

*Be Afraid of God's Wrath  
& Amazed by His Love*

**Application Points:**

✓ **God's Vengeance is Right & Terrifying**

**Hebrews 10:28–31**

<sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

<sup>29</sup> How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? <sup>30</sup> For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." <sup>31</sup> It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Cf. Revelation 20:10–15 – "lake of fire")

✓ **God's Love is a Result of His Own Glorious Character**

(not our own inherent loveliness)

**Key Reflection**

We crave to be inherently lovely. (Self-Righteous)

✓ **God's Righteous Vengeance Explains the Cross**

(Matthew 27:45–53 – Dark, Jesus' Cry, Earth Shook)

✓ **The Cross & the Resurrection**

**Key Gospel Connection**

God's righteous wrath is either poured out on us in hell for all eternity or on Jesus at the cross.

✓ **No Personal Vengeance is Required or Permitted**

**Romans 12:20–21, 14**

<sup>20</sup> *To the contrary*, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup> *Do not be overcome by evil*, but *overcome evil with good*.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

# In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#40 in Series] (Numbers 26–36) *A Heart Turned Towards the Inheritance:*

*Part 10, God's Vengeance* – Numbers 31

**Sermon Outline** – March 27, 2016

## Children's Sermon: Revenge

### Who are some of the most annoying villains?

**Romans 12:17–21**

<sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "*Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.*" <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup> *Do not be overcome by evil*, but *overcome evil with good*.

**Is revenge evil?** For us? For God?

➤ How are we supposed to treat people who mistreat us?

**Today's Main Idea**

God's vengeance is righteous and terrifying.

Notes:

### *Righteous Vengeance*

- God Spoke Clearly to Moab/Midian through Balaam
- Balaam & Balak Completely Ignored God's Warning
- The LORD was Angry with Israel

**Numbers 25:1–4, 6–11**

<sup>1</sup> While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. <sup>2</sup> These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. <sup>3</sup> So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And *the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel*. <sup>4</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, "Take all the chiefs of the people and hang them in the sun before the Lord, *that the fierce anger of the Lord* may turn away from Israel." ...

<sup>8</sup> ... Thus the plague on the people of Israel was stopped.

<sup>9</sup> Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand. <sup>10</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, <sup>11</sup> "*Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel*, in

that he was jealous with my jealousy among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy.

- God's Plan to Bless Israel was not Thwarted
  - Phinehas' Intervention...
  - **Chapters 26-30** (2nd Census; Zelophehad's Daughters; Josua; Burnt Offerings and Vows)
- God's Proper Jealousy Demands a Response

#### **Luke 17:1–2**

And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!"<sup>2</sup>

It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea *than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.*

#### **Numbers 25:16–18**

<sup>16</sup> And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>17</sup> "**Harass the Midianites and strike them down,** <sup>18</sup> for they have harassed you with their wives, with which they beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of the chief of Midian (15, Zur), their sister, who was killed on the day of the plague on account of Peor."

#### **The LORD's Vengeance**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> "**Avenge the people of Israel on the Midianites.** Afterward you shall be gathered to your people." <sup>3</sup> So Moses spoke to the people, saying, "Arm men from among you for the war, that they may **go against Midian to execute the Lord's vengeance on Midian.**

<sup>4</sup> You shall send **a thousand from each of the tribes** of Israel to the war." <sup>5</sup> So there were provided, out of the thousands of Israel, a thousand from each tribe, **twelve thousand armed for war.** <sup>6</sup> And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand from each tribe, together with **Phinehas** the son of Eleazar the priest, with the vessels of the sanctuary and the trumpets for the alarm in his hand. ...

<sup>48</sup> Then the officers who were over the thousands of the army, the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds, came near to Moses <sup>49</sup> and said to Moses, "Your servants have counted the men of war who are under our command, and there is **not a man missing from us.**

What does God think of the stubborn refusal to listen to him & trying to entice his people into idolatry?

#### **The LORD is Fierce in His Wrath**

<sup>15</sup> Moses said to them, "Have you let all the women live?

<sup>16</sup> Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the Lord. <sup>17</sup> **Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known man by lying with him.** <sup>18</sup> *But all the young girls who have not known man by lying with him keep alive for yourselves.* (Cf. Deut. 20:10-18 – Rules for war)

#### **Nahum 1:2–6** (Cf. Isaiah 63:1–6)

<sup>2</sup> The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful (HCSV – "fierce in wrath"; KJV – "avenges and is furious"); the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies. <sup>3</sup> The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. <sup>4</sup> He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; he dries up all the rivers; Bashan and Carmel wither; the bloom of Lebanon withers. <sup>5</sup> The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it. <sup>6</sup> Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

#### **Micah 5:15** (HCSB)

<sup>15</sup> I will take vengeance in anger and wrath against the nations that have not obeyed Me.

What does God think of our generation's stubborn refusal to listen to him & our idolatry?

#### **2 Thessalonians 1:7–8**

...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire, **inflicting vengeance** on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.