

Lesson 8, start 3.14/19
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These are the notes I teach from, so all the errors remain.

Jews—As we have already discussed, there are at least three definitions of Jews:

1. The true Jew was a in the blood line of Judah and members of the tribe of Judah.
2. Those who lived in the land of Judah. Then known as the Jewish nation containing people from all the tribes of Israel. It included Jerusalem.
3. Those who practiced the religion of the Jews, Judaism.

Jew first... Those in the Jewish nation. In the order of the presentation, the Jews were first offered salvation on the day of Pentecost.

The Apostles normally followed this order, as they would go to the Jewish synagogues first and offer the gospel.

When the Jews rejected the offer, the apostles would go to the Greeks—that is, those outside of the Jewish race that existed until it was destroyed in 70 A.D.

The gospel was the same for both the Jews and the Gentiles. The gospel message was always the same.

V 17. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is {w} written, The just shall live by faith.

This verse is difficult, and there are many opinions on it. I will only point out.

First, the gospel of Christ reveals the righteousness of God. It shows us that only by the righteous deeds of Christ can one be saved. Righteous deeds cannot save, and the gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ proves that only the righteousness so Christ will suffice the holy Heavenly Father.

Salvation is not dependent on how we might feel nor on what church we attend, but on what we do with Christ.

Leviticus 20:7 *Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.*

1 Peter 1:15 *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

Second, the righteousness or holiness of God is revealed:

a. the commandments

b. the ordinances and rituals as commanded in the other 4 books of Moses, which were done away with in Christ. Reading through Moses, we see the seriousness attached to all the of the various ordinances and rituals which reveal the Holiness of God. They make it clear that the no man can approach the Holy Heavenly Father without mediation.

*Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to **bring in everlasting righteousness**, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

Third, faith is a firm confidence in God, and a steadfast trust in him who has done all that is needed to save us.

Fourth, *faith to faith*. Faith translates into a faithful Christian life as we live according to that faith. Paul then quotes the Old Testament Prophet who he mentioned in v. 2 (*Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,*)

Habakkuk 2:1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. 2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. 4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

the just shall live by his faith.

Hebrews 11.

Faith is defined as God said it, I believe it, and I will act accordingly.

God's word tells us to do or not to do certain actions, and we obey by faith.

V. 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Wrath revealed from heaven...

1. 2 Peter 1:21 *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

His wrath and blessings are revealed **through his word** which was divinely given from heaven through holy men of old.

That is, the wrath of God is revealed from heaven by his law-word that was given from heaven that condemns all men as sinners, and defines their destination as eternal damnation. We will see this condemnation in the words of the *holy men of God*, the prophets of old. We will also see the good news from heaven also given by the *holy men of God*, as we move on through Romans.

2. Proverbs 21:1 *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*

God's wrath is revealed **through the kind of rulers** he establishes in the earth. Ungodly people produce ungodly rulers, in both the religious and the non-religious realms.

Psalms 75:6 *For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. 7 But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.*

In other words, God establishes leadership at all levels of authority world-wide.

Isaiah 24:2 *And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him.*

Hosea 4:9 *And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings.*

Daniel 4:34 *And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto*

heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: 35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

In both the “secular” and the religious realm, God will raise up Godly leaders for a godly people. On the other hand, God will raise up ungodly leaders for an ungodly people.

3. Job 38, 39. God’s wrath from heaven is revealed from heaven through nature. God reminds Job that he controls every aspect of nature; all the waters of the earth, the snow, the hail, the whirlwinds (tornadoes, hurricanes), the ice, the frost, the clouds, the lightnings, the dust, the lions, the birds, as well as all living creatures and every aspect of nature. Not a hair falls from our head apart from divine providence, for God is God.

God’s providential blessings and wrath from heaven is best described in Deuteronomy 27, 28

There are many reasons given by those who hate God’s commandments, called antinomians, as to why 27 & 28 are not for us today. However, as long as the commandments of God are the final rule for life and thought, these chapters are in effect.

God’s wrath from heaven is listed in detail in Deut 27.
God’s blessing from heaven is listed in detail in Deut 28.

Let me give just one verse: Deuteronomy 28:23 *And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.*

That is, he will not hear our prayers, and the ground will not produce.

In other words, Divine wrath from heaven is seen in God’s Providential control of all nature: serious weather events, sickness, strange illnesses, earthquakes and every natural event one can imagine.

God’s life is even in the stones, Luke 19:40. Christ said that even the stones would cry out if men withheld their praise.

No matter how hard one might try to avoid the results of righteousness or unrighteousness, they shall overtake the person or nation much like the ball carrier in a football game.

Galatians 6:7 *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, whether it be good or bad that shall he also reap.* **Works both positive and negative**

We have no choice as to what blessing or curse will come our way:

Psalms 47:4 He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah.

V. 18, *All who hold the truth in unrighteousness...*

That is, **they try to keep it locked away as a prisoner** so it will not influence them, bother them, nor interfere with their ungodly agendas. They hold or force it down and out of their way.

In other words, in order to retain their power and influence, they keep the truth locked away from those who might welcome and act on the truth, and upset the *status-quo*.

Psalms 56:5 *Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil.*

2 Peter 3:16 *As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

Wrest: to twist, torture, put on the rack. That is, they force the Word of God to say what they want him to say.

V. 18, ***who hold the truth...*** In other words, they know the truth, yet they manipulate the truth for their own self-centered, ungodly purposes. God's wrath from heaven starts out against those who turn the truth into unrighteousness for their own evil purpose.

Romans 1:18 is the first step in the downward trend of judgment. My college professor used to say, Romans 1 records the devolution of man. How true!

Though the context requires *all*, which must include the house of God:

1 Peter 4:17 *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*

How many “Christian” pastors fit into v. 18, as they turn the truth into something that will enable them to retain their power, influence and income?

How can we complain when our political leaders do the same when we cannot keep unrighteousness out of the pulpits?

Let us sum up this section, vv. 16-18.

1. Wrath from heaven is revealed in his word which was given from heaven.

That is, the wrath of God is revealed from heaven by his word that was given from heaven that condemns all men as sinners, and defines their destination as eternal damnation. We will see this condemnation in the words of the *holy men of God*, the prophets of old. We will also see the good news from heaven which was also given by the *holy men of God*, as we move on through Romans.

2. Wrath from heaven is revealed in ungodly men in authority.

3. Wrath from heaven is revealed in nature. Man wars against God, so God’s nature wars against man!

The result is that those who lock up truth have the wrath of God from heaven against them as has been promised by his word.

Romans 1:18 is a very hard verse against all ungodliness. It is no wonder that the natural man hates this verse, and seeks any escape from what it clearly says.

The hard wording has been replaced with God is love, and his love overlooks ungodliness. Being a loving God, he would not judge anyone as harshly as promised in Scripture.

God is God, and he is the one who sends blessings or curses upon individuals and nations, and he is the one who determines what the blessings or curses will be.

Note to reader: I missed a major means of wrath from heaven, which will be

covered in the next lesson. In his wrath against Israel's and Judah's sin, he sent pagan armies against them. In his wrath against those who killed the Son and threw him out of the vineyard, he sent Rome, Matthew 24. This means of wrath will be developed in lesson 9. Those attending ask us to look at the city Abraham looked for in Heb 11:10, *i.e.* the new city of God, identified as Mt. Zion or Sion.

End, lesson 8, 3/24/19