

# Numbers 18 - Wrath & Mercy

## Wrath & Mercy

Num 18:1-32 ESV So the LORD said to Aaron, "You and your sons and your father's house with you shall bear iniquity connected with the sanctuary, and you and your sons with you shall bear iniquity connected with your priesthood. 2 And with you bring your brothers also, the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, that they may join you and minister to you while you and your sons with you are before the tent of the testimony. 3 They shall keep guard over you and over the whole tent, but shall not come near to the vessels of the sanctuary or to the altar **lest they, and you, die**. 4 They shall join you and keep guard over the tent of meeting for all the service of the tent, and no outsider shall come near you. 5 And you shall keep guard over the sanctuary and over the altar, **that there may never again be wrath on the people of Israel**. 6 And behold, I have taken your brothers the Levites from among the people of Israel. They are a gift to you, given to the LORD, to do the service of the tent of meeting. 7 And you and your sons with you shall guard your priesthood for all that concerns the altar and that is within the veil; and you shall serve. I give your priesthood as a gift, and **any outsider who comes near shall be put to death**."

## It is easy to think of the LORD in the OT as a God of Wrath & Judgement

- Remember in Chap 16, the rebellion of **Korah** and the death of nearly 15,000 people...
- The **Flood in the days of Noah** -- or **Sodom and Gomorrah** as examples

## BUT...the NT also speaks about God's wrath

- Col 3:1-10 ESV If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have **died**, and your **life** is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you**: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 **On account of these the wrath of God is coming**. 7 In these **you too once walked**, when you were living in them. 8 But **now you must put them all away**: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on **the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

## Wrath & Mercy - Life & Death

- **SEE ALSO** Eze 33:11 ESV Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the **death of the wicked**, but that the **wicked turn from his way and live**; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?
- **Notice the words DEATH and LIVE**
  - Death is associated with **wickedness**
  - Life is associated with **turning**

## Wrath is an interesting word in the Hebrew language - / nostril & face

Like the flaring of a ***nostril*** when a person is angry ..... or a ***face*** - get red in the face

- Gen 2:7 ESV then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his **nostrils** [*anger*] the breath of ***life***, and the man became a living creature.
- **He told the man he would *die* if he rebelled** Gen 2:17 ESV but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely **die.**"

**God gave man LIFE - Man rejected that LIFE (and "died") - The Wrath of God stands against this**

- There would be no need for God to reveal His wrath if there were no sin

## His wrath is His opposition against that which is destroying the LIFE He Gives

- Eph 2:1-3 ESV And you were **dead** in the ***trespasses and sins*** 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, ***and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.***
- **BUT IT CONTINUES DESCRIBING MERCY AND LOVE...**Eph 2:4-6 But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of the **great love with which he loved us**, 5 even when **we were dead** in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**--by grace you have been saved-- 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

## This MERCY and LOVE is a revelation of God's glory

### **When Moses asked the LORD to show him His glory**

- Exo 34:5-7 ESV The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and ***proclaimed the name of the LORD.*** 6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God **merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,** 7 **keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, *but who will by no means clear the guilty,*** visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

**God's glory is a revelation of His Name - who He is, His character, His nature, His person**

**Christ's death and resurrection - is the most complete expression of the Name and Glory of God's...MERCY and LOVE**

## What does Jesus Save us from?

- Rom 5:7-9 ESV For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die-- 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be **saved by him from the wrath of God.**

Psa 103:1-22 ESV Of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with **steadfast love** and **mercy**, 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. 6 The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. 7 He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. 8 The LORD is **merciful** and **gracious, slow to anger** and **abounding in steadfast love**. 9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. 10 **He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.** 11 For **as high as the heavens are above the earth**, so great is his **steadfast love toward those who fear him**; 12 as far as the **east is from the west**, so far does he **remove our transgressions from us**. 13 As a father shows **compassion** to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. 14 For **he knows our frame**; he remembers that we are dust. 15 As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; 16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. 17 But the **steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting** on those who **fear** him, and his righteousness to children's children, 18 to those who **keep** his covenant and **remember to do** his commandments. 19 The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. 20 Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who **do his word, obeying the voice of his word!** 21 Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, **who do his will!** 22 Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

His mercy and love is to those **who fear him**

- so great is his steadfast love toward those who **fear** him;
- so the LORD shows compassion to those who **fear** him
- the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who **fear** him,

May we take the LIFE he has given us...and not squander it on those things that bring DEATH - me we by the salvation and the work of Christ in our lives escape the wrath of God

Psa 56:13 ESV For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.