

Minor League Prophets
Major League Message





Humans have a unique ability to pretend like nothing bad is happening.



THIS IS FINE.

The Wrath of God

What is the 'Wrath of God'?

God's wrath is His holy, righteous, and just response to sin and evil.

The wrath of God is not His emotional rage or God losing His temper.

Oh, how often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved his heart in that dry wasteland.

Again and again they tested God's patience and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

They did not remember his power and how
he rescued them from their enemies.

They did not remember his miraculous signs
in Egypt, his wonders on the plain of Zoan.

But they kept testing and rebelling against God Most High. They did not obey his laws.

They turned back and were as faithless as their parents. They were as undependable as a crooked bow.

They angered him with their high places;
they aroused his jealousy with their idols.

When God heard them, he was furious;
he rejected Israel completely.

What is the 'Wrath of God'?

God's wrath is His holy, righteous, and just response to sin and evil.

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

John 3:36

D.A. Carson

“A wrath-less god does not make him more attractive.

It makes him morally indifferent.”

D.A. Carson

“God’s holiness, God’s sovereignty, God’s love, and the other attributes that are part of his eternal being are always in play. And God’s wrath is a function of those attributes when faced with our sin.”

We often think that our opinion of
God's wrath matters more than
God's wrath itself.

And we don't think it applies to us.

The day of the LORD is an awesome,
terrible thing.

Who can possibly survive?

Minor League Prophets
Major League Message



- The Old Testament is the story from creation to slavery to freedom to prominence, but then ultimately defeat.
- The prophets ministered roughly from 750 B.C to 400 B.C.

→ The prophets primarily warned Israel what would happen if they continued in disobedience.

→ Major Prophets vs. Minor Prophets

- Their message was not popular
- In a world that is drifting away from God, we can learn beautiful lessons

Grace Glasses

Minor League Prophets
Major League Message



At the Plate:

- Joel, Son of Pethuel, not much else is known
- Dropped into the scene of God's wrath

This is what they went through.

Hear this, you leaders of the people.
Listen, all who live in the land.
In all your history, has anything like this
happened before?

Tell your children about it in the years to come, and let your children tell their children. Pass the story down from generation to generation.

Joel 1:3

After the cutting locusts finished eating the crops, the swarming locusts took what was left! After them came the hopping locusts, and then the stripping locusts, too!

Wake up, you drunkards and weep!
Wail, all you wine-drinkers!
All the grapes are ruined, and your sweet
wine is gone.

Joel 1:5

A vast army of locusts has invaded my land, a terrible army too numerous to count. Its teeth are like lions' teeth, its fangs like those of a lioness.



It has destroyed my grapevines and ruined my fig trees, stripping their bark destroying it, leaving the branches white and bare.

Joel 1:7

weep ... no grain or wine ... mourning ... ruined ...
destroyed ... shriveled ... gone ... despair ... wail ...
dried up ... cry out

(v.16) Our food disappears before our very
eyes. No joyful celebrations are held in the
house of our God.

Minor League Prophets
Major League Message



Sound the trumpet in Jerusalem!
Raise the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let everyone tremble in fear because the
day of the LORD is upon us.

Joel 2:1

It is a day of darkness and gloom, a day of thick clouds and deep blackness.

Suddenly, like dawn spreading across the mountains, a great and mighty army appears. Nothing like it has been seen before or will ever be seen again.

Fear grips all the people; every face grows pale with terror.

The attackers march like warriors and scale city walls like soldiers.

Straight forward they march never breaking rank.

The earth quakes as they advance and the heavens tremble.

The sun and moon grow dark and the stars no longer shine.

The LORD is at the head of the column.
He leads them with a shout.
This is his mighty army, and they follow his
orders.

The day of the LORD is an awesome,
terrible thing.

Who can possibly survive?

Gadol - great, mighty, magnificent

Nora - awe-inspiring, fearsome, dreadful,
terrifying

Minor League Prophets
Major League Message



That is why the LORD says,
“Turn to me now, while there is time.
Give me your hearts. Come with fasting,
weeping, and mourning.”

Joel 2:12

Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but
tear your hearts instead.

Joel 2:13

Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.

Joel 2:13

Who knows?

Perhaps he will give you a reprieve, sending you a blessing instead of this curse.

Perhaps you will be able to offer grain and wine to the LORD your God as before.

Minor League Prophets
Major League Message



Then the LORD will pity his people and
jealously guard the honor of his land.

Joel 2:18

The LORD will reply,

“Look! I am sending you grain and new wine and olive oil, enough to satisfy your needs. You will no longer be an object of mockery among the surrounding nations.”

Joel 2:19

Rejoice, you people of Jerusalem!

Rejoice in the LORD your God!

For the rain he sends demonstrates his
faithfulness.

Once more the autumn rains will come, as
well as the rains of spring.

Joel 2:23

The LORD says,

“I will give you back what you lost to the swarming locusts, the hopping locusts, the stripping locusts, and the cutting locusts.

It was I who sent this great destroying army against you.

Joel 2:25

Once again you will have all the food you want, and you will praise the LORD your God, who does these miracles for you. Never again will my people be disgraced.

Joel 2:26

But everyone who calls on the name of the
LORD will be saved.

Joel 2:32

Minor League Prophets
Major League Message



This is what we can learn.

Wake up!

Cry out!

Turn to God!

Repent!

Be restored.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:6

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Romans 5:9

The only thing greater than the wrath of God -
is the grace of God.

Can we appreciate -

Restoration without destruction?

Salvation without judgment?

Grace without wrath?

Minor League Prophets
Major League Message



A cartoon illustration of a firefighter in full gear, including a helmet with the number '1' and a backpack, carrying a small, happy-looking dog named Grace. The firefighter is walking through a doorway from a room filled with intense orange and yellow flames. In the background, a wooden table with a white mug sits amidst the fire. A speech bubble from the firefighter says, "This is Grace".

This is
Grace

We don't need to ignore the wrath of God.

We don't need to apologize for the wrath of God.

We don't need to dwell on the wrath of God.

But we do need to remember and proclaim -

The one thing greater than the wrath of God -
is the grace of God.

Minor League Prophets
Major League Message

