

February 10, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The CROWN : Episode 4
The Grace Of Wrath
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2 Samuel 4:5-12

*Now Rekab and Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, set out for the house of Ish-Bosheth, and they arrived there in the heat of the day while he was taking his noonday rest. ⁶They went into the inner part of the house as if to get some wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rekab and his brother Baanah slipped away. ⁷They had gone into the house while he was lying on the bed in his bedroom. After they stabbed and killed him, they cut off his head. Taking it with them, they traveled all night by way of the Arabah. ⁸They brought the head of Ish-Bosheth to David at Hebron and said to the king, "Here is the head of Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, your enemy, who tried to kill you. This day the LORD has avenged my lord the king against Saul and his offspring." ⁹David answered Rekab and his brother Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, ¹⁰when someone told me, 'Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and put him to death in Ziklag. That was the reward I gave him for his news! ¹¹**How much more—when wicked men have killed an innocent man in his own house and on his own bed—should I not now demand his blood from your hand and rid the earth of you!"** ¹²So David gave an order to his men, and they killed them. They cut off their hands and feet and hung the bodies by the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-Bosheth and buried it in Abner's tomb at Hebron.*

We all love when the bully gets what's coming to them.

- In our cultural age of "**Outrage**" this is something that the secular world understands.
- **Question:** But do we allow God the same luxury?

In today's world, any concept of God's wrath upsets our modern sentiments.

- David was a man that God used to right injustice.
- David and Solomon's kingdoms point to how God uses the necessity of wrath to bring peace.
 - God's wrathful reaction is always meant to be a segway to peace.
- **2 Chronicles 22:9** *But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign.*

Understanding The Wrath and Anger of God

“God’s wrath in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is, instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil” J.I. Packer

- Wrath and anger are not attributes of God, but a response against that which violates God’s nature.
- Anything that violates the nature of God is called **SIN**
 - **1 John 4:7** *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*
 - True justice requires that the penalty be worthy of the offence.
 - **Exodus 21:24-25** *Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.*

BIBLICAL TRUTH: The necessity of God’s character demands that every offense be **atoned** for.

Atonement: Reparations for wrong or injury

- **Romans 3:23** *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
- **Isa 54:4-6** *But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:9** *For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Final Question: Are you a person of mercy or judgment, of wrath or grace, and have you experienced the feeling of being set free from the necessity of God’s wrath?

Food For The Journey: Questions and challenges to take you deeper this week.

1. We all love it when a bully gets what is coming to them. Do you like seeing people get what they deserve?
2. If so, how do you determine what their punishment should be? Are you as comfortable with allowing God the same freedom?
3. Why do you think God cannot just overlook sin against him?
4. Do you act mostly out of a position of mercy or judgment?
5. This week take note of how often you judge. Work on implementing grace and allowing the work of Christ on the cross to satisfy your anger.