458**)

“pestilence”=plague (Strong’s **Hb. 1698**)

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Lk. 21:11:

“pestilences”=plague, **disease (Strong’s Gr. 3061)**

Rev. 11:17,18: “...Lord God Almighty...**vs.18**, And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come,...and shouldest destroy them that destroy the earth.”

“destroy”=corrupt, perish (Strong’s **Gr. 1311** from **1225**)

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Question: Is man capable of destroying the earth as our text indicated?

Example: Consider the Navy's Ohio Class Submarines known as "Boomers."

Subs number	14 total (14 or more!)
Per Sub	24 missiles
Warheads	8 per missile
Targets	192 per Sub
Destructive Power	50 Kilotons/warhead
Total Destructive Power	13,000 Hiroshimas/Sub

(The power increase is exponential)

Note: Hiroshima was 15 Kilotons

Answer: Obvious

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These three, **sword, famine and pestilence** are found in the seven last plagues.

Example: Noisome and grievous sores. (AIDS, MRSA, Flu epidemics, chemical warfare, biological warfare, infectious plagues, nuclear fallout etc. to name a few)

5 MS 15, tells us that the plagues are already falling. (i.e. sword, famine and pestilence).

Example:

1 Chron. 21:1 tells us that David numbered Israel.

Question: What was the result?

Answer: His punishment came in the form of pestilence, **vs.14** says, “So the Lord sent pestilence upon Israel:...”

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Jer.27:8 says, "...that nation will I punish, saith the Lord..." "punish"=visit (Strong's **Hb. 6485**)

Jer. 14:10,12,16 says, "Thus saith the Lord unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet [a life not in harmony with God], **therefore the Lord doth not accept them**; He will now remember their iniquity, and **VISIT** their sins...**vs.12**,...I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the **sword**, and by the **famine**, and by the **pestilence**." Notice **vs.16**: "**...for I will pour their wickedness upon them.**" See **Lev. 26:18-33**

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Here we see that sword, famine and pestilence come in the form of their own sins. In other words, God's retribution comes in the form of men reaping what they themselves have sown.

Jer. 2:19 says, "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee:..."

These calamities are visited in **MERCY** and are the motivating factor that God uses to turn people from their sins. This is referred to throughout the Bible as the "Wrath of God."

See **Rev. 14:10** and **Rev. 16:1**.

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Definition of Wrath:

“wrath”=passion, anger, rage (Strong’s **Hb. 5678-EBRAH**)

“wrath”=turn away, partition, transgression [sin] (Strong’s
Hb. 5674-ABAR)

“sin”=**GUILT** (Strong’s **Hb. 817**)

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Definition of Wrath: (cont)

Rom. 4:15 tells us, “...**the law worketh wrath.**”

Question: How does the law of God work wrath?

Answer: 1 Jn. 3:4: “...sin [wrath] is the transgression of the law.” God’s law works **wrath** when one disobeys the law.

Rom. 5:9 tells us, “...we shall be saved from wrath [or sin] through Him...”

Ps. 37:8 tells us, “...forsake wrath [sin]:...” and live.

Question: Who’s wrath is it?

Answer: Ours!!!

Rom. 2:5 states **that we are treasuring up (heaping up) wrath for the day of wrath.**

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Wrath of God: (cont)

Question: What is the “Wrath of God?”

Answer: Wrath comes in three different forms.

Note: Their sins or punishment came back upon them which resulted in one of the following three:

1. **Captivity (servitude)**
2. **Sword, Famine and pestilence**
3. **Guilt and despair (total ruin)**

1. Wrath comes in the form of **CAPTIVITY**. **Jer. 27:8** says, “And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon,...

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Wrath of God: (cont)

Question: What is the “Wrath of God?” (cont)

Answer: Wrath comes in three different forms. (cont)

... that nation will I punish...with sword,...famine, and... pestilence...”

PK 444 tells us that Israel was brought into captivity because of their disobedience. **“The lightest punishment that a merciful God could inflict upon so rebellious a people was submission to the rule of Babylon, but if they warred against this decree of servitude, they were to feel the full rigor of His chastisement.”**

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Question: What is the “Wrath of God?” (cont)

Answer: Wrath comes in three different forms. (cont)

2. In a secondary sense the “wrath of God” comes in the form of **SWORD, FAMINE AND PESTILENCE**. As a result of man rejecting God, He withdraws His mercy leaving the individual vulnerable to the outside world and allowing **physical laws, as well as man**, to do their work of destruction.

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Question: What is the “Wrath of God?” (cont)

Answer: Wrath comes in three different forms. (cont)

3. Finally, in the form of **GUILT AND DESPAIR**. On the cross it is shown to be a terrible realization of the enormity of sin, as perceived through the eyes of sin itself. The experience of God’s punishment is thus the experience of realization. Wrath comes as a form of awareness, the awareness of the horror and depth of sin, an awareness that sin itself enforces with fearful terror. This was the punishment for our sins that Christ endured. **This is the most lethal form of wrath.** This is the **spiritual** aspect of wrath.

