

THE CUP OF GOD'S WRATH

Written by Tom Whedbee

Jeremiah describes the “cup of God’s wrath” as kingdoms invading and conquering Israel. God gave Israel over to the logical outcome of their rebellion against Him. God loves Israel and allows the consequences of their actions to come upon them so that He can further refine them and bring about His purpose for Israel. God is repeatedly shown giving Israel what they insist on having even though it leads to their own self-destruction. God “hiding His face” means that God is withdrawing His protective presence. God continues to promise that He has life and new creation for His people. Following God forces Israel to painfully give up what they think they want in order to receive what they need. Today, we Christians must painfully give up much of what we think we want, but as we do we gain more of what we need. Jeremiah 25:15-18 Ezekiel 39:23,24

When Israel chose life apart from God, God removed His protective hand over them and Israel was destroyed and taken into exile by the Babylonians. This results in Ezekiel describing God’s wrath as a cup from which the nations must drink. God’s wrath is shown most intent when those in covenant with Him turn their backs on God and He hands them over to their enemy. God’s eye however is on restoration.

When Jesus drinks the cup of God’s wrath, we must see that God’s purpose is to condemn sin and defeat sin. God allowed the consequences of our sins to be hurled at Jesus on the cross and God took His protective hand off of Jesus’ physical body for the only time in His earthly life. But the purpose was not to punish Jesus in our place and not Jesus paying a debt for our sin. Jesus was paying the extreme price for the condemnation and defeat of sin. This does not mean that Jesus was forsaken by the Father. The Father watched over the Son not allowing even one bone to be broken. Seconds after Jesus quoted Psalm 22:1, Jesus said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit.” So Jesus was not saying that He was forsaken. He was identifying Himself with Psalm 22 as the suffering servant.

Believers are moved out from under the wrath of God. God sees His completed work in the believer. The believer returns to glory into a state of total sinlessness and total righteousness in which there is no penalty. The Father judicially forgives all our sins freely because Christ changes us and makes us new creations.

Isaiah 53:5-12 Romans 8:3 John 3:36 2 Corinthians 5:1-21