

“The Vengeance of God”

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Theme: God will fulfill His promises of blessings and vengeance.

I. THE PROPRIETY OF GOD’S VENGEANCE - vv. 6-7

A. The Repayment with Affliction - v. 6

1. As Paul had expressed the deep pride that he was taking in the spiritual vitality of the Thessalonians believers, he declares that it is proof of God’s *“considering them worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you were suffering.”* **vv. 4-5.**
2. In light of these realities Paul says: *“For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you ...”*
3. The term *“just”* [δικαιος] - conveys the idea of that which corresponds to the highest standards of rectitude or fairness.
4. Essentially, God will *“repay”* [ἀνταποδίδωμι] the wicked - to fulfill an obligation through reciprocity - to *“return something owed”* - cp. **1 Thessalonians 3:9; Luke 14:13-14.**
5. When the wicked *“afflict you,”* God says that it is only proper for them to be *“repaid with affliction”* - **Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19; Joel 3:21.**
6. The wicked are storing up for themselves the wrath of God who avenges Himself against all who despise Him through His people - **Psalms 73:3, 11-17, 25-28; Romans 2:5-9.**

B. The Relief from Affliction - v. 7a

1. Additionally, when the Lord comes to repay the wicked with affliction, He will *“give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well ...”*
2. *“relief”* [ἄνεσις] - speaks of relaxation, ease, refreshment, and restoration - the fulfillment of the promises to bring blessing and reward to the faithful.
3. In this context, it refers to the Millennial rest that was promised to God’s people - **Acts 3:19-21; Isaiah 35:1-10.**

C. The Revelation for Affliction - v. 7b

1. The event that will establish these things will be the personal, physical return of the Lord Jesus Christ - *“... when the Lord Jesus will be revealed ...”*

2. **“revealed”** [ἀποκάλυψις] - *apocalypse* - the preferred word to be used with reference to Christ’s 2nd Coming with reference to the wicked (*parousia* is the preferred term for the 2nd Coming with reference to the righteous).
3. It refers to encountering the unknown or hidden, that Jesus will be unveiled as He comes in judgment of those who do not know Him:
 - a) **“... from heaven”** - where He had been seated at the Father’s right hand to come in judgment of those who reject Him - **Matthew 16:27**.
 - b) **“...with His mighty angels”** - to insure the thorough work of judgment - **Matthew 13:40-43, 49-50**.
 - c) **“... in flaming fire”** - the total consuming effect of God’s judgment - cp. **2 Peter 3:7**.
4. The 2nd Coming of Christ will be when Jesus is revealed even as it was promised - and He will avenge Himself against the wicked while maintaining the blessings upon the righteous.

II. **THE PENALTY IN GOD’S VENGEANCE** - vv. 8-9

A. **The Reason for Affliction** - v. 8

1. Paul tells us explicitly why those who receive judgment will receive judgment - **“... dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”**
2. The first reason God’s wrath falls upon them is for their **estrangement from God** - there is no reconciliation to God - **Ephesians 2:12; Titus 1:16**.
3. The second reason God’s wrath falls upon them is for the **eschewing of the Gospel** - **“and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”**
4. The reason they are estranged from God is because they had eschewed the Gospel - **Acts 17:30-31**.

B. **The Retribution through Affliction** - v. 9

1. The **“retribution”** [ἐκδίκησις] - refers to meting out of justice or “the exacting of vengeance.”
2. He will do this by causing them to **“pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”**
 - a) **“pay the penalty”** [τινω] - describes the experience of experiencing retribution - suffer the penalty of what one has done.
 - b) **“eternal destruction”** [ὄλεθρον αἰώνιον] - literally refers to eternal death - which is separation **“from the presence of the Lord ...”**
3. This will have no end but will last forever.

III. THE PROMISE IN GOD'S VENGEANCE - v. 10

A. The Rejoicing in Vengeance - *“when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed ...”*

1. Yet for the believer, the 2nd Coming of Christ is not a dreaded even, but a time when those who believe in Him will *“marvel”* [θαυμάζω] - to be extraordinarily impressed or “astonished.”
2. His coming will be in order that He might *“be glorified in His saints on that day”* - cp. ***Philippians 3:21; Colossians 3:4.***
3. As He deals out retribution upon the ungodly, believers who will be delivered at His Coming will be rejoicing in His grace and the ability to see Him - ***1 John 3:2.***

B. The Ready for Vengeance - *“... for our testimony to you was believed.”*

1. The destiny of those who reject the gospel is set - yet, it is possible to change whether you are not you reject the gospel.
2. As Paul preached to those who were at one time children of wrath, they believed - cp. ***Ephesians 2:3-5.***

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blessings and vengeance.**