Eph. 2:3: We “...were by **nature** the children of wrath [or sin],...”

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Wrath of God: (cont)

Summation: These three will come as a result of violating physical and moral laws. They are referred to as a “Day of Visitation” (or the Wrath of God).

Question: Why is it called God’s wrath?

Answer: Because He took our wrath (or sin) upon Himself as if it were His.

2 Cor. 5:21 says, “...made Him [Christ] to be sin for us who knew no sin;...”

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Wrath of God: (cont)

God's Amazing Grace 168, "Christ was suffering the death that was pronounced upon the transgressors of God's law....He bore the **wrath of God** for a sinful world."

7A BC 223 says the **wrath of God** rested on man's substitute.

Here is the dilemma that one has if one interprets the **wrath of God** as "God's getting angry." They would have to logically conclude that God killed His Son in anger.

DA 753 states, "It was the sense of sin [enormity of sin] bringing the Father's **wrath** upon Him as man's substitute..."

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Wrath of God: (cont)

Isa. 53:5-6,10 says, “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. **vs. 10,** Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He that put Him to grief: when thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.”

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Wrath of God: (cont)

7A BC 223 says, “The agony which Christ endured, broadens, deepens, and gives a more extended conception of the **CHARACTER OF SIN**, and the character of the retribution which God will bring upon those who continue in sin.” **God’s retribution** comes in the form of **revealing the enormity of sin.**

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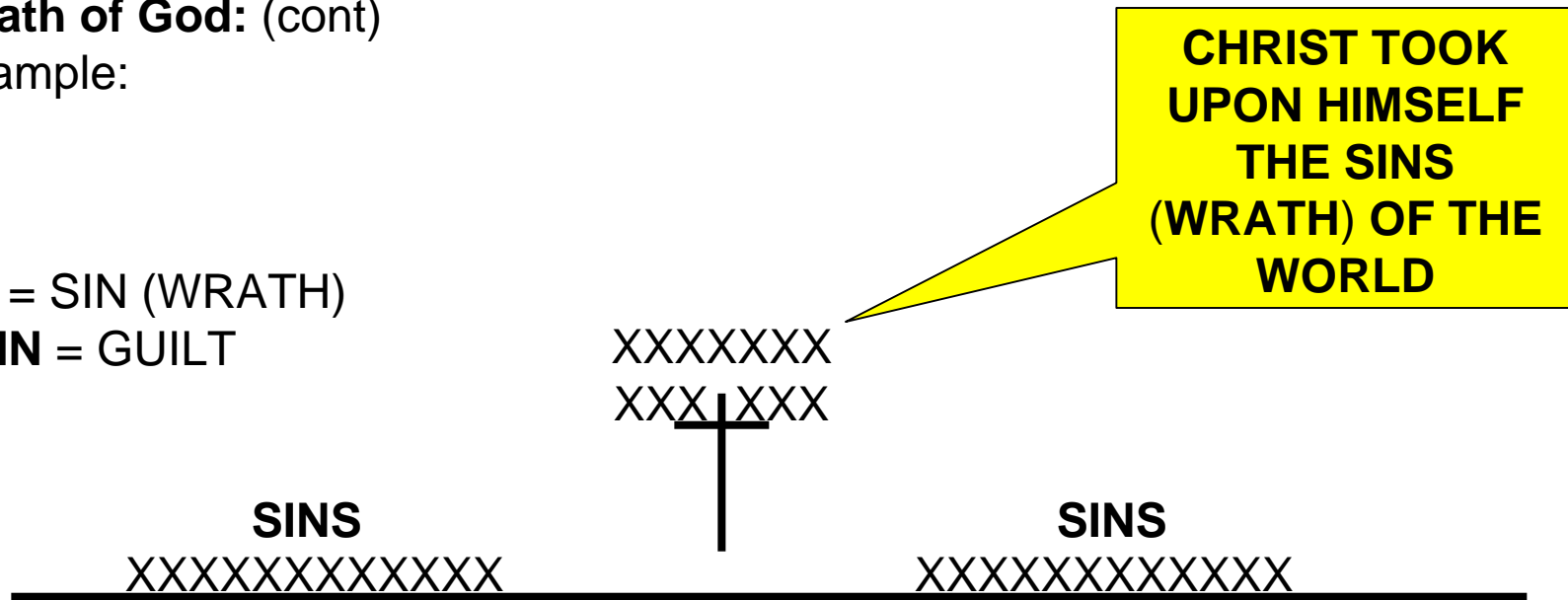
The Wrath of God

Wrath of God: (cont)

Example:

X = SIN (WRATH)

SIN = GUILT



7A BC 223 tells us that the "...Son of God staggered under the terrible horror of the guilt of sin, ... Human nature would then and there have died under the horror of the sense of sin..."

