
LAST DAYS PROPHECY SEMINAR

LESSON EIGHT: "The Wrath Dispensation: The Last 3 ½ Years"

God is a God of dispensations. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, *"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."* As students of the Bible, we must recognize that God has defined dispensations outlined in His Holy Word. The word *dispensation* simply means *a religious or political system prevailing at a particular time.*

As we read the Old Testament we read about the Dispensation of the Law. God gave the Law to the Israelites and He demanded that it be obeyed and followed as He decreed. When Jesus Christ gave His life on the cross of Calvary, the Dispensation of Grace was ushered in. What changed? We were no longer required to fulfill the fleshly rituals and sacrificial requirements of the Law Dispensation to be saved. In the Grace Dispensation, one is required to accept Jesus Christ by faith to be saved and become part of the Kingdom of God.

There are at least two more dispensations regarding mankind: The Dispensation of Wrath, and the Millennial Reign Dispensation. This lesson will focus on the Wrath Dispensation.

1. What is the Wrath Dispensation?

- A. The Wrath Dispensation begins when God pours out His judgment/wrath upon Satan and the sinners that remain on the earth.
- B. God has prophesied about this coming day of judgment since Creation when He promised to bruise the serpent's head in Genesis 3:15.
 - 1) There is a specific time when God will exercise judgment upon the wicked.
 - 2) Psalm 9:7,8, *"But the LORD shall endure forever; **He has prepared His throne for judgment.** [8] He shall judge the world in righteousness, and He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness."*
 - a. God has a specific, prepared time for His judgment/wrath.
- C. The Old Testament is full of prophecies concerning this coming day of judgment when God will avenge His Word and those who have been martyred in the faith.
 - 1) Jeremiah 10:10, *"But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. **At His wrath the earth will tremble, and the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.**"*
 - 2) Nahum 1:2, *"God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; the LORD avenges and is furious. **The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies.**"*
 - 3) Zephaniah 1:15, *"That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, **a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness.**"*

2. When does the Wrath Dispensation begin?

- A. The Wrath Dispensation begins in the middle of the last 7 years when the Man

of Sin blasphemes the God of heaven declaring that he is as God.

B. Daniel 7:25,26,27

[25] ***“He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.***

[26] ***‘But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever.***

[27] *Then the kingdom of dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”*

- 1) The KJV says in vs. 26, ***“But judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion...”***
- 2) When does this take place? After the Man of Sin speaks pompous words against the Most High in the Holy Place (the abomination of desolation).
- 3) This takes place in the middle of the last 7 years.

C. It is during the Wrath Dispensation that God pours out His plagues/judgment upon the earth.

- 1) The 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, & Vials, and 3 Woes all take place during the last 3 ½ years. These are defined in the book of Revelation starting with chapter 6 through chapter 16.

3. No more remission of sins during the Wrath Dispensation.

A. The Wrath Dispensation will usher in a 3 ½ year period when there will be no more remission of sins. In other words, unbelievers will not be able to be saved during that time.

- 1) The 3 ½ years will be the last half of the 7 year period before the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

B. What does Daniel 9:27 mean when it says that the Man of Sin shall bring an end to the sacrifice and offering?

1) Daniel 9:27a, ***“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering...”***

2) This prophecy is a description of a dispensational change from the Grace Dispensation to the Wrath Dispensation.

3) When we change from the Grace Dispensation to the Wrath Dispensation, what really changes?

- a. First of all, the wrath/judgment of God will be poured out on the world.
- b. There will be no more remission of sins or being saved by grace once God’s wrath begins.

4) Is it not proper to say that every time a person is saved today that the sacrifice/blood of Jesus Christ is applied to cover their sins?

- a. In other words, **there is still a daily sacrifice for sins.**

- b. The blood of Jesus is still being applied daily to forgive the sins of the world.
 - c. Remember that Satan is still accusing mankind daily to God.
- 5) There is only one sacrifice that will take away our sins today.
- a. Hebrews 10:12, *"But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God."*

4. Something changes in the heavens.

A. What does the Bible say about the last 3 ½ years?

- 1) There is a period in heaven when God demands silence.
 - a. Revelation 8:1, *"When He opened the seventh seal, **there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.**"*
 - b. Scripture tells us that one hour equals 7 years.
 - 1. Revelation 17:12, *"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, **but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.**"*
 - 2. We know that the Man of Sin program has power for the last 7 years (Daniel 9:27, *"Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week..."*).
 - 3. If one hour is 7 years, then half an hour is 3½ years.
- 2) No one is able to enter into the heavenly temple.
 - a. Revelation 15:8, *"The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and **no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.**"*
 - b. It takes 3 ½ years to pour out the plagues of God on the earth.
 - c. Revelations 11:3,6, *"And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they **will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days**, clothed in sackcloth...[6] *These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have powers over waters to turn them to blood, **and to strike the earth with all plagues**, as often as they desire."**
- 3) Who are the "ones" entering into the heavenly temple now?
 - a. The Church of God recognizes that Satan is the accuser of the brethren and that he accuses us daily before God.
 - 1. Revelation 12:10, *"Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, **for the accuser of the brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.**"*
 - 2. We acknowledge that Satan was cast down from heaven before Creation, however, he still has access to heaven to accuse us before God (consider the story of Job).
 - 3. In the middle of the last 7 years Satan loses his access to heaven and instead pursues the woman who is hid in the wilderness (Rev. 12:14,15).
 - 4. Revelation 12:12, *"Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! **For the**"*

devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.

