

# Environment of Wrath

Sunday, July 2, 2006

**“Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.**

**Thou turnest man to destruction (dust), and sayest, Return, ye children of men...For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled. Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. For all our days are passed away in thy wrath; we spend our years as a tale that is told...Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.” Psa. 90.**

Spurgeon: “Moses saw men dying all around him; he lived among funerals, and was overwhelmed at the terrible results of the divine displeasure. He felt that none could measure the might of the Lord’s wrath.” To wit: “Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me...And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.” Num. 14:29-33.

600,000 men + 600,000 women?(Ex. 12:37), “Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.” Psa. 95:11. “Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word.; But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the Lord.” Psa. 106:24-25. “Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness; When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) Heb. 3:7-11.

The 40-Year Death Watch. Day by day – for exactly 40 years – doomed individuals were dropping dead and entering Hell – until the last of the 1.2 million whose 20<sup>th</sup> birthdays arrived on or before the precise date God swore to their everlasting fate, died. Everybody knew who they were. Avg. 30,000 funerals per year, 82 per day: “After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach (interruption) of promise.” Num. 14:34. A constant cloud of gloom and doom – imposing an ever-present sombre, melancholy, depressing mood that nothing could shake off. It is impossible to exaggerate God’s wrath. John the Baptist: “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” Jn. 3:36. “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers,

who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" Mat. 3:7. Canaan a type of heaven AND a type of church militant.

## **It is impossible to exaggerate God's wrath.**

"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God." Rom. 2:4-5.

"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." 1 Thes. 5:9-11. Who the "us" is: "Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God...and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come." 1 Thes. 1:4-10. That's who the "us" is - not all mankind. Surely the opposite for the great mass of mankind. Surely all the world exists in a sombre, melancholy environment of wrath.

What did the condemned do, exactly, that so enraged God? They brought up a slander upon the land. Num. 14:36. They despised the pleasant land. Psa. 106:24. They saw God's glory and sinned against great light: "my glory and my miracles which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice." Num. 14:22. They committed "whoredoms" against God. Num. 14:34. They tempted me, proved me, and saw my work, then "hardened their heart as in the provocation and as in the temptation in the wilderness." Psa. 95:8-9. They murmured against God. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer." They sinned and believed not: "But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." Heb. 3:17-19. Predestinated. Heb. 4:3.

It would behoove all mankind to read, ponder, and learn well the short history of God's wrath - (Num. 13:25-33 and 14:1-45) - resolve to flee from the wrath to come - and save yourselves from this untoward (crooked and perverse) generation. Acts 2:40.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Pet. 1:4.