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Wrath of God: (cont)

Question: Did Christ identify with sinners on the cross?

NOW, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THIS!!!

Answer: Yes – so much so, that He speaks of our wrath or sin as if it were His; you can speak of His righteousness in your life, as if it were yours.

Whenever the term, “the wrath of God” appears in the Bible, you must understand that wrath comes from sinners and not from God. But the fact that He suffered it, He says it is His.

Job 21:19,20 says, “God layeth up His iniquity for His children:...His eyes shall see his destruction, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty.”

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Wrath of God: (cont)

DA 693 says, “But God suffered with His Son...There was silence in heaven. No harp was touched. Could mortals have viewed the amazement of the angelic host as in silent grief they watched the Father **separating** His beams of light, love, and glory from His beloved Son, they would better understand how **offensive in His sight is sin.**” (GETHSEMANE)

MB 116 says, “Calvary alone can reveal the terrible enormity of sin. If we had to bear our own guilt, it would crush us.”

Note: This is the most severe form of wrath.

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Wrath of God: (cont)

Note: It is important to note that Christ experienced this darkness as well as the enormity of sin, but His bride, the 144,000, will only experience the darkness which is a perceived separation from God without the experience of the enormity of sin.

Question: Why the difference?

Answer: Because their sins have been atoned for.

GC 620: “**But** while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment, and have been blotted out and they can not bring them to remembrance.”

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Wrath of God: (cont)

OHC 81 points out, “Just in proportion to the excellence of God, is the heinous character of sin. . . .”

7A BC 368 states, “...the heart of God yearned with greatest sorrow when His Son, the guiltless, was suffering the penalty of sin.” It was necessary for the awful darkness to gather about His soul because of the withdrawal of the Father’s love and favor; for He was standing in the sinner’s place, and this darkness **every sinner MUST experience**.

Conclusion: It is clear that the **wrath of God** comes in the form of awareness, an awareness that sin itself enforces with horrific consequences.

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Question: During His ministry and crucifixion, what was Christ's attitude toward sinners?

Answer:

1 Pet. 2:23 (NKJV). says, "who when He was reviled [abused], did not revile in return ..."

- He opened not His mouth.

- He made no complaint.

Lk. 23:34 states, "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...."

Question: Would God express two different kinds of attitude toward sinners?

Answer: Never!

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Heb.13:8 tells us, “**Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever.**”

Jn. 14:9 Jesus said, “**...he that hath seen Me, hath seen the Father...**”

8T 286 says, “All that man needs to know or can know of God, has been revealed in the life and the character of His Son.”

God is NOT a psychopath as some would have us to believe.

FE 238 says, “To this day there are still aspects of truth which are dimly seen, connections that are not understood, and far-reaching depths in the law of God that are uncomprehended.”

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In the light of understanding where God's wrath comes from, let us turn to **2 Chron. 12:1**: "And it came to pass when Rehoboam [son of Solomon] had established the kingdom,... he forsook the law of the Lord, and all Israel with him."

Ps. 119:126 says, "It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void thy law."

It is important to note that these people forsook the law of God which had a cover over it called the "mercy seat," which was the lid for the Ark of the Covenant. That seat had blood on it.

Question: What did that blood indicate?

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Answer: God had picked up the wrath (sins) for the entire race and paid the penalty for them by His spilt blood thereby extending mercy to all. But now God could no longer protect Israel because they were breaking the law which was under the mercy seat. (**They were abusing grace**). **2 Chron. 12:2** says, “Shi-shak, king of Egypt, came against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the Lord,”

Question: Did Shi-shak know they had transgressed?

Answer: No! Nor did he care!

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Question: Why were they able to come against Jerusalem?

Answer: **vs. 5** says, “...Ye [Israel] have forsaken Me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak.”

So in the end, if the people of this world, by forsaking His law, don't accept what Christ did for them, He in turn, will have no choice but to forsake them.

vs. 7, this is referred to as “the wrath of God”.

In **Rev. 14:10** we read about God's wrath being poured out without mixture.

Ps. 73:19 says, “How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.” Their terror will be brought about by the enormity of their sin, resulting from the removal of the Veil (Christ).

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EW 36 says, “Then Jesus will step out from between the Father and man, and God will keep silence no longer, but pour out His wrath on those who have rejected His truth.”

The second commandment says that God would visit the iniquity upon the children of disobedience or “those that hate Me”. In other words, they are reaping what they themselves have sown.

Gal. 6:7,8 says, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. **vs. 8.** For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

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Question: Why does God speak as if He were going to destroy them?