- 4) Since there is no one accusing us before God, there is no need of Jesus being there to intercede for us.
 - a. Romans 8:34, *“Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, **who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.**”*
 - 5) Part of the silence in heaven comes when the cry of the souls of the martyrs is silenced.
 - a. Revelation 6:11, *“**Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.**”*
 - b. We know that these additional martyrs are killed during the last 3½ years.
 - c. Revelation 20:4, *“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. **Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands.** And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”*
- B. Since there is silence in heaven, unbelievers cannot be saved during this time of God’s judgment being poured out on the wicked.
- 1) If God still saved during the time of His wrath...who would be left to punish?
 - 2) Although we do not like to think about it, there is coming a time when the doors will be shut for salvation.
 - a. Consider the story of Noah found in Genesis 6-9.
 - b. II Peter 2:5 says that Noah was a preacher of righteousness. In other words, he preached to the people about getting their lives in order.
 - c. Jesus said in Luke 17:27, *“They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, **and the flood came and destroyed them all.**”*
 1. They had access to salvation for a time; however, when the time of God’s judgment came upon the earth, their access was cut off.
 2. Judgment came upon them because they refused Noah’s message of salvation and hope.
 - d. This is the same scenario found in Matthew 25 when the bridegroom shut the doors and told the 5 foolish virgins that He did not know them.
 - 3) The cut-off point for salvation comes in the middle of the last 7 years.
 - a. Daniel 12:9,10
 - [9] *“And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.*
 - [10] *“Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; **and none of the wicked shall understand,** but the wise shall understand.”*

- b. Revelation 22:11, "**He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.**"
- 4) We know that it is God's desire that everyone should be saved...how would He determine whom to save...and whom to punish?
 - a. If He will allow part of the virgins in Matthew 25 to be beheaded—remember they are confessing Christians—would He allow unbelievers to be saved simply so they could avoid His wrath/judgment?
 - b. Genesis 6:3a, "And the LORD said, **My Spirit shall not strive with man forever...**"
- 5) The scriptures in Revelations tell us that the wicked do not reach out to God in this time of trouble...they simply curse Him and wish for death.
 - a. Rev. 9:20a, "But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent of the works of their hands...**"
 - b. Rev. 9:21, "And **they did not repent** of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts."
 - c. Rev. 16:21, "...**Men blasphemed God** because of the plague of the hail..."
 - d. Rev. 16:9, "And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; **and they did not repent** and give Him glory."
 - e. Rev. 16:11, "**They blasphemed the God of heaven** because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds."

5. What happens to believers during the Wrath Dispensation?

- A. Believers are not appointed to God's wrath.
 - 1) I Thessalonians 5:9, "**For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.**"
- B. While believers are not appointed to God's wrath, they can be subject to Satan's wrath if they are not hid away.
 - 1) Some part of God's kingdom will be hid away.
 - 2) Isaiah 26:20, "Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; **hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past.**"
 - 3) Satan will make war with those believers who are not hid away.
 - a. Revelation 12:17, "And the dragon was enraged with the woman, **and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**"
 - b. Daniel 7:21,25, "I was watching; and the **same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them...**[25] "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, **shall persecute the saints** of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then **the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.**"
- C. We know that God promises that His Bride will be hid away.
 - 1) Revelation 12:14, "But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, **that**

she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.”

- D. Some of the saints that are not hid away will be martyred for their faith.
- 1) Revelation 6:11, “Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, **until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.**”
 - 2) Revelation 20:4, “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. **Then I saw the souls of them who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**”

6. Conclusion

We live in a time defined by “cheap grace”. In other words, people—including Christians—believe that God is **ONLY** love and therefore He would never hold them accountable for their actions and much less allow wrath to come upon them. They have been taught that God accepts whatever they decide to give Him in the way of obedience, worship, doctrine, etc. They have never read about or witnessed the God of judgment that is defined in the Old Testament and the book of Revelation. They are in for a rude awakening.

Since the time of Jesus Christ some 2,000 years ago, we have been living in the age of the Grace Dispensation. We are saved by grace, through faith, by believing and accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and following His Word. While most Christians would probably acknowledge that we are living in the Last Days, they have not been taught about the judgment and wrath that God is preparing for this earth. Preachers don’t teach them about God’s judgment and wrath because they believe they will be raptured away to heaven while the sinners on earth are victims of the plagues of the book of Revelation.

God’s Dispensation of Wrath is coming upon this world. The Church of God believes that although we will be supernaturally hid, we will still witness God’s wrath being outpoured on mankind based on Psalm 91: We will see it with our eyes, but it will not come near us. We will witness a God who reigns down judgment from heaven on the wicked people of this earth. It will be a new time for us, we will witness a God we have never seen before.

With the change from the Dispensation of Grace to the Dispensation of Wrath, unbelievers will no longer have access to God’s grace for salvation. In other words, no unbelievers will be able to be saved—in the sense of accepting Christ as their Savior for the first time—during the Wrath Dispensation. It will be like the days of Noah when the door was shut: The floods came and those who did not make it to safety were killed. They were judged and ultimately destroyed.

It is the job of ministers/watchmen to warn the people about the changes that are happening around us. We must teach the people about God’s Dispensation of

Wrath—a time when forgiveness of sins is no longer available—and encourage them to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior while there is still time. Last, we must teach them about a just God who will rain judgment on the unbelievers of this world. We must let them know that although God is love, God is also just: He will avenge His Word and punish Satan and all unbelievers.