Answer: Because of His sovereignty.

Question: Why is it referred to as God's wrath?

Answer: Because He first suffered it!

*Remember our "Domino Effect" on **slide 22**, **The Character of God, Part 1***

Now, the reason we're explaining this is because God's wrath, coming in the form of **SWORD, FAMINE** and **PESTILENCE** becomes greater and greater in the last days, to the point where the nations become angry.

Na. 1:2 says, "...And He reserveth wrath for His enemies." ³⁰

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They believe that these judgments are coming from God as the result of a small sect of people (Sabbathkeepers) who persist in not complying with the laws of the land in regard to worship. This sect is therefore being held responsible for bringing the judgments of God upon the world. Once the wicked try to force the Sabbathkeepers to worship on Sunday, the false sabbath, which fails, they will take measures to silence them with a death decree.

DA 487 says, “There can be no more conclusive evidence that we possess the spirit of Satan than the disposition to hurt and destroy those who do not appreciate our work, or who act contrary to our ideas.”

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When looking at the vastness of the universe and how masterly contrived it is and the intricacies of it, and how everything in the universe was created with the express purpose to serve a particular function, it is inconceivable that the God of the universe is someone with a split personality.

Question: Is God a being who could laugh at your calamities? **Prov.1:26.**

Question: Is God one who can mock you? **Prov.1:26.**

Question: Is God one who could rejoice over you to destroy you? **Deut. 28:63.**

Question: Is God one who could throw disease upon you? **Deut. 28:60.**

Answer: Absolutely not!

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Jer. 31:3 says, “...I have loved thee with an everlasting love....”

Jer. 29:11 says, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil ...”

Some would have us believe that the act of destruction is God’s “**strange act**”. Don’t believe this for a moment!

DA 620 says, “Divine pity marked the countenance of the Son of God as He cast one lingering look upon the temple and then upon His hearers. In a voice choked by deep anguish of heart and bitter tears He exclaimed, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...[**Matt. 23:37**]. This is the **separation struggle**. In the lamentation of Christ the very heart of God is pouring itself forth. It is the mysterious farewell of the long-suffering love of the Deity.”

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Prov.1:28 says, “Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer; they shall seek Me early, but they shall not find Me:”

Question: Do you think the thief on the cross who was saved would say that God dealt harshly with him?

Answer: Absolutely not! He probably would have said, “that experience was the only thing that would have saved me.”

Note: By reaping what He sowed, God was able to turn him from his iniquities, thereby saving him.

This act of “visiting the iniquity” (or day of visitation) is further demonstrated in the symbol of the **winepress**.

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Isa. 63:3 “winepress”=crushing grapes (Strong's **Hb. 6333**)
=crush, break, bring to naught. (Strong's **Hb. 6331**)

Lam. 3:34 says, “To crush under His feet all the prisoners of the earth.”

Isa. 63:1-3 we read, “Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah?...**vs.2**, Wherefore art Thou red in thine apparel, and Thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? **vs.3**, “I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with Me: for I will tread them in Mine anger, and trample them in My fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon My garments, and I will stain all My raiment.”

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Hos. 9:9,10 says, “They have deeply corrupted themselves...He will remember their iniquity, He will visit their sins. **vs.10** I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness...”

They were now ready for the winepress.

Question: “Are We?”

Here we see a crude symbol of God stomping people to death, a symbol of God visiting the iniquity upon the children of disobedience.

In other words, it is a day of visitation when their sins come back upon them. Christ Himself was subjected to the winepress and our sins took His life.

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Rev. 14:14-19, we see Christ sitting on a white cloud having a sharp sickle in his hand. **vs.15** reads, “...another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in Thy sickle, and reap:...” **vs.16** tells us, that “...the earth was reaped.” [**RIGHTEOUS RESURRECTED-first harvest**] **vs.17** tells us about another angel coming out from the temple, he also having a sharp sickle. **vs.18** says, “And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying,...

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...“Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the **EARTH [WICKED RESURRECTED-second harvest]**; for her grapes are fully ripe. **vs.19**
And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the **GREAT WINEPRESS OF THE WRATH OF GOD.**”

Isa. 30:21 tells us, “...This is the way, walk ye in it,...”
When an individual refuses that path and walks in the opposite direction, God will often times visit his/her sins in **mercy** hoping to turn him/her from a course of destruction.

Question: Do you realize that God is desperately trying to save us from the consequences of our own sins?

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Conclusion: The reason we believe it is important to understand the character of God:

Jn. 16:1-3 reads, “These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. **vs.2**, They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God a service. **vs.3**, And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor Me.”

Rom. 12:21 says, “...overcome evil with good.”

God Himself will not deviate from this.

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Conclusion: (cont)

Isa. 49:15,16: “Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.
vs. 16, “Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands;...””